



First Lumberport Fest a “Little Reunion”



Shannon Lopez, left, helps six-year-old Bradon Hanna make "snow" during Lumberport Fest Saturday. Jacee Crone, 9, looks on behind Bradon. Lopez organized the event, the first of its kind in Lumberport. Photo by Erin Beck.

By Erin Beck
Editor

Lumberport — Rainy weather didn't keep people from Lumberport and nearby areas from attending a Christmas

festival Saturday. Attendees bought food and crafts from vendors inside the old fire department building during the drizzle. Outside, they lined up along the street to listen

to performers while children wrote letters to Santa and toasted s'mores. Rebecca Jones and three members of the Key Club community service group from

Lincoln High School helped with the Letters to Santa station. Children made “reindeer food” from oats and glitter — the glitter was to attract the reindeer, Jones said. Shannon Lopez,

organizer of Lumberport's first Lumberport Fest, set up a snowmaking station. Beatrice Woolard, Children made mock snow from baking soda and shaving cream and formed it into snowmen. Saturday was “I hope they continue

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VISTA Volunteer Plants Seeds of Service



Jon Olsen, AmeriCorps VISTA

By Dawn Hensil
Staff Writer

The City of Shinnston's AmeriCorps VISTA member, Jon Olsen, helped build a new Shinnston Community Garden during his time in service over the past fourteen months. He

hopes the garden will continue to grow — in size and community effort — after he leaves later this month. “The garden has been one of the proudest things that I have done, and I am very lucky to have had this

experience,” he stated, in an interview.

AmeriCorps VISTA members help local organizations, including public agencies and nonprofits, build their capacity to fight poverty, including through volunteer recruitment, fundraising, grant writing, and research, according to the AmeriCorps website. The VISTA program (Volunteers in Service to America) began in 1964. AmeriCorps, a federal agency, refers to its VISTA participants as program members.

Shinnston's AmeriCorps VISTA member, Olsen, was a teacher and a resident of Virginia. For nine years he taught children to speak English in

Thailand.

Olsen said he turned his focus to the VISTA program after his sister began working with them out of New York. He filled out an application and chose a location that was closer to his home. That led him to Shinnston.

His original contract was for twelve months, but he applied for an extension to stay for an additional two months.

Olsen's focus was on beautification and attracting more volunteers to the city. His largest project was the community garden.

Olsen said that some years ago, Shinnston lost its community garden. Over the past year, he worked with other organizers to

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Webster Springs, WV



Building Amazing Cities

By JIM HUNT
author, speaker, consultant

In my continuing travels throughout West Virginia, I had the opportunity to visit the county seat of Webster County to attend a meeting of the Webster County Commission. Addison is the incorporated name for the town, but it is more commonly known as Webster Springs. My traveling buddy, Bobby Monroe, works for DataMax, a company that helps cities and counties recover revenue and we presented our program to the County Commission.

Bobby is from North Carolina and visits West Virginia several times each week. He remarked that the road from I-79 to Webster Springs was one of the curviest roads he has traveled in many years. The road gives you some idea of why they refer to “Wild, Wonderful, West Virginia” as one of the most beautiful states in the country. Peaceful streams flow along the roadway with rhododendron, the West Virginia state flower, growing on the rocky outcroppings. As we approached Webster Springs, we could see it far down in the valley. It reminded me of my visits to the Alps in Switzerland, as you look down and see the sleepy little villages nestled far below. Webster Springs is a town of about 800 residents and has a nice downtown with several shops and cafes. The town was famous in the late 19th and early 20th centuries for its numerous salt sulfur water wells that people believed had medicinal qualities. In 1897, Senator Johnson Newlon Camden built a 265-room hotel that was larger than the famous Greenbrier hotel in White Sulphur Springs and was the largest wood frame hotel in West Virginia. The hotel was known far and wide and attracted people from throughout

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Lions Look Out for Kids' Vision Problems

By Erin Beck
Editor

Some Shinnston sixth graders may start doing better in school, be less likely to get hurt, and feel more comfortable and confident playing sports and games with their friends, thanks in part to the Shinnston Lions Club.

That's because last week, the club offered free vision screenings to more than 100 sixth graders at Lincoln Middle School — and because poor eyesight makes it harder for kids

to participate in normal activities.

David Minor, president of the club, said the Shinnston Lions Club offers eye exams to Big Elm Elementary School and Lincoln Middle School each year.

Members used the “Spot” electronic device, which quickly scans for signs of vision problems.

“It's close enough to know whether they need to see an eye doctor or not,” Minor said. “It gives them a



A member of the Shinnston Lions Club conducts a free vision screening for a Lincoln Middle School student on Dec. 7. A similar event will be held at Big Elm Elementary School in the new year. Submitted photo.

Continued on Page 4

Each week copies of the News & Journal are distributed in each hospital to patients compliments of these community-minded sponsors listed.

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N&J Briefs

FROM AROUND HARRISON COUNTY

"Briefs" is a calendar of events listing provided free of charge to churches and non-profit organizations. Items will be published one time only and will be listed in the order in which they occur. Please submit your 'briefs' two weeks prior to the event (if possible) by 4 PM on Friday. Fax your information to 304-592-0603 or send via e-mail to newsandjournal@yahoo.com.

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

Bridgeport library is open to the public. Also, readers can access the library's catalog by reserving books on their website at www.youseemore.com/bridgeport.com and may pick up books on the following days and times: M-W-F 12:00pm-8:00 pm and Tues. & Thurs. 12:00pm-5:00pm. Personnel will be available to answer questions, and the library's digital resources will continue to be available. Contact Amy at the library at 304-842-8248 for information.

LOWE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Lowe Public Library has resumed its regular hours to the general public: Monday 11:30 am - 7:00 pm and Tuesday- Friday 11:30 am - 6 pm, CLOSED on Saturdays. Curbside service will still be available to those who request it by calling 304-592-1700. The library is disinfected routinely throughout the day (also, immediately after children visit).

VA NURSING JOB FAIR

The Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center will host a Nursing Job Fair in their main entrance lobby, Dec. 18, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. for RN, LPN and CNA. Contact Nurse Recruiter Ashton Carder, RN 304-266-7774 ashton.carder@va.gov Email resumes to: vhaclanursing@recruitment.va.gov

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY 31 MEETING

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 31 monthly meeting is scheduled for Dec. 16 at 6 p.m. Covered dish dinner/Chinese gift exchange followed by meeting at 7 p.m. Bring covered dish/gift for exchange.

HOLY TRINITY SERBIAN LITURGY SCHEDULE

Liturgy schedule for Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Mission, 408 Morgantown Ave, Fairmont is as follows: Dec. 25th - 10 a.m. Rev. Sasha Nedich (724) 966-7428 www.holytrinityserborthwv.org

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

A Christ-centered 12-step program for any hurt, habit or hang-up meets every Friday at 6:00 p.m. at Horizons Church in Lost Creek with COVID capacity. Offers childcare (birth to 4 yrs.) and The Landing for older teens. For more information, call 304-745-5090.

AMERICAN LEGION CHRISTMAS PARTY

The American Legion Post 31 family annual children's Christmas party for children of Post 31 family members will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday at the American Legion Bridge Street location. Please bring your little ones out to visit Santa and Mrs. Claus.

"Webster, WV

cont. from page 1

the country to enjoy the Turkish, Russian and steam baths. Unfortunately, on the night of July 20, 1925, the hotel caught fire and burned to the ground. It was said that the sky was a bright red color up to 19 miles away.

When we attended the Webster County Commission meeting, I mentioned to the Commissioners that the two things I knew about Webster County were the Custard Stand that was on the television show, Shark Tank a few years ago, and the lumberjacking Cogar family. I was surprised to find out that County Commissioner Anna Carpenter's daughter is the owner of the Custard Stand. She also let me know that Arlen Cogar, Sr., the famous wood chopper, had passed away at the age of 87, just a few weeks before our visit. Mr. Cogar was named "West Virginian of the Year" in 1994 and had cut down Christmas trees for President John F. Kennedy and President Jimmy Carter. He was a resident of Webster County his entire life and traveled throughout the world to wood chopping competitions.

Naturally, we had to stop at the Custard Stand on Main Street to consume some of their famous hot dogs and they didn't disappoint. The restaurant is neat and clean and has several tables and booths for eating in. I ordered two hot dogs with everything, and they were heaped high with relish and chili. Bobby had two hot dogs and fries and before we left, he ordered one more. We thanked the two young ladies at the counter and got in our car for the ride back to I-79.

If you are looking for a fun place to visit for a day or a weekend, Webster Springs is a great choice. It retains a lot of the charm from many years ago and has a natural beauty that is hard to beat. And don't forget to stop and have a few hot dogs before heading home!

"Lumberport" cont. from page 1

to have it next year," she said. "It's good for the kids."

Lopez said she organization the event "since COVID has been around for the last year and a half, for everybody to kind of get together again as a community and just celebrate a nice holiday."

She said local people were already talking about holding a similar event next year.

"It's kind of like a little reunion as well," she said. She noted people were also running into friends

they hadn't seen in some time.

Olivia Spino sang seasonal songs, including "Let It Snow," for onlookers on Main Street.

"We need to make the snow to get rid of all this rain," Lopez said to one of the kids. "Don't we need a white Christmas?"

Even so, Lopez said the crowd had been steady. Dozens of people were there at about 5 p.m. The event started at 1 p.m., and a parade was scheduled for 6 p.m.



Hallie Lasure, 8, mails a letter to Santa during Lumberport Fest Saturday. Lincoln High School Key Club members volunteered at the letter-writing station. Photo by Erin Beck.

"VISTA" cont. from page 1

bring the garden back. His goal was to expand the garden so that more citizens could make use of it.

A portion of the garden is used to supply The Lord's Pantry with fresh produce for those in need. During this year alone, the garden produced 151 pounds of produce. He hopes that as the garden grows, more produce will go to the pantry.

He also worked to plan raised garden beds to rent out to individuals who would like to grow their own produce. There are five raised beds available. Five beds will be built this spring, he said.

Olsen said that he would have loved to have done more, but he was still extremely proud of what the small group of volunteers was able to produce.

Olsen said Try This WV awarded the group

a \$3,000 grant to help fund the community garden. Try This WV is focused on health and wellness in the state of West Virginia.

He said Walmart donated lumber for the project and the local Boy Scouts have committed to building the raised beds. Rent for the raised beds will be \$15 a year. Anyone who would be interested in renting a raised garden bed can call the city office at 304-592-2126 for more information.

Olsen has also been working on a live nativity at the Community Garden. Warrior's Chapel donated and built the manger, he said. Live nativity scenes will take place on Friday evenings.

Kim Southern, owner of the Shinnston Subway, donated a new sign for the garden, which reads: "Shinnston Community Garden"



Lee Reger Builds workers put up the new Shinnston Community Garden sign. Submitted photo. and "Lee Reger's Vision Continues."

Olsen wanted to thank others for their involvement, including Kathleen Panek for all her tireless work, as well as Beth Nuzum. He said Phillis Reger, whose husband Lee originally started the garden, is thrilled to see his vision and memory survive.

He is working to leave a blueprint for the

that it can continue to expand. He suggested that in the future, volunteers could plant fruit trees, available for anyone walking down the street to be able to stop and pick some fruit.

Olsen plans to stay in touch after his time with Shinnston is over. His time with Shinnston ends on Dec. 22.



"This Week in History" cont. from p. 2

Virginia from 1796 to 1800.

Dec. 22, 1928: Radio station WMMN of Fairmont began operations as one of West Virginia's pioneer stations. For nearly two decades

beginning in 1935, WMMN was an important outlet for country and western music performers. The highlight of this era was the "Sagebrush Roundup," a Saturday-night live-audience show which

began in December 1938 and was broadcast weekly for nearly ten years.

e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia is a project of the West Virginia Humanities

Council. For more information contact the West Virginia Humanities Council, 1310 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston, WV 25301; (304) 346-8500; or visit e-WV at www.wvencyclopedia.org.

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The Clarksburg Holiday Parade was a Huge Success

GRAPEVINE

By Rosalyn Queen



Hats off to the Clarksburg Visitors Bureau on the success of their holiday parade. I, along with other members of the Progressive Women's Association, participated in order to reintroduce ourselves under our new name. Also participating were the young women and men who are a part of our organization.

We were near the end of the parade lineup but once we got moving it was a great experience. Our group was in a red Hummer and Mary Childers and I walked, passing out candy to the bystanders. Immediately behind us was Laura Goff Davis with one of the little ponies that seemed to be one of the hits of the parade. A very well-behaved animal, he went from one side of the street to the other interacting with the children. Then behind them was a float where our young members rode; they decorated it prior to the parade.

I have participated in other parades but the surprising thing to me was the large crowd. They were two to three deep and even more along the route. There was a lot of excitement

and it created a lot of Christmas spirit in me. During this time with the affected economy and the pandemic, I truly hope that this gave all of us the boost we need to have a happy holiday.

An issue that I want to address this week is gift giving. When someone asks 'what you want or need' and then follows it with, 'well let's just don't exchange gifts', my opinion is that this is just a lazy excuse. Sure, there are a lot of people who are hard to shop for, but with a little effort you can come up with a thoughtful gift. How about an enlarged framed family photo, a nice scarf, a pair of gloves, a nice purse or some bubble bath and lotion. Put your thinking cap on and do not be a 'lazy gift giver'.

This year, each family will have to address the issue of family gatherings and plan according to their interpretation of pandemic guidelines. If you have a large area, then invite all your family members; if not, have them come and go so that you can spend some time with most of them. I cannot truly believe that any parent really wants to spend the day alone. That excuse will only make it easier on them, not you. Do not fall for it.

There is still time to address these situations and come up with a solution. Make plans to enjoy the holiday as though it might be your last, and perhaps it just might be.

Take care, stay healthy, and until next week, "Now You Have Heard It Through the Grapevine."

Happy 52 Wedding Anniversary to Bill & Donna Richards



Pine Bluff News

Saturday, I spent the whole day and evening watching football and basketball. In the office, I had the TV beside the computer on split screen with two football games playing all the time; plus, during the WVU basketball game, I was watching it on the computer screen and listening to Tony Caridi call the game on sports delay radio while still keeping up with the football games. For you young folks out there, I wouldn't recommend trying this without adult supervision...it takes years of practice. Whenever a game would get really serious, I'd watch it on the big screen in the living room. Those room moves also doubled as my daily exercise regimen.

Sunday afternoon, Santana and Andrew stopped by. Andrew

and I watched football while Santana did some house cleaning...good girl. While they were here, #3 Shane stopped in to visit. It was a nice afternoon.

Monday, I did some shopping in town. While in Price Cutters, it was nice running into Kenny McCoy of Peora. I swear, he keeps getting younger every time I see him. Kenny's late dad, Basil, was a big man and he could do Yabba-Dabba-Doo better than Fred Flintstone.

Wednesday, the weather was kind of nippy outside, so, I finally broke out a winter coat. After starting the Ranger by remote (Greatest invention ever) and letting her heat up, I made a trip to Walmart on Bridgeport Hill. I'm starting to figure out where things are. It was a nice experience except

for the squirrely buggy that definitely needs a front-end alignment. At checkout (With a real live person), I did run into my old friend Bill Richards of Big Isaac Road near Turtletree Fork (God's country).

We started shooting the breeze while he was waiting on his wife, Donna, to get her hair done. He asked me if I knew where I was 27 years ago today? I told him I didn't have the faintest idea. He said, "You and Susie, Brother John and Patty, Cousin Johnny Matheny and Sheila, Charlie Winans and his wife were helping Donna and me celebrate our 25th Wedding Anniversary at a Steakhouse on Bridgeport Hill." Then, it dawned on me.

For a little background, back in the 80s/90s, our little group would hang out together at car shows, cruise-ins, and restaurants with our old cars. So, when Bill asked Donna what she wanted for their 25th anniversary, she said that she wanted to take our friends out for a nice

dinner and celebrate with them. That shows you what kind of nice people they are. I remember everyone had a great time and I don't think anyone got a ticket for peeling out, speeding, or loud pipes on the way home. So, Happy 52nd Wedding Anniversary to both.

One evening last week, I put the three Christmas trees up in the front windows of the living room. This little project took longer than I anticipated. After dragging the boxes out of the closet, I had to de-box trees and then spread out the limbs (Which took the longest) and place each tree in its stand and then plug in the lights. Because I had to maneuver some things around to set the trees on, it took forty-five minutes to accomplish...I was figuring thirty minutes tops. I guess I'm getting older. BTW, the fiber option trees are thirty-two inches high...two green and one silver.

Until next time, have a great week and remember our Veterans. Ace

"Lions" cont. from p. 1

general idea that their student may be having some trouble."

Following testing on Dec. 7, school officials notified guardians that 13 kids should follow up with eye doctors for more comprehensive exams.

Kids with vision problems have to work harder to learn, and may experience eyestrain, headaches and fatigue, the American Optometric Association states. Early detection is important.

Meanwhile, kids may not say anything because they assume everyone sees the world with the same struggle.

Some kids at the screening event were nervous, while others were excited, according to Minor.

"A lot of them don't know what to expect," he said. "Some of them are happy to have it done. But mostly they enjoy having it done because it gets them out of class and they get to associate with different people."

The event also gave kids a chance to see a volunteer group of adults working in service.

Minor said the Lions Club will hold a similar event at Big Elm Elementary during the second half of the school year.

The club worked in collaboration with Harrison schools nursing

staff. The Lions Club also helps people with vision problems in other ways. Adults and children in need may contact the group for an application, and those who qualify for financial assistance may receive free eyeglasses. The Lions Club has a standing arrangement with Dr. Robert Powelson, an optometrist in Shinnston, for that service.

They also have an eyeglasses recycling drop box at the Price Cutter. According to the Lions Club International website, that effort is part of a global project to provide corrective lenses to people who lack access to basic eye care services, while simultaneously minimizing landfill waste.

The club raises money through mop and broom sales, breakfasts and other efforts, Minor said.

According to the Lions Club International website, Helen Keller inspired the group to advocate for the blind and those with other visual impairments in 1925.

"THE ONLY THING WORSE THAN BEING BLIND IS HAVING SIGHT BUT NO VISION."
-HELEN KELLER



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UNITED HOSPITAL CENTER'S HOME VISIT

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HOME-SAFE-HOME

This Holiday Season

Bridgeport, WV—As families prepare for the holidays, it is a great time to share safety tips for holiday decorating, cooking, and toys. “This is the season for celebrating with family, friends and loved ones, but consumers need to be aware of possible dangers, from Christmas trees, candles, or cooking fires to unsafe toys so that we can enjoy the holidays hazard free,” said Whitney Courtney, DO, family medicine physician and faculty at UHC Family Medicine.

The statistics below help to support the safety tips included. I hope you have a Home-Safe-Home holiday season.

Toys

1 WHAT TYPE OF INJURIES OCCUR AS A RESULT OF PLAYING WITH TOYS?

Children typically have a lot of fun playing with their toys. Especially this time of year. I want to emphasize that injuries can occur as a result of playing with a toy. Most injuries from toys are minor cuts, scrapes, and bruises. However, toys can also cause serious injury or even death. This happens when toys are dangerous or used in the wrong manner.

2 WHEN SELECTING THE RIGHT TOY, HOW IMPORTANT IS AGE WITH REGARD TO SAFETY?

When purchasing a toy is important to keep age appropriateness as a priority. You do not want to buy a toy that is meant for a five year old and give it to a two year old. Age recommendations on toys can be helpful, because these guidelines offer:

- The safety of the toy (for example, if there any possible choking hazards)
- The ability of a child to play with the toy
- The ability of a child to understand how to use a toy
- The needs and interests at various levels of a child's development

3 WHAT ARE SOME OTHER TIPS TO CONSIDER WHEN MAKING THE RIGHT TOY PURCHASE?

Here are tips to help you choose safe and appropriate toys for your child.

- Read the label. Warning labels give important information about how to use a toy and at what age range the toy is safe. Be sure to show your child how to use the toy the right way.
- Think LARGE. Make sure all toys and parts are larger than your child's mouth to prevent choking.
- Avoid toys that shoot objects into the air. They can cause serious eye injuries or choking.
- Avoid toys that are loud to prevent damage to your child's hearing. Look for stuffed toys that are well made. Make sure all the parts are on tight and seams and edges are secure. It should also be machine washable. Take off any loose ribbons or strings to avoid strangulation. Avoid toys that have small bean-like pellets or stuffing that can cause choking or suffocation if swallowed.
- Buy plastic toys that are sturdy. Toys made from thin plastic may break easily.
- Avoid toys with toxic materials that could cause poisoning. Make sure the label says “nontoxic.”
- Avoid hobby kits and chemistry sets for any child younger than 12 years. Those can cause fires or explosions and may contain dangerous chemicals. Make sure your older child knows how to safely handle these kinds of toys.
- Electric toys should be “UL Approved.” Check the label to be sure.
- Be careful when buying crib toys. Soft objects, loose bedding, or any objects that could increase the risk of entrapment, suffocation, or strangulation should be kept out of the crib. Any hanging crib toy (mobiles, crib gyms) should be out of the baby's reach and must be removed when your baby first begins to push up on his or her hands and knees or when the baby is five months old, whichever occurs first. These toys can strangle a baby.

Whitney Courtney, DO
UHC Family Medicine



Cooking

4 WHAT PRECAUTIONS WHEN COOKING SHOULD WE ALWAYS BE TAKING, NOT JUST DURING THE HOLIDAYS?

Four times the average number of cooking fires occur during the holidays than on any other days of the year. Also, in the last two decades, there were 218 fires or scald/burn incidents involving turkey fryers, resulting in 81 injuries and \$9.7 million in property loss. Remember, only fry a turkey outside and away from your home –not inside your garage or on your porch. Do not overfill the oil in the turkey fryer.

5 DO YOU RECOMMEND THAT CHILDREN BE INVOLVED IN THE KITCHEN DURING THE HOLIDAYS?

Keep children away from the cooking area, and keep flammable items like potholders and paper or plastic bags away from the stove and oven. Prevent spills with pot handles as toddlers love to reach.

Only engage older children in cooking. This teaches responsibility and safety. It is important that children learn to never leave the kitchen while using the stove or oven. Wearing oven mitts or using potholders to remove items from the oven or stove is a must. This is a great time to teach older children how to operate the microwave.

6 WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT BIT OF ADVICE THAT YOU WOULD GIVE TO THOSE WHO WILL BE PREPARING A HOLIDAY FEAST IN THE KITCHEN?

I recommend that you never leave the kitchen while using the stove or oven. It is also important to always keep emergency numbers handy for ease of access. You never know when you may need to call for help.

Decorating

7 WHAT IS THE RESULTS OF NOT OBEYING SAFETY PRECAUTIONS WITH REGARD TO HOLIDAY DECORATING?

Each year we see nearly \$50 million in property damage during the holidays. On average, there are about 200 decorating-related injuries each day of the holiday season, with the majority of the incidents involving falls. Using the most recent statistics available, approximately 18,100 people were treated in emergency rooms and five deaths occurred due to holiday decorating-related injuries.

8 THE TREE TENDS TO BE THE FOCAL POINT WHEN IT COMES TO DECORATIONS. TELLS US WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER, HERE?

It is important to know that we typically see 100 Christmas tree fires annually. Make sure your live Christmas tree has plenty of water, and look for the “Fire Resistant” label when buying an artificial tree. Only use lights tested for safety by a national recognized testing laboratory. Throw out sets with broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Decorate your tree with your children in mind by making room at the bottom of your tree for ornaments that are safer for young children.

9 WHAT ARE OTHER DECORATING DANGERS THAT WE MAY NOT READILY THINK ABOUT WHEN DECKING THE HALLS?

Typically we see 1,100 candle fires during the holidays. That is why you want to place burning candles in sight, away from flammable items, and blow them out before leaving the room. Make a habit of placing matches and lighters in a safe place, out of children's reach. Avoid novelty lighters or lighters that look like toys.

Also, plants can spruce up your holiday decorating, but keep those that may be poisonous out of reach of children or pets. These include mistletoe berries, holly berry, and Jerusalem cherry. In a poison emergency, call the national Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222.

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WVU Is Going Bowling and Bowling Over a Top Team!



The Bottom Line By Bill Nestor Sports Editor

It was November 27 when the West Virginia football team earned its big win of the season. The Mountaineers squeaked by Kansas 34-28. The victory made them bowl eligible as they evened up their record at 6-6. WVU landed a spot in the Guaranteed Rate Bowl held in Phoenix on December 28 vs Minnesota. Their opponent is the Big Ten's #2 team out of the West division. The Golden Gophers own an 8-4 record and have won 7 of their last 8 games.

These two programs have a combined total of 1,478 victories but have never played each other. The date and the name of this bowl do not match up with those on Mountaineer Nation's wish list but none the less, the "Eers are still bowling. If you haven't heard of this bowl, it could be because of a couple of name changes, not meant to protect the

innocent, but rather to obtain funding to keep the venue intact. Prior to being the Guaranteed Rate Bowl, it was the Insight .com Bowl and before that it was the Cactus Bowl.

It is similar to a prom when every guy has a few girls in their class that are the first pick on everyone's list. Eventually, the picks get made and the chips fall where they will. Your date might not be your first, second, or even third pick, but at the end of the day you are still going to the dance. The ironic part is that you probably were not your date's first, second, or third pick either. Now that is probably the same way both of these teams are feeling right about now. I'm sure that Minnesota's players, coaches, and fan base didn't hope and pray prior to play this season that they would end up here. However, it is an opportunity for both programs (which have

combined to play in 58 bowl games prior to this one) to pick up one more victory.

This opportunity is big for Mountaineer Head Coach Neil Brown. This will be his second bowl appearance in a row and makes two out of three, which singer Meat Loaf says "Ain't Bad". Brown and company upended Army 24-21 in last year's Liberty Bowl.

There are only a handful of games that day and this one does not kick off until 10:15 which means that all eyes will be on the Mountaineers. Also, it airs on ESPN which means it's a big draw nationally; it also affords Brown a month of legal practice which is invaluable to the program. Now in his third year, Brown is trying to turn the corner and the more time he has with his troops the better chance he has of making that happen. A win over Minnesota would provide a three-game win streak and some momentum heading into next season.

West Virginia's mens basketball team is nearly halfway through its campaign. There have been several lopsided

wins along the way. This past week, they claimed their first victory over a top 20 team. U Conn came to Morgantown ranked #15 and left with a loss. Over 12,000 fans (the most in a very long time) witnessed the Mountaineers impose their will en route to the win. WVU was led by Taz Sherman and Sean McNeil. The duo combined to score 39 of their squads 56 points.

This week a trip to UAB followed by a home clash with Youngstown State provide a couple of last-minute tune-ups before Big 12 basketball begins in January.

The New Year brings several chances to compete against nationally ranked teams. Out of the ten games scheduled in the first month of the year, five are against top #12 opponents or higher. Four of the five are on the road and no matter what Meat Loaf says, that is bad. But they do provide an opportunity to earn wins and national respect as well.

That will do it for now. Until next week...take care and God Bless!

Harrison County EMS



Athletes of the Week

It's that time once again to acknowledge the efforts of Harrison County's student athletes. Each week a panel will take a look at the information collected to make the best choices possible. They will review the performances of the athletes from the six schools (Bridgeport, Liberty, Lincoln, Notre Dame, Robert C. Byrd, and South Harrison) in our county.

The Shinnston News and Harrison County Journal's Athletes of the Week Award is an avenue that is used to promote the youth of our county, while bringing attention to their athletic accomplishments.

This past week's winners are Liberty's Emma Elliott and Notre Dame's Jaidyn West.

Mountaineer basketball player, Emma Elliot helped her team to a season opening win over Lincoln last week. Elliott recorded a double double scoring a game high 20 points and hauling down a game best 10 rebounds in the win.

Fighting Irish basketball standout, Jaidyn West led his team to a win over Parkersburg Catholic in Notre Dame's opener. West poured in a game high 23 points, dished out seven assists, and collected four rebounds in the Irish victory.

Congratulations to Liberty's Emma Elliott and Notre Dame's Jaidyn West for being named the Shinnston News and Harrison County Journal's Athletes of the Week!

Meet my New Friend, Sparkle



From The World Of Parks & Recreation

By Doug Comer

I normally do not allow folks to come and interject on my weekly article but this person has been very persistent and considering the time of the year, I must comply with this request. Every year after Thanksgiving, we have a visitor that comes to check on our son Costa. Most know this person as the Elf on a Shelf; we simply know him as Sparkle.

Without further ado, here is Sparkle:

Hello everyone, my name is Sparkle and I like to cause mischief and mayhem when I visit Costa's house around Christmas. My main job is to look over my little friend and make sure that he is doing good things like picking up his toys, being nice to his dog Roxie and listening to his parents. Every night, I fly back to the North Pole and give a report to the jolly big guy in the red suit. Do not tell anyone, but I think he gets his suits off the rack at Penney's – a 60 regular if I am correct.

For those that do not know the story, I am a special elf that has magical powers that allows me to transport to the North Pole really fast, and when I come back, I do not move a muscle and stay very still and quiet. And if a child would ever touch me, I would lose all my powers and therefore cannot go back and tell Santa how Costa is doing. There is always a clause that allows a parent to help me in case I would fall or if I am in danger. We have initiated that a time or two.

I love to sit and watch in crazy places and it is like a game of hide and seek as Costa looks all over the house for me before school. Sometimes I am in the kitchen, his room or even hanging from the Christmas tree. At night, I like to sneak around when everyone is in bed and plan for my new spot for the morning. I have hung from the ceiling fan, been stuck in a cereal box or even wore his dad's whistle around my neck to scare off the dog when she wants to play. All in all, I am there to have fun and see how my little buddy behaves heading up to Christmas Day.

Well, I am sure like many of your kids that they have good days and not so good days. Costa fits in to the norm as he has his moments. He gets frustrated at times and he likes to talk back when he does not get his way. Most of the time, he does this when he is tired. But, I know that he has a good heart and loves his family. I know I sure do love him and he is always excited to see where I may be in the morning and that is a fun game we play together. I do get a little sad on the 25th when I go back to the North Pole for another 11 months.

But, that is ok as I get to see all my other elf friends and we talk about all the kids we see during that time and even tell each other different things we could do to make our friends laugh when they first see us. Some of my buddies wrap themselves in toilet paper or hide in the fridge behind the pickles. The craziest thing I ever did was get his Covid-19 mask and use it as a hammock and drank a can of his orange pop. He told everyone what I did and was giggling the whole time. That made my day.

Well, you know my story and I wanted to share that my little friend Costa is doing good things and will have a pretty good Christmas. I'll put in a good word with Saint Nick.

Harrison County Parks & Recreation to Host "Fun for the Holidays"

This Saturday, Harrison County Parks and Recreation will be hosting "Fun for the Holidays". The FREE event will be held at the Rec Complex at 43 Recreation Drive in Clarksburg from noon to 2 p.m. Santa will be there but at a safe distance so he and his reindeers don't get sick before Christmas. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Kids can participate in the 12 Days of Crafts which will include the following: Reindeer Sand Deer, Card Stock Mason Jar Craft, Christmas Spider, Christmas Cards, Clothes Pin Angel, Rainbow Bright Scratch Craft as well as six others.

There will also be Reindeer themed games like Ring Toss, Hit the Deer in the Nose and Corn Hole.

While at the complex, stop and see what Parks and Rec is all about and what else will be happening after the holidays. They offer many programs such as summer playgrounds, Energy Express reading, t-ball/youth basketball and other special events.



Education enrichments like science and outdoor adventures/interactive trial have become a vital part of Parks and Rec. And don't forget about "The Return of Dinosaurs" exhibit coming in March.

Bring the kids, enjoy some hot chocolate; there will be fun for the entire family.

Lincoln Players Named to Big 10 All-Conference Team

Congratulations to the following Lincoln football players who were named to the 2021 Big 10 Conference 1st Team "B": Kobi O'Dell-Offensive

Line, Dakota Peele-Offensive Line, Antwan Hilliard – Running Back, Johnny Lopez-Wide Receiver, Nick Kellar-Offensive Utility, Austin Corley

-Defensive Line, Peyton Nicholson-Defensive Line, Levi Moore-Linebacker-D, Easton Gibbs-Linebacker-D, Coby Gorby-Defensive . A

big thank you for the hard work the Lincoln Cougars put into their successful 2021 season and for making our community proud.

WV Buck Season Harvest for 2021 Tops 42,000

DNR press release- Preliminary data indicates West Virginia hunters harvested 42,674 antlered deer during the two-week firearm season from Nov. 22 to Dec. 5. The harvest is a 10 percent increase over the 2020 harvest of 38,785 bucks.

"The harvest during the 2021 traditional buck firearm season was expected to be similar to that of 2020," said Paul Johansen, chief of the WV Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Section. "Below average oak mast indices may have allowed hunters to better pattern deer movement."

Johansen explained that only the north central portion of the state had a decline, while all other areas of the state registered increases. The southeastern and southwestern areas of the state had the largest increases from the 2020 harvest at 31 percent and 20 percent, respectively.

The top 10 counties for the 2021 buck harvest are Greenbrier (1,603), Hampshire (1,483), Randolph (1,356), Jackson (1,353), Hardy (1,264), Preston (1,261), Braxton (1,243), Monroe (1,225), Kanawha (1,222) and Roane (1,205).

Several days of deer

hunting opportunities remain for 2021, including the remainder of the archery and crossbow season, which runs through Dec. 31.

Muzzleloader deer season opened Dec. 13-19. The Youth, Class Q/QQ and Class XS deer season for antlerless deer will be open from Dec. 26-27 in any county with a firearms deer season. This will be followed by the reopening of Class N/NN antlerless deer season from Dec. 28-31 in specified counties or portions of counties.

The 2021-2022 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary can be found online

at WVdnr.gov and includes county and area listings.

The WVDNR also reminds hunters of the third annual Hunting & Fishing License Giveaway. Anyone who purchases an annual 2022 hunting, trapping or fishing license in the month of December will automatically be entered to win one of several prizes, including the grand prize of a combination hunting, trapping and fishing lifetime license for a WV resident. Information about the giveaway can be found at WVdnr.gov/licensegiveaway.

