



VOLUME 27, ISSUE 1

www.greenvillealumni.org

SPRING, 2024

HOMECOMING GAME

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023

FOOTBALL GAME vs. FAIRBORN 7:00 PM

QUEEN CROWNING CEREMONY 6:30 PM

PARADE, THURSDAY OCTOBER 5, 6:00 PM

Attention All G.H.S. Alums



SUNDAY MAY 5

1:00 to 4:00 at GHS CAFETERIA

Free Admission and Free Refreshments

Everyone is Welcome GHS History Remembered

The weekend of October 6-7, 2023, was Greenville High School’s **Homecoming**. The theme this year was “Destinations”. The students had Game Night, dress-up days, Powder Puff football, and the Parade and Pep Rally on Thursday night at the Band Shell.

The **Alumni Homecoming Parade** was held at the same time and location that has been used for the past 40 years, from Marsh’s parking lot, up Broadway to Harmon Drive, then east to the Band Shell. This year’s honored **Grand Marshal** was the GHS Art teacher **Melanie Huffman**, who has taught 35 years at our school. She lives in Versailles with her husband, and they had three children. She is retiring at the end of this school year and will enjoy her five grandchildren and do traveling. Grand Marshal Mrs. Huffman >>>>



A Pep Rally was held in the High School gymnasium due to the rainy conditions outdoors. The Band and Cheerleaders revved up the attendees creating a lot of noise and enthusiasm in the building. The football coach **Bart Schmitz** and team captains fired up the crowd. The crowning of the **Chief Green Wave** was the highlight of the evening and this year’s winner voted by the students was Senior Class President **Jayden Hicks**. Jayden is the son of **Jim Hicks**, GHS 1989, and **Maria Hicks**, and grandson of **Ted Hicks**, GHS 1962. Jayden has been Class president all four years of High School, is FFA President, member of NHS, NTHS, Student Council, Science Club, SADD, Science and Environmental Clubs, track and field 2 years, State FFA Degree, and was Junior Fair Board President. He wants to study Agri-Science at either Ohio State or Oklahoma State Universities.



Last year’s Chief Green Wave **Ryan Crampton** crowning Jayden >>>>

Parade floats: Senior Class (below)



and Junior Class Float (below)



Sophomore Class Float (below)



and Freshman Class Float (below)



Other Chief Green Wave candidates were: **John Ray Abao**, son of **Joey** and **Jona Hoover**. He has been on the football and track teams and studying Supply Chain Management in Career Tech. His future plans are undecided but lean toward going to college for business. **Trey Vaughn Bryant**, son of **John Bryant**, GHS 1998, and **Leah Miller Bryant**, GHS, and brother of the 2021 Chief Green Wave **Million Bryant** (and Class president 2022), and has seven other siblings. He is studying Med Tech and was a member of track and swimming teams as well as football team captain. He plans on entering the medicine field and becoming an emergency room physician. **Bryce Blumenstock**, son of **Eric Brumenstock**, GHS 1997, and **Kim Blumenstock**, a GHS teacher. Bryce studies Supply Chain (SCM), is on Student Council, and was active in four years of baseball and golf. He is undecided on which college he will attend but wants to play baseball in college and become a teacher. **Jack Chick**, son of **Stacy Chick** and **Richard Curry**. Jack is a member of Student Council and participated in soccer and was a basketball team starter. He plans on moving back to his home in Florida and attend an apprentice program to become an electrical lineman.

Evan Manix, son of **Mike Manix**, GHS 1999, and **Jennifer Burk Manix**, GHS 2002, and grandson of **Margaret Hildebrand Manix**, GHS 1959, and **Mike Manix**, GHS 1958. Evan is in the Careers With Children Career Tech program, participated in track and football for four years and was starting quarterback for his last two years, and was a three-year Green Wave mascot>>>> he was a silver and gold medalist in FCCLA regional and state events, and he was third place in the MVL for the 4 by 1. He wants to go to college to study education with the goal of becoming a teacher, and, perhaps, come back to his home High School. **Cody Sagraves**, is the son of **Debbie Nixon Sagraves**, GHS 1989, and **Shannon Sagraves**. Cody also is enrolled in the Careers With Children (CWC), state gold medalist in FCCLA, state gold medalist in BPA (Business Professionals of America), and played four years of football. He plans on going to college and play football and study exercise science.



Friday’s pre-game ceremony included the announcement of the Queen candidates and their escorts. After the couples crossed the field towards the home bleachers, the winner of the Queen was announced, **Josie Madden**. She is the daughter of **Kristina Hoyt Madden**, GHS 1995, and **David Madden**, a former member of the Board of Education, and granddaughter of **Gina (Eugena) Mitchell Hoyt**, GHS 1972. Josie was a 4-year class officer, member of the CWC program, Science Club, and the soccer and swim teams, and was an FCCLA gold medalist. Josie will attend Wright State University and study nursing to become a pediatric travel nurse.

The announcement of Josie as the Queen



Josie with last year’s Queen Sami Frens



This year’s Queen Josie and Chief Green Wave Jayden (right) >>>



Other Queen candidates were: **Skylar Bryson**, daughter of **Marlo Bryson** and **Ty Bryson**, GHS 1991. Her activities included Student Council, Med Tech, HOSA, STNA at the Brethren's Home, volleyball four years, softball and three-year cheerleader. She plans on attending Indiana Wesleyan University to become a labor and delivery nurse. **Sadie Lance**, daughter of **Elizabeth Hatfield Lance**, GHS 1995, and **Jason Lance**. Her school activities included tennis (second team MVL), marching band, and French Club. Sadie plans on getting married this summer, and becoming either a travel agent or a job in the animal science field. **Kaitlyn Byrum**, daughter of **Leslie** and **Jason Byrum**. Her activities included NTHS (Technical Honor Society), Student Council, HOSA, Key Club, Med Tech, and varsity and competition cheerleader. She would like to attend the University of Cincinnati to become a postpartum nurse. **Lydia Beisner**, daughter of **Scott Beisner**, GHS 1987, and **Jenny Thwaits Beisner**, GHS 1992. Her school activities included Wavaires, Orchestra, Theatre Club, Science Club, French Club, CORE Leaders, Highest Honors all four years, and NHS. She plans on attending a four-year college to study marine biology or biochemistry. **Cali Harter**, daughter of **Todd Harter**, GHS 1984, and **Jodi Hole Harter**, GHS 1995 and current school administration, and granddaughter of **Dick Hole**, GHS 1955, and **Barb Davenport Hole**, GHS 1959. Her activities were FFA, Student Council, NHS, NTHS, Science Club, Spanish Club, Key Club, Orchestra, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, class officer, varsity cheerleading and swim team. She works on a pig farm and shows pigs, and hopes to go Findlay College and major in animal science and then go to veterinarian school at Ohio State University. **Ella Gilbert**, daughter of **Greg Gilbert**, GHS 1984, and **Miranda Gilbert**, and granddaughter of **Tonna Brown Gilbert**, GHS 1962. Ella activities were FCCLA medalist and state qualifier, CWC, Student Council for four years, Art Club, CORE leader, Science Club, class officer, and FFA with a greenhand degree. She hopes to attend Indiana University East in Richmond and pursue a degree in early childhood education to become an educator.

The Homecoming Court after the Queen crowning, October 6, 2023:

Lydia Beisner, Trey Bryant, Kaitlyn Byrum, Cody Sagraves, Cali Harter, Jack Chick, Homecoming Queen Josie Madden, Chief Green Wave Jayden Hicks, Sadie Lance, Evan Manix, Ella Gilbert, Bryce Blumenstock, Skylar Bryson, and John Ray Abao.



The **Homecoming Dance** was held on Saturday night, October 7, in the High School gymnasium. This is traditionally the largest attended event of the year because all four grades are encouraged to attend and this year 640 tickets were sold. (The Prom has class restrictions). This is sponsored by the Student Council. This year's officers are: front row on floor from left: **Jayden Hicks** (Treasurer), **Bryce Blumenstock** (Secretary), **Ava Loudy** (President), and **Addie Burk** (Vice President). This year's group is pictured here:



The Spirit Trophy goes to the class who wins the most event points during Homecoming Week at GHS in competition between the classes. This year's winner was the **Freshman Class** (below):



The Homecoming Court at the Dance (below)



This was a successful Homecoming

Greenville's "First Family" Retires from Public Service to the Community

At the end of 2023, the City of Greenville government changed leadership. **Steve Willman**, GHS 1971, served seven and a half years as Mayor after eight months as a City Councilman. His wife, **Roxanne Wampler Willman**, GHS 1971 and C.P.A., finished her eleventh year as City Auditor, but will continue her private practice accounting business on a limited basis.

Joe Braden, West Regional Liaison for **Keith Faber's** Ohio Auditor's Office stated, "I would especially like to recognize Roxanne Willman, your City Auditor, for her outstanding leadership, professionalism, and her exceptional commitment to fiscal integrity."

Roxanne countered with, "I just want to let everybody know, this is the work of everyone".



Above: Outgoing Mayor Steve Willman and City Auditor Roxanne Willman at the Fire Department during their retirement party



Above: New Mayor Jeff Whitaker and former Mayor Steve Willman

Roxanne specifically called out her deputy auditor, **Kim Bell Kagey Davis**, GHS 1983, and said, "I can't express how grateful I am to have you by my side for the last eleven years." Kim assumed the role of City Auditor at the beginning of 2024, after being elected in the November, 2023, General Election. Kim has worked in the Auditor's Office for 30 years and is married to **Pete Davis**. Kim's children are **Emily Kagey McIntyre**, GHS 2006, and **Derek Kagey**, GHS 2010.

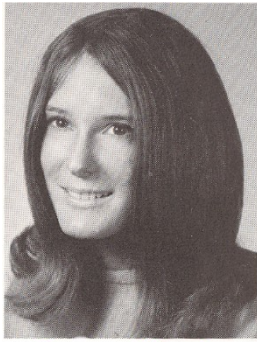
The new Mayor elected in November, 2023, is **Jeff Whitaker**, a native of Bellevue, Illinois (about 25 miles north of St. Louis, Missouri), who moved to Greenville in 2013 with the Whirlpool Corporation. He had served in county government in Illinois after having majored in political science in college. He has been a Greenville City Councilman in recent years before winning the Republican Party's mayoral position last Spring's Primary.



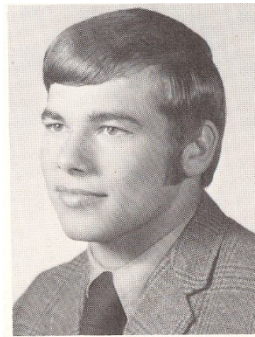
New Auditor Kim Davis

The Willmans have been an asset to this community for decades and have contributed in many different ways of public service. Steve has been involved in publishing the Alumni Association's Newsletters for the past 20 years, and Roxanne has been the Association's Treasurer. They are parents to **Mollie Willman Mendoza**, GHS 1989 and a teacher at GHS, **Matt Willman**, GHS 1992, and **Mark Willman**, GHS 1993.

Senior High School photos of these public servants:



Roxanne Wampler
Willman
Class of 1971



Steve Willman
Class of 1971



Kim Bell Kagey Davis
Class of 1983

Wayne Theater Opens Again After Full Remodeling

In the Spring of 2021, we did a story about the early history of the Wayne Theater. After many years of deterioration and sitting idle, **Mike Jones**, GHS 1976, and his wife **Sherri Miltenberger Jones**, GHS 1979, purchased the building and remodeled the structure to its finest condition. The days leading up to the Holiday Horse Parade, November 16-18, 2023, became the grand opening of this beautiful facility.





2023 Reunion Class of 1954 69th Year Reunion (Above)

Front Row 1: Nancy Brown Warner, Barbara Albrecht Landis, Shirley Feierstein Linn, Jeanette Funk Patton, and Sarah Jane Brinkman Delk.

Back Row 2: Jim Oliver, Willie Beaver, Jim Troxell, Jim Albright, Jim Diltz, Gary Henderson, and Keith Barnhardt. *Greenville High School Class of 1954 Reunion at La Carreta Mexican Restaurant (was the Fairlawn), Greenville, August 18, 2023.*

2023 Reunion Class of 1956 67th Year Reunion (Below)

Front Row 1 Seated: Dave Gauvey, Duane Shields, Judy Beam Kauffman, Helen Dull, Dorothy Butts Beck, and Ron Youst.

Back Row 2: Melvin R. Johnson, Ronald Stephens, Judy Schaar Fitzgerald, Karen Seibel Armstrong, Phillip F. Holthouse, Ginny Alley Bertram, and Jerry Gordon. *Greenville High School Class of 1956, 67th Year Reunion at the Maid Rite picnic area, August 26, 2023.*





2023 Reunion Class of 1957 66th Year Reunion (Above)

Front Row 1: Connie Finton Davis, Karel Seibel Dixon, Martha McGlinch Dickey, Linda Roth Schatz, Marilyn Halley Howell, Nancy Younker Barry, Donna Jefferis Foley, and Patty Hunt Cole. **Back Row 2:** Jim Hocker, Dick Beanblossom, John (Jack) O'Brien, Ted Nealeigh, Darwin Burk, Joe Hufnagle, Susie Stickel Hildebrand, Sam Hildebrand, John Garbig, and Paul Rehmert.

Attending, but not pictured: Fran Gower Witt. ***Reunion at J.T.s Restaurant, Aug. 18, 2023.***

2023 Reunion Class of 1958 65th Year Reunion (Below)

Front Row 1 Seated: Mary Denniston Light Bonfiglio, Joy Johnson Bowers, Dixie McMiller Luce, Jackie Burch Dapore, Carolyn Browne Anderson, and Barbara Smith Hocker.

Middle Row 2: Jim Buchy, Richard Carr, George M. Marchal, Claude Sowry, Kenneth A. Miller, Kay Fenstermaker Mueller, Jackie Cornell Zipf, Mary Bruner Delk, Janice Buchy Marker, and Jane Hufford Garbig. **Back Row 3:** Ed Hocker, John W. Reed, Jim Linke, Mike McFarland, Ralph Hathaway, Allen Ruebush, Joe Dapore, and Dick McGreevey.

Inset: Gloria Stump Hahn.

Class of 1958 65th Year Reunion at Romer's Party Room, September 30, 2023.





2023 Reunion

Class of 1963

60th Year Reunion

Front Row 1: Melody Brown Fox, Penny Binkley Wills, Carolyn Beasley Harpel, Mary Ann Drake Lehman, Pat Carroll Cobb, Laura Marker Witters, Beth Marshall Thomas, Dick Byers (seated), Barb Markwith Dancer, Linda Thompson Ungericht, Billie Butts Hess, and Barbara Jeanne Sherry.

Middle Row 2: Mary Beth Hunt Tsoukalas, Paul A. Whittington, Randa Thompson Snyder, Budd Dancer, Carol Schlagetter Balsler, Joseph A. Mong, Bill Harris, Dianna Brandenburg Ochs, Jean Hufnagle Gobel, Marsha Palser Duvall, Mary Jane Campbell Dietrich, Dora Wright Mosier, Tom Bish, and Tom Brant.

Back Row 3: Zinta Zunde Sundley, David Dean, Tom Clark, Dave Wills, Richard Martin, Tim Scheiding, Tom Mowery, Jim Lorton, Dave Farmer, Dean Eby, Dan Coppess, and Gary Wagner.

Greenville (Ohio) High School Class of 1963 60th Year Reunion at the Turtle Creek Golf Course, August 26, 2023.



2023 Reunion

Class of 1968

55th Year Reunion (Above)

Front Row 1 Seated: Janet Hart Feurer, Karen Bixler Taylor, Beck Halley Strait, Donna Powell Beam, Thomas A. Hollinger, Joel Schinke, Tim Riegler, Daniel Riddle, Geoff Gordon, and Vince Homan.

Middle Row 2: Jim Straub, Gwen Warren Sprunger, Mary Kay Raffel Beisner, Brenda Keeler Zobrist, Sharon Cook Drew, Nancy Christian McClurg, Diane Wierwille Thode, Mike Palser, Kathy Mote Laspada, Barbara Williams Dully, Gerri Vandivier Moore, Roxie Eyer Shoemaker, Monni Reed Appleman, Diann Burns Lee, Judy Shroyer Voiles, Gail Buchy Bell, and Sara Clum Cutarelli.

Back Row 3: Chris Palmer, Stan Stebbins, Jim King, John Overmyer, Mike Sullivan, Fred Varsanyi, Dave Shoemaker, Dan Hawkey, Bob McCool, Dan Small, and Tim Boyd.

G.H.S. Class of 1968 55th Year Reunion at the K of C Hall, August 26, 2023.

2023 Reunion

Class of 1969

54th Year Reunion (Below)

Front Row 1: Mary Benanzer Shrader, Mary Fitzwater Moenter, Roscoe Hinkle, Judy Littman Whittaker, and Cindy Thompson Spahr.

Back Row 2: Jeff Schmidt, Sam Edger, Jerry Gerace, and Tom Trittschuh.

Reunion held at the Maid Rite picnic area, Aug. 19, 2023.





G.H.S. Class of 1973 The Honored 50th Year Reunion 2023

Front Row 1: Paul Young, Cheryl Peden Adkins, Vera Garland Haupt, Debra Bingham Coblentz, Sharon Potter Hoying, Bill Sewell, Linda Emmons Hunt, Bethany Bonfiglio Miller, Larry Holmes, Becky Hounshell Dill, and Amy Miller Curcio.

Row 2: Cindy Burns Moore, Eileen Buell Schulze, Roger Garcia, Beth Gray, Tim Gilbert, Sue MacKenzie Shroyer, Sue Schilling Riegle, Tonya Graham Dohme, Diana Ditmer Fulmer, Diane Homan Judy, Amy Clum Hanes, and Chris Drehs Bateman.

Row 3: Pam Carpenter Wolf, Denise Birum Hahn, Lisa May Turner, Roxanne Grooms, Mike Shroyer, Cindy Wolford, and Sandy Fritzsch Cain.

Row 4: Betty Fox Hartzell, Jenny Seiler Clark, Deb VanScoyk Lester, Mary Ann Boli Packo, Kim Niswonger Hopsecker, Mitch McCabe, Steve Thomas, Allen Cox, Vic Hennessy, Kent Spille, Brian Stickel, Jim Liming, and Jim Marshall.

Back Row 5: Rod Hartzell, Jerry Ruhl, Terry L. Keaser, Bill Witters, Dan Stegall, Cheryl Peck Mikel, Carla Johnson Laylin, Dave Dent, Ed Erisman, Virgil Klosterman, Tim Brown, Rick Turner, and Dan Reeser. **Insets:** Terry Dull (above) and Sandy Koger Hunt (below). *September 30, 2023 at Turtle Creek Golf Course.*

Two pictures of the 1973 Reunion are here, one from the Friday night gathering at the Sure Shot Tap House on West Fifth Street, and the main reunion on Saturday night at the Turtle Creek Golf Course.



Greenville High School 50th Year Reunion Class of 1973 2023 (Above)

Seated Row 1: Debra Bingham Coblentz, Cindy Wolford, Sandra Cain Fritzsch, Eileen Buell Schulze, Linda Emmons Hunt, Mary Jane Koontz, Beth Gray DuPuy, Cindy Burns Moore, Pam Carpenter Wolf, Bethany Bonfiglio Miller, and Sue Schilling Riegle. **Standing**

Row 2: Denise Birum Hahn, Jett Haworth Bennett, Jody Read Davis, Kim Niswonger Hopsecker, Carla Johnson Laylin, Lisa May-Turner, Diane Homan Judy, Tim Gilbert, Mitch McCabe, Roxanne Grooms, Sue MacKenzie Shroyer, Mike Shroyer, Vic Hennessy, and Jim Liming. **Back Row 3:** Gailen Wilson, Terry L. Keaser, Cheryl Peck Mikel,

Ed Erisman, Larry Holmes, Dave Dent, Tim Brown, Bran Stickel, Kent Spille, Terry Dull, Gary Beisner, Rick Turner, and Jerry Ruhl. *GHS Class of 1973 50th year Reunion at the Sure Shot Tap House/photo at YOLO Park, Sept. 29, 2023.*

G.H.S. Class of 1978 45th Year Reunion 2023 (Below)

Front Row 1: Lissa Van Bebber Yogan, Brenda Gahret, Molly Buell Logan, Kathy Anderson Pierri, Karen Maxwell, Kelly Kline Sanning, Pam Hartzell Clum, and Liz Eyler Whitehouse. **Row 2:** Jeanette Arnett Leas, Kathy Boyd Hall, Nick Eckstein, Tim Hill, Jeff Quellhorst, Jill Wigner Brewer, and Chris Cassel.

Back Row 3: Chris Gutermuth, Kenny Carter, Scott Strait, Dave Homan, Kermit Flory, and Mark Howdieshell. *Taken at The Montage on Broadway, July 8, 2023*





G.H.S. Class of 1971 70-Year Old Birthday Party 2023 (Above)

Front Row 1: Barb Hayes Fletcher, Tammy Gibson Eichler, Bill Elikor, and Patty Nisonger Padula. **Row 2:** Roxanne Wampler Willman, Paula Copeland, Tim Stebbins, Kathy McNutt Dapore, Jill McGriff Martin, Gail Grim Riegle. **Row 3:** Randy McClain, Terri Hufnagle Stebbins, Frank McKibben, and Peggy Linder Rehmert. **Back Row 4:** Steve Willman, Spencer Clum, Bob Marshall, Randy Miller, Gary Coblentz, and Jim McLearn. ***Inset:*** Christa Hittle Gruber.

Taken at White Springs Golf Course, April 15, 2023

Class of 1993 30th Year Reunion 2023(Below)

Front Row 1: Gina Cano-Stump, Todd Gunckle, Barb Dotson Gunckle, Tom Farrell, Jason Miller, Michael Davidson, John Yoder, Christena Barton Sharp, Tabitha Fourman Sager, and Erin Crawford Ayyette. **Row 2:** Rocky Harrison, Brian Laux, Stephanie Mikesell, and Amy Burkett Brown. **Back Row 3:** Jeramie Stevens, Andy Morgan, Chad Hollinger, Jason Swabb, and Chris Rhoades.

Reunion held at Rocky and Kelly Harrison's house on Requarth Road, Aug. 19, 2023.





2023 Reunion

Class of 1983

40th Year Reunion

Front Row 1: Kim Bell-Davis, Lisa Stump Robbins, Sherri Gibbons Feitshans, Yolanda York Geis, Karla Pence Spettel, Debbie Simcox Shroder, Mary Ann Chapman Carter, Doug Sharp, Tod Menger, and Janelle Voigt Cross.

Middle Row 2: Angie Albright-Bowersock, Mark Denniston, Jane Fiely Holtgreffe, Linda Carothers Collins, Wendy Moore, Matt Spettel, Teresa McGuire, Julie Trissell Helman, Tim Anderson, Mike Plessinger, Larry Riley, and Dennis Eckstein.

Back Row 3: Susan VandenBosch Shields, Beth Nealeigh, William Garland, Melanie Sander, Tim Worley, Michelle West Hawkins, Rod Drew, Tina Mayo Wertz, Tony Crews, Jennifer Warrick Schatz, Michael Hauberg, David Coning, Dan Chapman, Allen Breig, Rick Skinner, and Dan Spidel.

Class of 1983 40th Year Reunion at Turtle Creek Golf Course, August 19, 2023.

Group below-left: Front: Debbie Coppock Sturgill, Brenda Enicks Hines, Chris Rudy, and Amy Clark Rudy Back: Pat Foley, Chris Hayes, Mark Buchy, and Rob Pell.



Below-left: Rhonda Bingham Mikesell and Marie Neargardner Meadows.

Below-center: Paul Peiffer

Below-right: Tammy Frantz Thomas





Gene Simmons of KISS returns to the 1983 Class Reunion one more time
Thanks to classmate Mark Middlecoff



2023 Reunion

Class of 1998

25th Year Reunion

Front Row 1 Seated: Ryan Henderson, Nick Rieman, Dan Litchfield, Chad Garrison, Micah Coblentz, Gabe Bergman, Eric Blakeley, Phillip Pierri, T.J. Powers, and Jeremy Pelaston.

Middle Row 2: Christopher Meier, Anne-Marie Calkins Ooten, Sarah VandenBosch Rindler, Brenda Wilson Clemens, Sarah Delaplane, Mandi Leppert Hirsch, Jason Singleton, Holly Brewer Keiser, Lori Arnold Fields, Janelle Good Koverman, Amy Setser Meade, Joel Place, and Adam Vance.

Greenville (Ohio) High School Class of 1998 25th Year Reunion at the Sure Shot Tap House, August 26, 2023.

Class of 2013

(Below) – Names on next page



2023 Reunion Class of 2013 10th Year Reunion (from previous page)

Front Row 1: Nick Venenga, Amanda Manning, Jocelynn Hicks-Ryle, Savanna Cook Hill, Natasha Swank, Chelsea Roth, and Jenna Rifenberg Forte. **Middle Row 2:** Lucas Keller, Katie West, Sam Bowers, Lizzie Hart, Jon Unger, Makayla Freeman Unger, and Brittany Kuhn Hill. **Back Row 3:** Tara Guillozet, Britnee Dunfee and Luna Spencer, Alex Dearing, Addison Miller, Derek Lockhart, Mitchell Pence, Eric Bankson, Colton Sherry, Savannah Hauberg Agne, and Reece Jones.

Class of 2013 Tenth Year Reunion at the Sure Shot Tap House on E. Fifth St., Aug.12, 2023.



2023 Reunion Class of 2003 20th Year Reunion

Front Row 1 Seated: Ben Stull, Kyle Harter, Megan Julian Sarber, Adam Wentworth, Michael Rapier, Craig Goubeaux, Tiffany Stickel Cosner, Brittany Runner, Tyler Winner, and Kaley Thomas Wagner.

Middle Row 2: Ashley Gibbons Cave, Megan Miller Jackson, Lisa Agne King, Brandy Brown Hill, Cassidy Hayes Helman, Nicole Loy Clementz, Sarah Coblentz Sutter, Elizabeth Etzell Murray, Ed Meier, Gabe Bush, Candy Varvel, Chad Bunger, Brittany Carroll Blackburn, and Rick Gibbons.

Back Row 3: Adam Eberwein, Amy Clark Brenner, Nicole Harrison Pohlman, Brian Brown, Travis Francis, Casey Marker, Amy Meyer Carr, Tommy Warner, Brian Westfall, Nathan Butts, Heather Trittschuh, Bethany Weaver Winger, and Amanda Horine Marker.

Greenville (Ohio) High School Class of 2003 20th Year Reunion at the Sure Shot Tap House, August 26, 2023.

Jim Sommer's Dedication to His School and Community

On December 31, 2023, **Jim Sommer**, GHS 1962, completed his 20th year as a School Board member for the Greenville City Schools. This is believed to be an all-time record for longevity in serving the schools in this capacity and it has surpassed the number of years his uncle **Jim Mannix**, GHS 1933, served on the same Board (1960-76).

He served as the student achievement and legislative liaison for the OSBA (Ohio School Board Association). Jim was on the OSBA Region Executive Committee for 16 years, was a past region OSBA Southwest Ohio President, was a member of the Education Standards Board, and served on the OSBA Federal Relations network for nine years. He was a past OSBA Trustee and was on their state executive committee.

Sommer honored by Greenville City Schools



JAMES A. SOMMER

1962 Senior GHS photo



Left to right: **Mark Libert** (B.O.E.), **Doug Fries** (Superintendent), **Jim Sommer**, **Krista Stump** (B.O.E.), and **Kristi Strawser** (B.O.E.) honoring Jim's service to the schools. (BOE=Board of Ed. Member)

The Mannix-Sommer families have been important to the Greenville City Schools through the years. Jim's parents were **Isabelle Mannix Sommer**, GHS 1930, and **Ivan Sommer**, a 1932 graduate of Madison Township School (Salamonia), Jay County, Indiana. His aunts were **Helen Mannix Barga**, GHS 1938, and **Clara Mannix Stauffer**, the GHS Class of 1940 Valedictorian, and uncle **George Mannix**, GHS 1935. Ivan taught in small schools in Mercer and Darke Counties before becoming an elementary teacher at South School in 1957. Ivan earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Miami University. Later he taught at the Junior High. From 1964 to 1966, he had his first Principal's job at Groveport Madison near Columbus. He then took the position of Franklin Township (FM, Darke County) Principal from 1966 to 1969. He retired after his last Principal's position at Greenville's North School from 1969 to 1984.

Jim's siblings all attended Greenville schools and all but one graduated from GHS. **Dick Sommer**, GHS 1960, **Jerry Sommer**, GHS 1964, **Jean Sommer Bobst**, Groveport Madison HS 1966, **Mike Sommer**, GHS 1967, and **Gloria Sommer Coffield**, GHS 1969.

After graduation, Jim attended Miami University and then Miami Jacobs Junior College before working for the F.B.I. in Washington, D.C., in 1964, as a fingerprint technician. When coming back to Ohio, he worked at and took classes at Ohio State University, and later taught school at a parochial school in Louisville, Kentucky, for a semester. Next, he joined the U.S. Air Force for four years (1967-71) and worked the first year and a half in West Texas before coming to Wright Patterson AFB to work in public relations for the rest of his military obligation. He married **Alicia Osborne Sommer**, Columbus Eastmoor HS 1966 and Otterbein College graduate, in August of 1970. They moved back to Greenville and Alicia got a job teaching first grade at South School in 1971. Jim finished his higher education at Wright State University, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Education and later a Master's degree in 1977.

His teaching career began in 1973 at North Star Elementary, with 13 years teaching first grade and one year of fifth grade. Then he taught fifth grade in the Versailles Middle School from 1987 until his retirement in 1999.

In his retirement, he ran for Greenville School Board in the fall, 2003, beginning his 20-year run of five consecutive terms, and becoming very involved in the local and state levels of administration. He served 25 years on the Board of F.A.M.E. (Financial Assistance for Medical Emergencies) and 23 years as its Treasurer. This support group had previously been called the Darke County Society for Crippled Children and Adults.

He worked from 2008 to 2013 at Dill's Drive-thru north of Walmart. From 2013 to 2021, Jim was a clerk and performed cooking demonstrations at the Kitchen Aid Store on Broadway. It stopped retail operations to the public not too long after the COVID shutdowns went nationwide. He has been and still is a Board member for both the Greenville High School Alumni Association (since 2006) and the Greenville Schools Foundation (since 2004). The Greenville Schools Foundation was founded in 1997 by then Superintendent **Dr. Bryan Moore**, to offer grants to teachers for programs that were not included in the school's curriculum. This amounts to \$8,000 to \$10,000 annually for use in teachers' classrooms. This GSF has entered the field of offering scholarships to GHS Seniors in the past few years. The Besecker Engineering Scholarships and Dianne Brown Education Scholarships are given out every year to deserving Seniors.

Jim has served as an officer in all chairs at the Greenville Elks Lodge #1139. He was secretary for 17 years, treasurer for five years, scholarship chair for ten years, and District Activities Chairman. He was District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, Certified Ritual Judge for 25 years, a State Officer, and State Ritual Judge coordinator for ten years.

Jim and Alicia had two sons, **Todd Sommer**, GHS 1989, and **Justin Sommer**, GHS 1994. Justin's wife, **Nikki Clear Sommer**, GHS 1991, is a secretary at the Greenville Elementary School. Justin and Nikki have three daughters, **Isabelle (Izzy) Sommer**, GHS 2024 (and named for her great-grandmother Isabelle Mannix Sommer who graduated 94 years ago), **Grace Sommer**, GHS 2026, and **Ivy Sommer**, GHS 2028. Izzy is tops in her school class, just like her great-great aunt Clara Stauffer was. In their final retirement, Jim and Alicia are dedicated to their grandchildren and following their school involvement and other activities.

Jim stayed in education for 50 years due to his love of today's youth. Greenville is lucky to have many community-minded citizens, and this makes our city a better place to live. Jim is one

of these citizens and his other contributions are too many to list here. He has always been ready to serve. We are blessed to have him.

20th Year Celebration of the Hometown Holiday Horse Parade

Saturday night, November 18, 2023, was the date for Downtown Greenville's premier Christmas event, the **Hometown Holiday Horse Parade**. The route begins from **John Baumgardner's** old Marsh's building on Martin Street to Broadway, north to the traffic circle, and returning on Broadway to Martin Street. Each year has 80 to 100 entrants of horses with solo riders and equestrian units pulling wagons and all have decorative Christmas lights. Other activities make this a must-see for Darke County residents and many others from Western Ohio, and these include pony rides beforehand, a petting zoo, horse trolley, food trucks, downtown dining, and some holiday entertainment. Santa makes an appearance at the end of the parade, pleasing the estimated 8,000 spectators. This event has grown through the years with determination and hard work by local resident **Diana Stebbins**, and husband, **Steve Stebbins**, GHS 1966.



This year's Grand Marshal was a GHS alumnus for the seventh time in the last eight parades (three were cancelled due to weather and COVID). This year's was **Matt Light**, GHS 1996, and he was joined by his daughter **Grace**, 21 and a student at Matt's alma mater Purdue University, and son **Collin**, 18.



*Matt en route in the Parade
<<<< to left*

*Matt with children,
Collin and Grace
To right >>>*





top: The Wave offense smashes into the heavy Piqua defense. middle: Greenville's players, first row, left to right: Randy Ruble, Chuck Stebbins, Fred Plesinger, Tony Ruble, Bob Klosterman, Bob Marshall, Steve Willman, Bruce Gower. second row, left to right: Bill Nichols, Frank McKibben, Spencer Clum, Rick Schilling, Greg Martin, Pat Combs, Doug Stull. third row, left to right: John Lantz, Mauri Miles, Greg Badger, Mark Emrick, Alan Bradley, Scott Pearson, Jack Cain, Bruce Hunt. fourth row, l. to r.: Larry Lewis, Sam Spidel, Bill Ison, Dave Polei, Phil Brumbaugh, Mike Stegall, Steve Marshall, Tim Meador, Scott Richards. fifth row, l. to

r.: Barry Vickers, John Hathaway, Bob Dieter, Dave Sackett, Joe Toman, George Garcia, Mark Warner, Dan Weaver. sixth row, l. to r.: Bill Johnson, Steve Detrick, Mike Rboades, Kent Spille, Mark Niswonger, Terry Dull, John Pequino, Doug Combs. seventh row, l. to r.: Cary Dershem, David Deninger, Charlie Goodhaster, Mike Shroyer, Roger Beiner, Scott Brown, Tim McKibben, Gary Arnold, Jerry Ruhl, Mike Fields. eighth row, l. to r.: Bart Williams, Keith Gaines, Larry Badger, Dan Stegall, Vic Hennessy, Roger Garcia, Bob Martin, Mike Wenger, Steve Wion, Neal Armstrong, Jim Marshall, Rick Brandon. opposite page, top: Piqua ball carrier

sidesteps one Wave only to encounter two more. opposite page, left: Tony Ruble watches the game intently called in again. middle right: Team captain Pat receives valuable play information from press boy. top row, left to right: Greg Badger, Alan Bradley, Jack Cain, Spencer Clum, Pat Combs, Mark Emerick, Bob Klosterman, Bob Marshall, Greg Martin. bottom row, l. to r.: Frank McKibben, Mauri Miles, Scott Pearson, Fred Plesinger, Dick Post, Tony Ruble, Rick Schilling, Chuck Stebbins, Tim Stebbins.

Fall 1970 Football, record: 2-8 (above)

Spring 1971 Track (below)



fourth row, l to r: Coach Barnett, Steve Wohlrab, Dan Hoening, Bob Marshall, Greg Martin, Tom Kindell, Tim Brown, John Hathaway, Dan Stegall, Steve Henninger. third row: Mike Fields, Doug Combs, Chuck Schmermund, Frank McKibben, Bill Ison, Mike Stegall, Dave Polei. second row: Tony Black, Tom Langdon, Roger Garcia, George Garcia, Steve Wion, Gary Schwanzitz, Steve Detrick, Pat Combs. first row: Gail Weaver, Ed Swank, Rick Bonfiglio, Neal Armstrong, Bob Hammaker, Bill Johnson, Kevin Gruber.



Greenville	Opponents
13	Celina 6
14	St. Marys 6
20	Versailles 0
21	Piqua 16
22	Sidney 8
21	Bellefontaine 18
41	Urbana 6
21	Lima Shawnee 3
34	Meadowdale 0
31	Wapokoneta 0
	1st place MVL

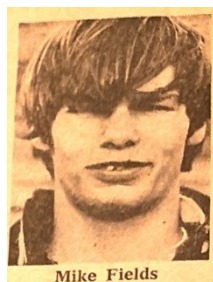
Row one; l. to r: N. Emrick, T. House, J. Pequignot, M. Strauser, D. Riegle, M. Lewis, S. Turner, S. Arnett, D. Beeson, D. Holcomb, M. Fansler, K. Hathaway, M. Maitlan, T. Greer, B. Roberson, J. Pequignot, C. Goodpaster, T. Deeter; row two: T. Hollman, M. Coverly, V. Hennessy, D. Combs, M. Niswonger, M. Wenger, M. Allen, S. Wion, S. Brown, B. Williams, J. Brodrick, T. Dull, D. Stegall, M. Rhoades, G. Arnold, R. Beisner, T. McKibben, J. Pequignot, M. Shroyer, L. Badger; row three: J. Toman, D. Denlinger, M. Warner, B. Ison, T. Meador, B. Hunt, D. Sackett, J. Hathaway, L. Lewis, D. Polei, M. Stegall, S. Beumer, P. Brumbaugh, S. Spidel, G. Garcia, D. Stull.

Fall 1971 Football Record: 10-0 (above)

Spring 1972 Track (below)

Greenville	Opponents
33	Celina 23
27	Versailles 29
29	Tipp City 36
	Bethel 73
21	Franklin Monroe 47
	Arcanum 40
47	Piqua 16
42	Shawnee 18
	Lima CC 70
27	New Madison 32
36	Sidney 19
	Bellefontaine 50
	Urbana 50
	4th place MVL

Row one: l to r: J. Fourman, J. Godwin, D. North, M. Pitzer, C. Spitzer, S. Elliott; row two: D. Francis, B. Bowers, M. Fields, R. Garcia, R. Turner; row three: T. Barnett, R. Bonfiglio, B. Hammaker, K. Gruber.



Mike Fields

**Fields Leads
Wave To Win**

Mike Fields, Greenville Junior Takes Top Spot For Nat'l Honor

Mike Fields, Greenville High School junior, won the pole vault event in the National Jaycee Track Meet that was held at Bowling Green State University on Saturday. Fields, only 16, was competing with boys in the 17, 18, and 19-year old age bracket. He was placed in this bracket because he competed in the district meet at Piqua and won over the older boys.

Saturday was the topper. Mike went against 38 other boys from all over the country. Fields had little trouble as the vaulting started at twelve foot and he cleared that height on his first jump. His only problem came at 12'6" when he missed.

"My timing was off on that jump," the sandy haired vaulter said. He immediately cleared the height on his second try. The bar then was placed at 13'6" and he made that on his first try. That set the stage for his final leap at 14'0" which Mike cleared on the first try. The boy that came in second missed on his first attempt at that height and Mike became the national champ on fewer misses. The boy he beat was from South Carolina.

There were side benefits to meet as Fields readily found out. Mike was approached by four different colleges, Ohio State, Bowling Green, Furman, and the University of Colorado approached Mike to see how he felt about their colleges. Surprise, was the only thing that they could manage when they found out that he was still a junior in high school.

Great things are on the horizon for this up and coming GHS athlete. Congratulations to Mike for being the first National Champion from Greenville in a track and field event.

MCDERMOTT DIES

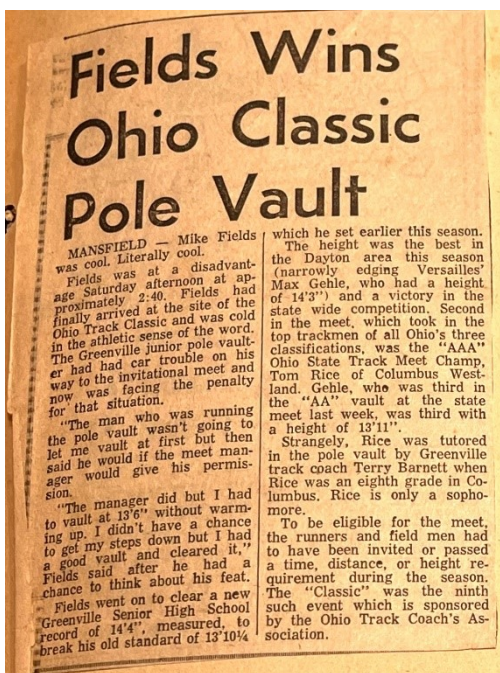
YEADON, Pa. (UPI)—John J. McDermott, Jr., the youngest player ever to win the U.S. Open Golf Championship, died Sunday at the age of 79.

McDermott was 19 when he became the first American-born pro to win the Open in 1911. He won again the following year to become only one of five golfers to score successive victories and retired because of ill health in 1914.

Greenville Advocate 14
Mon., Aug. 2, 1971



In 1972, he set a new school record at the Mansfield (OH) Relays at 14' 4". Mike set a school record of 14' 5.5" at the Troy Relays, breaking his record of 14' 1.5". In his Junior year he finished second in the State meet with 14' 8" height, tying **Leslie West** from Wayne HS class of 1974, but West was placed first with fewer attempts. Mike placed first in the national Jaycee's Track and Field Meet in Bowling Green, OH, and first place in the State Jaycee's meet in Piqua.



Weather, theft slow cindermen's attempts to "realize potential"

Although Greenville cindermen realized several bright moments during the season, difficult practice conditions, illness and theft kept the track team from "reaching its potential."

"Because of all the wins in sports this year we worked harder to be a team and we were. But we never really reached our potential success," said Mike Rhodes, consistent winner for the team in the 440.

The team, participating in triangular meets this year began practices by running a course that covered all halls in the high school and vibrated the walls for approximately a month as the team awaited drier warmer weather for outdoor practice.

Theft slowed down Mike Fields when his pole disappeared midway through the season. Despite the fact he had to relearn to jump with a new pole, the junior set a new school record in pole-vault.

Steve Detrick, also a junior also broke an existing record by throwing the shot an unbeatable distance.

Going into the Salzman Relays, a Greenville track tradition, the team carried a 4-3 dual meet record. Placing second in this competition with five firsts, the team prepared for the MVL and sectionals in which another school record was set by Sam Spidel, John Hathaway Mike Field and Mike Rhodes in the mile relay



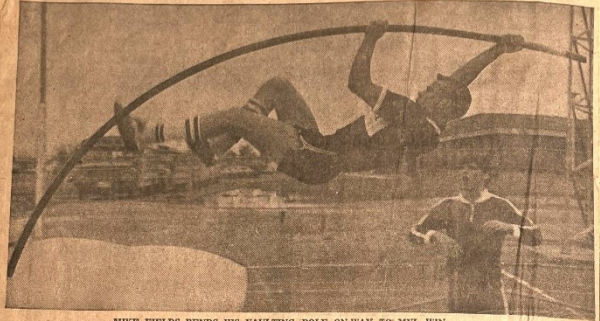
1972 Football , Record: 7-1-2 (Below)

1972 EDITION OF THE GREENVILLE GREEN WAVE

Pictured above is the Greenville Green Wave football team for 1972. Below the group picture are the 21 seniors who will be appearing for the Wave this season. The seniors and coaches are from left to right top row: Mike Rhodes, Mark Niswonger (captain of the Wave), Mike Shroyer, John Pequignot, Charlie Goodpaster, Dan Segall, Larry Badger, Mike Wenger, Terry Dull; Second row: Doug Combs, Tim McKibben, Coach Dick Powers, Coach Mike Coberly, Head Coach Tom Hollman, Coach Wayne "Pete" Moore, Coach Rex Radeloff, Roger Beisner, Gary Arnold; Bottom row: Vic Hennessey, Steve Wion, Bart Williams, Mike Fields, Jack Broderick, Jerry Ruhl, Faith Gaines, and Steve Detrick. The Wave will open the season this Friday night in the "Battle for the Little Brown Jug" at Celina.

distance running and was usually the best at all of their meets. Mike (R) was an outstanding football player at GHS. He later played and started as wide receiver for the Miami University Redskins in the mid '70s when Miami had a very good football team and won three Tangerine Bowls over Georgia, South Carolina and Florida. Miami finished in the Top 10 in the nation in Division 1 NCAA one year, and this just doesn't happen often for any Mid-American Conference football teams. That bowl is known as the Citrus Bowl today. Mike (R) tried out for the NFL more than once (Steelers), but was a little undersized for that league. (Mike Rhodes died April 12, 2019, in Marysville, Missouri, where he lived at the that time. He received a B.A. and Master's degrees in Kinesiology, but had little later connection with his hometown).

Mike Fields, Rick Turner and Bob Maher qualify for state meet in 1972:



MIKE FIELDS BENDS HIS VAULTING POLE ON WAY TO MYL WIN
... Fields Was Caught In Action At The MYL Meet In Bellefontaine (Pix by Marker)

State Finals For 3 Wave

By BOB MARKER
Advocate Sports Editor

The goal of every high school athlete is to compete in his state's championship events. To find out who is the best and to know that he has put everything that he has into his effort to be the best, is the goal of any athlete.

Three Greenville High School athletes will make the trip to Columbus this week to compete in the state championships. Bob Maher, Rick Turner, and Mike Fields are realizing dreams that they have had for many months.

Mike Fields has been jumping all over the place. Both long jumping and pole vaulting but it is the latter where the Greenville junior will be taking part in the Ohio State High School Track Meet this Saturday in Columbus' Ohio Stadium. Fields has recently improved this season but has right now but a bit of a "trial" in his progress on the pole vaulting heights. Fields vaulted 13'10 1/2" on April 8 but has been able to do only 13'9" since that time. But during that time, Fields has cleared fourteen feet or better in practice several times.

If the Wave junior has a fault in pole vaulting it is because of nerves. Not scared to jump but getting too "high" mentally to jump. Fields sometimes gets so high mentally that he makes little mistakes that result in big misses.

But toward the end of the season and especially in sectional and district meets, Fields has conquered his nervousness and won both pole vaulting titles. Fields cleared 13'8" in both meets.

Now it is on to Columbus for the biggest challenge that has faced the Wave junior. Fields will have a day to relax at the running preliminaries before he takes to the runway for his first vault on Saturday afternoon. He will have to be in top shape because the starting height at the State Meet is thirteen feet. Fields has made that height many times before and will most probably clear that height and much more at the state.

Greenville star *april 25-72*

Studios vaulter

By Paul Meyer
Journal sports team's writer

Mike Fields is one of the top pole vaulters in this area. And one reason for the Greenville star's success may be the fact that he gets to spend so much time at meets studying the event.

Take Monday night at the Dayton Relays, for example.

THE POLE vault began about 5:30 p.m. at 10-6, but Fields sat casually in the stands at Welcome Stadium watching his competition.

"If the wind dies down," he said, "I'll probably pass to 13-0."

That height wasn't reached until three hours later, so Mike had plenty of time to wait — and discuss a couple "friendly" foes.

Senior Mike Gelfo of Versailles, whose 14-7 1/2 effort last year was the second best in Ohio.

"I VAULTED with him last summer," said Fields, whose 13-10 1/2 so far this season is the best vault in the area. "We kind of helped each other."

"But," Mike admitted with a laugh, "He helped me more than I helped him."

Or Miamisburg's outstanding freshman, Rod Newland. "He's pretty good," Fields appraised. "He beat me at Trotwood, so I'm hoping to beat him today. Really, we're pretty good friends."

"As a matter of fact, he bought me this candy bar," Mike said, brandishing a large Baby Ruth.

FIELDS, whose personal best is 14-6 during a practice session, did beat Newland in the Dayton Relays.

But he didn't beat Fairborn Baker's Dave Semler. Each cleared 13-4 and missed at 13-8, but Semler was awarded first place on the basis of fewer misses.

of 13.8, apparently was serious when he said he was going to Western Michigan to play football. Parks bypassed much of the early spring track season to participate in the "Iron-cow" spring football drills. Same goes for ex-Teddie sprinter Oden Wallace. . . . John Ruidl won the 440-yard dash at the Dayton Relays Monday night in :46.8, not :50.9 as was first reported. The latter time was Ruidl's, clicking in the preliminaries. The Roosevelt standout ran :48.8 at the Mansfield Relays — the best time in the over-Ohio state this season. . . .

Maybe sometimes a guy can spend too much time with "the books."

TROY IS favored to beat defending champion Fairborn Baker, Xenia, Xenia Woodrow Wilson, Centerville, Oakwood, Northmont, Schwan and Carroll for the Xenia Invitational title today.

The Trojans, who tied Fiqua for first place in the Warren Relays at Wayne April 15, finished ahead of each of those teams in that meet except Belmont and Woodrow Wilson, which were not entered.

This 19th annual event at Cox Field begins with track preliminaries and the discus at 3 p.m. The pole vault will start at 3:30 and the rest of the field events are scheduled to begin at 6.

The two-mile run at 7 opens the track events final.

EXTRA LAPS: Dunber's Earl Richardson qualified for the Olympics trials by running the 440 in :46.5 in a dual meet with the University of Texas at El Paso. The former Wolverine flash also helped his University of Southern California teammates tie a Trojan record in the mile relay (3:07.6) with his :47.0 leg. . . . Roosevelt's Jeff Parrish, who holds the all-time Ohio high school high hurdles record

100-YARD DASH	
1. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	1:14
2. John Gelfo, Versailles	1:15
3. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	1:16
4. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	1:17
5. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	1:18
6. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	1:19
7. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	1:20
8. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	1:21
9. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	1:22
10. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	1:23
11. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	1:24
12. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	1:25
13. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	1:26
14. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	1:27
15. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	1:28
16. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	1:29
17. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	1:30
18. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	1:31
19. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	1:32
20. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	1:33
21. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	1:34
22. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	1:35
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28. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	1:41
29. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	1:42
30. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	1:43
31. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	1:44
32. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	1:45
33. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	1:46
34. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	1:47
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48. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:01
49. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:02
50. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:03
51. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:04
52. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:05
53. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:06
54. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:07
55. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:08
56. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:09
57. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:10
58. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:11
59. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:12
60. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:13
61. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:14
62. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:15
63. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:16
64. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:17
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81. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:34
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90. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:43
91. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:44
92. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:45
93. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:46
94. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:47
95. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:48
96. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:49
97. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:50
98. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:51
99. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:52
100. Mike Gelfo, Versailles	2:53

The GHS Mile Relay team (1600 meters now) record of 3:24.7 was set in 1973, still stands, and is now 50 years old. That team was **Greg Wilson GHS 1975, Lewis Hopsecker GHS 1975, Mike Fields**, and the anchorman **Mike Rhodes**. The year before, a school record was also set in this event (at one second slower time) and the members of that relay were **Mike Fields, Sam Spidel GHS 1972, John Hathaway GHS 1972, and Mike Rhodes**. This is the longest standing track team event at GHS, and is celebrating its 50th year as being the high-water mark. The Hip King and Mel Connor records are older but are individual performer's records.

Mike (Fields) suffered an injury when his hands slipped on the steel pole he was using in a meet. Imagine the advanced technology used to make today's poles. Today's poles are fiberglass, fiberglass with carbon, or fiber with carbon fiber and S-glass. Today's advancements would have

Photos from a Sports Illustrated photographer:



elevated Mike into an elite class of athletes if he had the opportunity of using today's superior equipment.

Mike had offers from several colleges based on his pole-vaulting skills. Some of these offers that we can still find copies of are ones from North Texas State Univ., the College of William and Mary (Williamsburg, VA), and North Platte Junior College (Nebraska), and inquiries from Penn State Univ. He was an average student academically in High School. After weighing the options after graduation, Mike chose to enter the Air Force because he thought they offered him more. He was Airman First Class and graduated at Lackland AFB, Texas, from the U.S. Air Force security policemen force, and was assigned to Warren AFB in Wyoming. The Air Force promised him that he would be able to pursue his pole vaulting in the service. There was unofficial documentation that Mike vaulted 17'6" in the Air Force, which sounds almost unrealistic. He saw that furthering his athletic career was not happening there, and they had not fulfilled what they said they would do, so he asked to be released from the Air Force. He was given an Honorable Discharge in September, 1974.

*The Mile Relay team set a school record in 1972 and broke it again in 1973, This picture of the 1972 team was **Mike Rhodes, Sam Spidel, John Hathaway, and Mike Fields**. Their split times, respectively, in the District finals were: 0:49.0, 0:51.0, 0:51.0, and 0:51.5*



Mike's fiancée was **Kelly Lehman**, GHS 1975, who later married **Jim Thwaits, Jr.**, GHS 1976. Jim died March 27, 2020, and they lived in Englewood, Florida. Three of their four children graduated from GHS: **Ryan Thwaits** GHS 1994, **Rachel Thwaits** GHS 1996, **Jennifer Thwaits** GHS 1997, and **Ashley Thwaits**.

1972 Cross Country Team (below):

Members of the Greenville cross country team are (left to right) first row: Mark Pitzer, Joe Goewin, Dan North, Jeff Fournier, Craig Spitzer, Bob Bowers; second row: Bob Hammaker, Mike Fields, Rogers Garcia, Rick Turner, Kevin Gruber, Dale Francis, Rick Bonfiglio (AdvePix)

'Lucky 13' Make Up Barnett's Greenville Cross Country Team

Did you ever get up one morning, have someone drive you to America, drop you off, and then run back to Greenville?

Chances are not many of you have done this and are not planning to do anything remotely like that in the near future.

Well the Greenville Cross Country team under the coaching of Terry Barnett has been member squad has run over 100 miles in training.

All this in preparation for running in competition over a course that will be two miles in length.

Barnett has cross country on the rise at GHS. Last year there were only four out for the team at the start of practice. He finished with seven during the season and that season compiled a 2-3 record and last in the MVL meet.

"Our immediate goal is to finish higher in the MVL and to run respectfully with everyone," Barnett said.

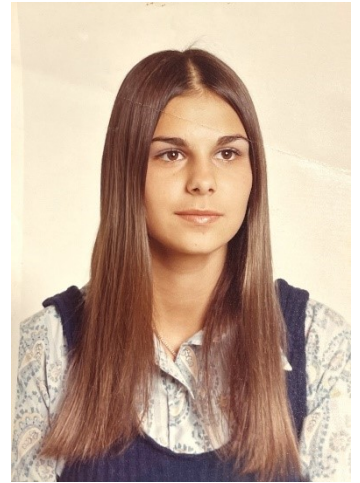
The addition of Mike Fields, junior, and the strong running of sophomore Dan North will help us considerably.

Barnett has four lettermen back from last year's squad. They are Kevin Gruber, Rick Bonfiglio, Bob Bowers, and Dale Francis. All four of them should be in the thick of the running in the meet.

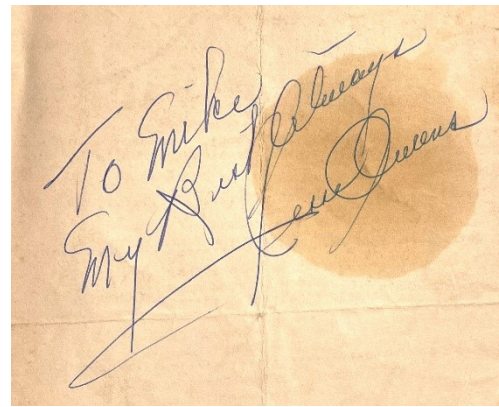
"We are young but should be able to improve with each meet," Barnett stated.

A preview of that team is slated this evening at the city park as a preliminary to the football game. The first meet is this Tuesday at 4:30 with Vergennes. The starting point is the Altair of Peace.

Terry Barnett



Mike's fiancée, Kelly Lehman '75



Jesse Owens autograph from a banquet.

Mike Fields, Greenville Junior Takes Top Spot For Nat'l Honor

Fields Second In U.S. Meet

COLUMBUS — Mike Fields, Greenville Senior High School track star finished second in the pole vault in the U.S. Track and Field Federation Meet at meet drew people from all over the United States.

Fields vaulted 14 - 6 for a new school record at Greenville. The old record was 14 - 4 held by Fields in the Spring of '72.

Tom Rice of Columbus Westland won the event with a vault of 14 - 9. Ironically, Rice was coached by Fields' present coach Terry Barnett.

There were twelve participants in the pole vault with a requirement of at least a previous mark of 12 - 6 to make the elite field.



Fields Makes National Meet

Mike Fields, Greenville Senior High's ace pole vaulter, has received official word that he has been invited to participate in the National High School Track and Field Meet this Saturday at Des Moines, Iowa.

Said his coach, Terry Barnett, "We're both very excited about the invitation. . . it's quite a high honor for Mike, he's one of ten vaulters in the United States to be allowed to take part."

Funds Needed.

It will take in the neighborhood of \$50 to finance the round trip, including expenses and the Daily Advocate Editorial Department has agreed to serve as a collection point for any and all monies donated by businesses and private citizens.

Contributions should be brought into the newsroom 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday.

Any amount will be very much appreciated in helping to fulfill something that is not only a big first for the high school, but quite possibly all of Darke County.

Others There

Barnett told the Daily Advocate this morning that Dayton Wilbur Wright's first foaled five-miler, Garver, will also be at Des Moines.

Terry Barry of Columbus, a 6'10" high jumper, has received an invitation, along with Cincinnati Norwood's Manickberry a shot put expert.

Famed Olympic athlete, Jesse Owens, O.S.U. grad, who won several gold medals in the 1936 Munich games, will be on hand at the meet as well as at a special banquet where he is to deliver an address.

Fields, Coach Now In Iowa

Greenville's Mike Fields and his coach, Terry Barnett, left by plane at mid-afternoon yesterday for Des Moines, Iowa, where Fields is competing tomorrow in the National High School Track and Field Meet Invitational.

Fields, a pole vaulter who has cleared the 15-foot mark several times, is credited as one of the best prep vaulters in the country.

The Daily Advocate continues to act as a collection point for anyone who desires to donate any amount of money to help defray expenses of the trip.

The paper turned over better than \$80 yesterday. Any funds received in excess of what is needed will be diverted to the Track Fund.

Money can be brought into the Daily Advocate Newsroom until 4 p.m. today and from 7 a.m. to noon tomorrow. Monday yours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



1973 Track

Records established, runners travel to state

The Wave track team started the year's season off with a tragic note with the untimely death of distance runner Mark Pitzer and an unfortunate fractured skull for Dave Bonfiglio. A highlight of the year came when Mike Fields set a pole vault record of 15'2" ranking him top in the state and among the top ten in the nation.

Several new school records were set. Earlier Mike Fields soared 14'10³/₄" in the pole vault, Steve Detrich heaved the shot put 56'½", and the mile relay team of Wilson, Hopsecker, Fields, and Rhodes blazed to the mile in 3:25.3.

The Wave registered a 2-2 dual meet mark with the biggest victory being against Arcanum. Though the team did not finish first in any tournament, several second place finishes were recorded. The Wave Team finished fourth in the S.W.B.L. and second in the sectionals.

Four runners: Hopsecker, Wilson, Fields, and Rhodes qualified to attend the state track meet, and while there, Mike Fields finished second in the Class AAA pole vault event with a jump of 14'8".

5	+	2
7		2

1. Dave Westfall clears high jump easily. 2. Passing baton to Rod Grim is Gail Weaver. 3. Heaving the shot put proves agonizing to Steve Detrich. 4. Straining to win Mike Fields bounds the low hurdles. 5. Mike Rhodes shows his ability in the long jump.



Mike Fields

<<<<Mike Rhodes

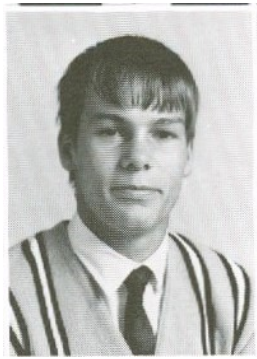


After the Air Force, he went to work for an agricultural construction company as an apprentice millwright (a millwright installs, maintains, repairs, dismantles and reassembles machinery). Standard procedure was that workers would be tied off at certain heights to reduce injuries from a falling. He supposedly was not high enough to be tied off when he fell off a silo while in the process of tearing down a cannery in Egg Harbor City, New Jersey, near Atlantic City. There was dispute as to whether he fell into and through the building or outside the structure as the company suggested. This appeared to be a dangerous setting, and Mike had said he was going to quit after the job they were working on because he thought it was so dangerous. His mother begged him not to go to work on his final day. His injuries from the fall included a skull fracture and an injured brain stem at the top of his back/neck, and his back. He had a pacemaker installed but his condition never appeared to improve. He died 13 days later, November 15, 1974, at age 20, when his heart gave out. He was buried at the Greenville Township Memory Garden (then was the Sunset Memory Garden) north of Greenville on Route 118, and the pall bearers were: **Mike Rhodes, Scott Jett, Rick Macci GHS 1973, Dan Riegle GHS 1974, Rod Newland, and Dan Stegall GHS 1973.**

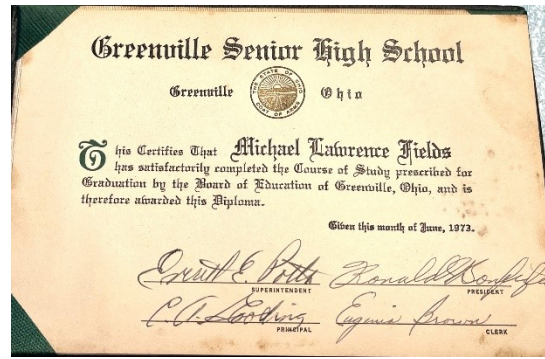
Graduation picture:



Sophomore picture:



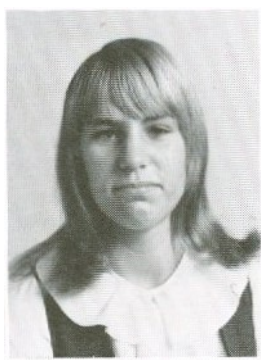
GHS Diploma:



Fields Sisters: Tonya



Melanie



Julia



Penny



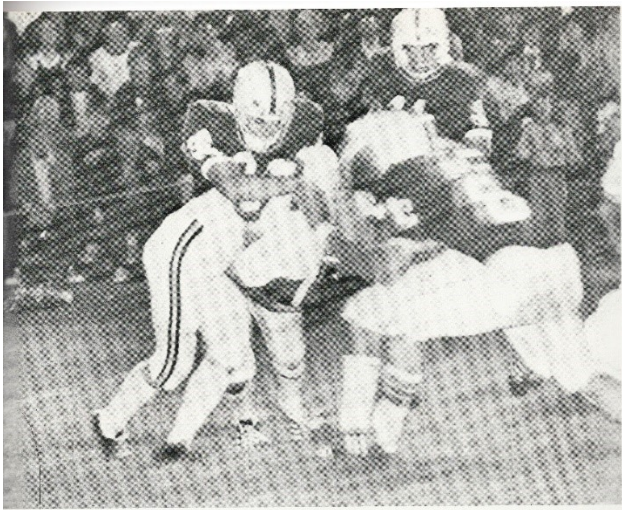
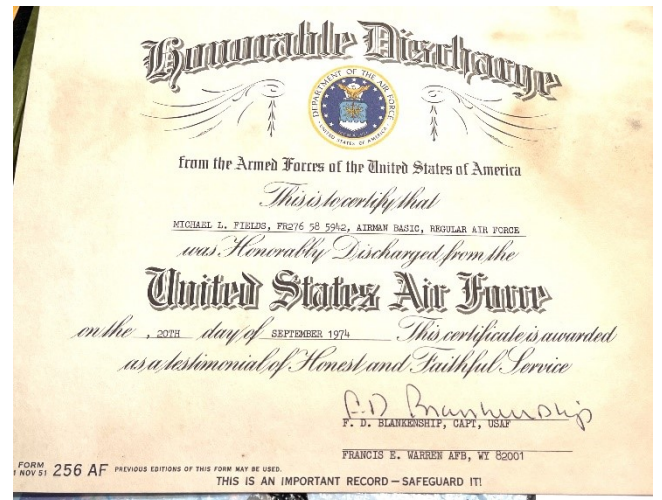
Mike's mother **Suzanne Fields Vecera**'s response to this tragedy was to help fundraising efforts which started the Greenville Area Emergency Rescue Squad (GAERS) after Mike's death to help with rapid response to emergencies that happen where we live. She had married **Guy Vecera** in 1967 after her first husband's death. Mike's Fields siblings are:

Tonya Patton, GHS 1971, **Melanie Nealeigh**, class of 1973, **Julia Will**, class of 1977, and **Penny Fields**, GHS 1980. Guy brought some earlier members of his family into the new family, and Suzanne and Guy had three children: **Kathleen Vecera Ditmer**, Franklin Monroe HS 1987, **Chrissy Vecera Rapier**, FM class of 1988, and **Michael Vecera**, born in 1980, who attended school in Florida and was a high school wrestler (he was named for his older half-brother).

Grave marker at Greenville Township Gardens:



Air Force Discharge:



Football 1972: Mike Fields, Vic Hennessy and Stan Beeson tackle an opponent (above left). Mike goes horizontal to make a tackle on a kickoff. Vic Hennessy (#11) and Matt Beck (#80), (above right).

Suzanne Fields Vecera, Mother of 8 (below)



Mike in USAF uniform (below)



Mike's final team, the 1973 GHS Track team:



Top Row, l-r: T Barnett, D. Bunting, M. Fields, M. Rhodes, D. Mong, J. Sander, S. Wolhrab, C. Conner, G. Wilson, D. Bonfiglio, D. Shields, R. Radelof; l-r: D. Combs, M. Fansler, B. Bowers, L. McCann, R. Grim, D. Westfall, L. Hopsecker, D. Stump, J. Thwaits, J. Quellhorst; l-r: K. Blumenstock, M. Spille, B. Koger, R. Hanks, M. Holzapfel; l-r: S. Kimmel, B. Gruber, R. Garcia, D. Pickerel, C. Spitzer; l-r: R. Bonfiglio, M. Eldridge, D. Haworthe, R. Worthington, J. Fourman, D. VanPelt, G. Julian, D. Warhen, M. White, D. Riegler.

Opponent		Scoreboard		Opponent		Greenville
26½	Arcanum	100½	39	Dayton Wayne	44	
85	Fairborn Baker	44	70½	Tipp City	55½	

The Dynamic Duo, Mike Fields and Mike Rhodes, after years together as teammates for the last time, in this 1973 team photo >>>>>



Mike Fields' athletic prowess will never be forgotten by Greenville's older fans even though he has been gone nearly half a century. He made a great name for himself while he was here, and was known across the U.S.A. Mike won some national competitions against this country's best high schools' pole vaulters. He was a World Class Athlete with hopes of making the Olympics, but his life was tragically cut short.

Coach Barnett had Super 8 film movies of Mike's vaulting performances. He offered to give them to Mike's Mother Suzanne. She would not take them because she could not bear to watch any of them. She remained devastated from the accident for the rest of her life (from 1974 to her passing in 2002).

"Mike's passing shattered our family. Nothing was ever the same again. He was the glue that bonded all of us together," said **Kathleen Vecera Ditmer**, a half-sister of Mike who was six plus years old when Mike died. She has good memories of having known him.

*Editor's Note: A big Thank You to **Kathleen Vecera Ditmer** for much of this information, and her dedication to keep Mike's history, accomplishments, and name alive.*

GHS Athletic Hall of Fame 2024

On Saturday night, January 20, 2024, the 38th annual GHS Athletic Hall of Fame was announced to the audience between the Reserve and Varsity boys Basketball games with Bethel. Presentations were made to this year's recipients, **Jesse Clum**, GHS 2001, and long-time GHS coach **Dennis Kiser**. Fifteen nominees were considered with just two being selected by the thirteen-person Hall of Fame committee.

Jesse Clum was an outstanding student and athlete at GHS from 1997 to 2001. He was a leader in three sports winning ten varsity letters. As a wrestler, he was a three-year participant, missing his senior year due to a shoulder injury and subsequent surgery.

He earned four letters in Track and Field, winning the G.M.V.C. (Greater Miami Valley Conference, which Greenville was a member of at that time) championship in the 110-meter high hurdles as a senior, setting a school record at that time. In football he won three letters and was selected as first team defensive back in the G.M.V.C. both his junior and senior years. He was also the team's quarterback on offense and team captain.

At GHS he was a member of the National Honor Society, winner of the Jack Raudabaugh trophy for academics and sports excellence, and was chosen Chief Green Wave at Homecoming 2000. After high school, he attended the University of Mount Union in Alliance, Ohio, near Akron, and was a member of two NCAA Division III football national championship teams (2001 and 2002) and one runner-up team (2003). His four football teams as a Red Raider had a combined record of 53-2. His senior year at Mt. Union, he was named the Ohio Athletic Conference Most Valuable defensive back, and was a D-III First Team All-American.

Jesse lives in Cumming, Georgia, with his girlfriend **Mae**, who is originally from Texas, and his son **Rory**, age six. His occupation is director of operations for Mosaic Puzzles in Atlanta. Mosaic makes high quality wooden puzzles in intricate detail and shapes which are created by lasers for puzzle lovers. Examples of those puzzles for sale are available on amazon.com.

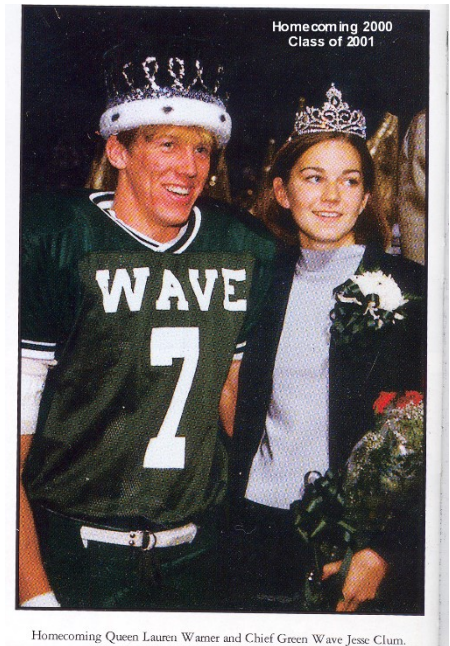
Dennis Kiser is a graduate of Bradford High School and Wright State University and has coached four different sports at three different schools, totaling 78 sports seasons. His longest coaching stretch is 32 years at GHS coaching boys' tennis (1991-2022). These teams compiled a record of 368-188 with four league titles ('95 and '01 GMVC, '02 GWOC-West, and '06 MML). He was instrumental in developing 47 individual D-I district qualifiers. Through the years, he has provided guidance to 23 young men and three young women.

He was named the Miami Valley Tennis Coaches Association "Coach of the Year" three times (GWOC '03, MML '06, and GWOC North '17). He was selected to the MVTCA Hall of Fame in 2017.

Dennis lives in Greenville but continues to teach in Ansonia. His wife, **Jana Matix Kiser**, GHS 1988, is a nurse at the Greenville Middle School. They are the parents of two former outstanding students at GHS: **Landon Kiser**, GHS 2012, and **Evan Kiser**, GHS 2015. Landon lives in the Phoenix, Arizona, area and teaches part-time. Evan was the GHS Senior Class President, 2014-2015, and now works out of Indianapolis and travels the world as a travel leader escorting young people. Dennis' brother-in-law, **Brian Matix**, GHS 1984, was a 2021 selection

for the GHS Athletic Hall of Fame and currently lives in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Dennis' in-laws are the late **Fred Matix** and **Joyce Matix**, who moved to Greenville from Elkhart, Indiana, in 1978. Fred started out here as a teacher, head varsity basketball coach but also coach of other sports teams later, Athletic Director, and finally a Board of Education member until he passed away in 2019. Joyce worked for the schools and was a willing and constant volunteer in the school system. The Kiser-Matix family is fully dedicated to the Greenville City Schools and have contributed much good will.

This year's inductees, Jesse and Dennis,
Jan. 20, 2024 (below):

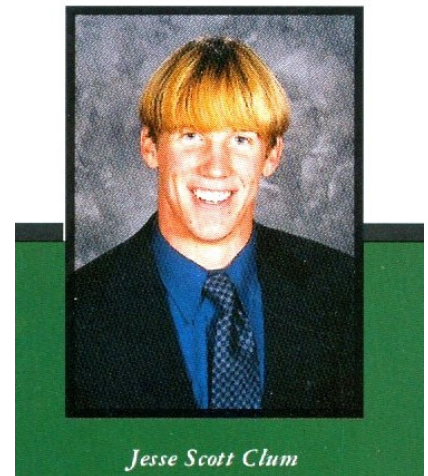


Jesse as Chief Green Wave, Fall, 2000, along with Homecoming Queen Lauren Warner >>>

Homecoming Queen Lauren Warner and Chief Green Wave Jesse Clum.



Senior photo >>>>



**Many class reunions are just in the development stage.
Check our website when more news becomes available**

www.greenvillealumni.org

2024 Reunions:

GHS CLASS REUNIONS – 2024 – as of Mar. 11, 2024

LOCATIONS:

Turtle Creek Golf Course -was the Greenville Country Club, 3 miles east on U.S. Rt. 36

Montage is at 519 South Broadway nearly across from the Courthouse

American Legion is on North Ohio Street next to the VFW, north of Martin St.

Sure Shot Tap House -was Bistro Off Broadway, 117 East 5th St., across from the Palace

V.F.W. Hall is on North Ohio Street, north of the Greenville Creek and Martin St.

J&J Party Facilities is on Route 502 one mile west of town, was Rehmert's Nursery

J.Ts. is the former C.J. Highmarks and Frisch's in front of Walmart

Jack's Cabin in the former Greenville Inn, 851 Martin St., next to former Corning plant

Elks – 2nd block of West Third Street, same location as always

Maid-Rite on North Broadway beyond the bridge, is known by everyone

K of C Hall- on Childrens Home-Bradford Rd., west of Greenville-Celina Rd, north of Lowes

Romer's – just east of traffic circle downtown, where grocery store and Edison College were

La Carreta – Mexican Restaurant, was the Fairlawn, across from the Fairgrounds.

Beanz – Bakery, Breakfast and restaurant at the NW corner of E. Third St. and Walnut St.

Alchemy Lounge – 203 W. Main St., one block west of the City Fountain

Olde Factory Warehouse – 645 Pine St., was old Neff Lettering and older cigar large factory

2024 reunions:

1954 Aug. 17 Sat., at Beanz, ?? details

Nancy Brown Warner, bilnanwarner@gmail.com ,

Jeanette Patton, jeanettepat10@gmail.com

1956 Aug. 24 Sat., Helen Dull's cabin, 3578 Hillgrove-Woodington Rd., 3:00-5:00

Jerry Gordon, jerry_gordon@baylor.edu , 254-715-5868

1959 Sept. 27 Fri., at Sure Shot Tap House, evening, time-??

and Sept. 28 Sat., at Montage, afternoon and evening

Margaret Manix margaretmanix59@yahoo.com

Marilyn Gruber megruber@woh.rr.com , 937-548-0351

1962 Aug. 16,17,18, Fri-Sat-Sun., “80th Birthday”, locations ??

Alice Ann Morrison Brown aliceab2022@gmail.com

1963 Dick and committee are still deciding on if they will have a reunion, as of 3-1-2024

Richard Dick Martin, remartin@att.net

- 1964 **Aug. 24 Sat.,** at American Legion,
Sue Schlechty sslechty1bgk@gmail.com
Charlotte Wright crwright64@gmail.com , 937-467-6894
Karen Besecker karen.besecker@gmail.com , 937-548-9809
- 1969 **Aug. 17 Sat.,** at Sure Shot Tap House Oakley Room, 5:00-10:00
Roscoe Hinkle sko123@centurylink.net , Ann Eikenberry Myers
Debby Soddors debbsoddors@gmail.com , Tom Trittschuh trittschuh@yahoo.com
- 1971 **Mar 2, Sat.,** at JT's, 2:00-4:00 **Photo at 3:00**
Kathy Dapore kadapore71@gmail.com
- 1974 **Sept. 21 Sat.,**
Debra Stull-Kohn dstullkohn@gmail.com
- 1979 **Aug.17 Sat.,** at Olde Factory Warehouse, 645 Pine St., ??-time
Ted Fiely ted.fiely@gmail.com
Sherri Jones gwavemom@hotmail.com
- 1984 **Sat. Aug. 17,** at VFW, 6:30-?
Greg Asman, GHS-1984 Facebook group, gozman@mac.com , 937-581-1717
Doug Shields 937-423-2592 (Susan 548-2592 shields@greenvillernationalbank.com)
Lisa Martin martinL@greenvillernationalbank.com
- 1989 **Aug. 24 Sat.,** at Sure Shot Tap House Oakley Room, 6:00-10:00
Melinda Thompson mailmelinda1@gmail.com , 937-564-2332
Travis Teaford, 8113 Knisley Rd, Greenville, 937-547-3267
Chad Baughman
- 1994 **June 29, Sat.,** at Alchemy Lounge, 203 W. Main St., ??-time
Susan Allread Barker sbarker@greenvillefederal.com 937-548-3267
Rachael Wagner Stebbins wagner_rachael@hotmail.com
Follow Greenville High School Class of '94 Facebook page
- 1999 *Aaron Kruckeberg is reaching out to classmates on Facebook as of 3-1-2024*
Aaron Kruckeburg sales@classiccomfortohio.com , 417-4929, 548-6263
Mike Manix , 937-459-7344, mikemanix68@gmail.com
- 2004 *Michael Dowler is working on it, 3-1-2024*
Mike Bernhard Bernhard.20@gmail.com , 937-417-6614
Michael Dowler michaeldowler85@gmail.com
Meredith Pollitz pollitztm@gmail.com
- 2009 **X-Will hold off until their 20th year in 2029 (from Chelsea 3-1-2024)**
Chelsea Brand Myers cmyers0990@gmail.com , 937-564-2081
Michelle Brandt mbrandt10@yahoo.com
Tytler Martin tmartin71719@gmail.com
- 2014 **Aug. 17 Sat.,** at Sure Shot Tap House Oakley Room, 6:00-10:00
Photo 6:30-7:00
Paige Ervin paige.ervin@outlook.com
Cole Ward coleward34@gmail.com , Heath Marker heathmarker11@gmail.com
Facebook: Greenville High School Class of 2014

Attention All G.H.S. Alums



SUNDAY MAY 5

1:00 to 4:00 pm

>>We are back again !!!

**Whatever you remember about G.H.S.,
There will be something to interest you**

At our G.H.S. Cafeteria

Free Admission and Free Refreshments

**We will have over 250 foldout boards about the classes
Open to anyone who attended G.H.S., faculty, friends,
or anyone who is interested in Greenville High School**