



## Open records experts: Harrison FOIA fees are excessive

By Erin Beck

**Editor**  
Last week, the Harrison County Commission approved new fees for public records, including a \$1 per page fee for black-and-white copies. Two attorneys with expertise in public records law said the new fees don't appear to comply with

existing state FOIA law. Commissioners approved charging \$1 per page for black-and-white copies, \$2 per page for color copies, and \$5 for documents on a CD. Maps could cost from \$15 for an 8-inch by 11-inch page to \$60 for an 86-inch by 48-inch page. Video or audio formats will

cost \$19.95. Shipping charges for videos will be \$15.

In an interview last week, County Administrator Laura Pysz said Harrison officials reviewed WVU, Marshall, and other municipalities' policies when developing their fee schedule.

She said the commission isn't experiencing any problems with excess time or money spent on FOIAs. But she said some entities within the county, such as the 911 center, receive requests that don't go through the commission. Commissioners Susan Thomas, Patsy Trecost,

and David Hinkle voted unanimously on the fee schedule last week, she said, and planned to vote on the rest of the policy this week. That vote had not occurred as of deadline.

"So we're just trying to streamline the process and make sure there's a guideline for each one of our departments,"

Pysz said. "So one isn't doing one thing and someone else is doing another."

State law says a public body "may establish fees reasonably calculated to reimburse it for its actual cost in making reproductions of records. A public body may not charge a search or retrieval

**Continued on Page 3**

## Coach and friend Derek McIntyre named Citizen of the Month

*The Shinnston News & Harrison County Journal has named Derek McIntyre as February Citizen of the Month, a recognition sponsored by Dorsey Funeral Home in Shinnston – locally owned and operated.*

By Dawn Hensil and Erin Beck

McIntyre, 41, is the son of Rick and Sandy McIntyre of Shinnston. McIntyre grew up in Enterprise and is a 1998 graduate of Lincoln High School. McIntyre also attended Fairmont State and has remained an active part of the

McIntyre and his wife, Megan, also a lifelong resident of Shinnston, are raising three children: Haleigh 13, Colt 11, Kennedy 7. The two have been raising their children within the Shinnston community. Two of his children attend Lincoln Middle School and one attends Big Elm Elementary School.

Their children are active in sports within the community, and McIntyre and his wife work closely with those teams to help the children succeed.

McIntyre is the current president of the Shinnston Little League and has coached youth baseball and basketball for the last several years. His teams have won Little League season championships for C-ball (which he said includes coach pitches and machine pitches) and Major Divisions (which are known as more competitive). McIntyre said that he wants to continue coaching even when his kids are finished with those teams and have moved on. He

enjoys it and doesn't plan to quit.

"I have helped with a couple tournament championships as well with Colt's travel baseball team, but any of those wins, it isn't just me," McIntyre said. "I have been blessed to have great coaches beside me, all wanting the best for our kids. That's what it's all about and that isn't lip service."

Mayor Pat Kovalck said Derek has always been very loyal to family and friends.

"And he puts 100% of himself into anything that he does," Kovalck said. "We have spent a majority of our lives together. From elementary school in Enterprise, to the

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Derek McIntyre has coached his son Colton, 11, as well as many other kids in Shinnston. McIntyre is Citizen of the Month. Courtesy photo.

## Folklife Center plans event series

Submitted by Fairmont State University

Fairmont State University's Frank and Jane Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center will continue the Trunk of Traditional Tunes series highlighting traditional music and musicians.

Musician and folklorist Jerry Milnes was scheduled, as of press time, to address West Virginia fiddlers, fiddle tunes and fiddle traditions on Sunday, Jan. 23 at 2 p.m. at the Folklife Center. Milnes is the former folk-art coordinator of the Augusta Heritage Center at Davis and Elkins College and a recipient of the Vandalia Award, West Virginia's highest folklife honor.

David Bing will present traditions from West Virginia musicians and family bands on Sunday, Feb. 6, at 2 p.m. Bing, a fiddler and fiddle maker, is the recipient of the Folklife Center's Traditions Award for his lifelong efforts to preserve and perpetuate West Virginia's rich cultural heritage.

David O'Dell will

discuss the history of the West Virginia State Folk Festival and the many talented folk musicians who have added their sounds to the festival culture on Sunday, Feb. 20, at 2 p.m. O'Dell is a professor of chemistry at Glenville State College.

On Sunday, March 6, at 2 p.m., National Endowment for the Humanities Heritage Fellow John Morris will discuss Clay County music and musicians. Morris plays the fiddle and banjo.

Children's author Sarah Sullivan will discuss her book, "Passing the Music Down," on Sunday, March 13, at 2 p.m. Her story is about a young boy and his fiddle teacher, based on the story of Braxton County fiddler, Melvin Wine.

Folklorist Emily Hilliard will speak about folklore collection and traditional music on Wednesday, March 16, at 7 p.m. Hilliard is the program officer for folk and traditional arts at Mid Atlantic Arts. She is the former West Virginia state folklorist and the founding director of the West Virginia Folklife

Program at the West Virginia Humanities Council.

The Trunk of Traditional Tunes series is supported by the West Virginia Humanities Council through the American Rescue Plan. Each presentation throughout the series will be recorded to be used as part of an online curriculum that will be available to schools and community organizations.

The events are open for free in-person public attendance at the Frank and Jane Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center. Audiences are limited and participants are required to follow the University's health and safety protocols at all times, including the wearing of a mask. Each event will also be live streamed on the Frank and Jane Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center's Facebook page.

"West Virginia These musical traditions have been shaped by the unique experiences of this region's people – good times and bad, love and loss, pain and joy. Fairmont State's mission includes providing access to education to anyone who seeks it. Through The Trunk of Traditional Tunes online project, we can uphold that mission and help keep those amazing cultural traditions alive for generations to come."

The Frank and Jane Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center is in a restored historic barn on the campus of Fairmont State University. The Center's mission is to preserve and perpetuate West Virginia's cultural heritage. For additional information, contact 304-367-4403.

## A politician in public service



### Building Amazing Cities

By JIM HUNT  
author, speaker, consultant

Occasionally, you will find people who are willing to pitch in to make things better in their community. I met one such person this week who was a guest on my podcast. Her name is Sarah Aquino and she is from Folsom, California. Sarah is a life and health insurance broker and serves on the Folsom City Council. She learned about public service through her father, Dave, who served in various elected offices for 22 years.

Folsom, California is a city of around 80,000 residents and was made famous by the Johnny Cash song, "Folsom Prison Blues." Folsom is in Sacramento County and is near the state

capital, which is in the city of Sacramento. In addition to the Folsom Prison, there is also a large state prison that together employs over 2500 staff members and is a large economic force in the region. The largest employer in Folsom is Intel Corporation, which employs over 6,000 employees. This economic base gives Folsom a healthy economy and provides one of the top school systems in the state.

According to Sarah, Folsom has been struggling, along with the rest of the country, with the COVID-19 pandemic, which has caused a disruption in the lives of the citizens and the businesses

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# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN

### Kelli Caseman: child abuse is everyone's problem

The legislative session began earlier this month, as it often has in recent years, with talk of “fixing” West Virginia’s child welfare system. As the drug crisis has soared, our foster care system has seen a steep increase in the number of children it serves—children removed from their homes by the child welfare system. This year, the way the conversation began was particularly gut-wrenching. During an interim committee meeting, we heard the story of a mother in Greenbrier County who had shot and killed her five children and stepchildren before turning the gun on herself. An investigation showed that claims of abuse had been made to various agencies—including child protective services (CPS)—but never followed up on.

It was an awful story and illustrated just how broken the system is. CPS staffing remains at a 27% vacancy rate. Staff can’t keep up with demand. And so, the suggested remedy is better pay and meeting the demand with more employees.

But the problem with the child welfare system isn’t “the”

problem. It’s a side effect. A consequence. It’s a focus on the periphery and not the problem in front of us. West Virginia has a child maltreatment problem—a child abuse and neglect problem. It’s fueled by generational poverty and the raging drug crisis we’ve yet to get a handle on. For whatever reason, we lack the social courage to face the problem for what it is. Because of this, we continue to fundamentally mismatch the problem with meaningful policy solutions, and we do this to the detriment of the children who continue to live in unsafe spaces. We talk around it but not about it. More workers and funding prop up and expand the system, but they don’t prevent kids from entering the system in the first place.

These are the hard facts. The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System reported in 2019 that West Virginia had a rate of 18.7 child victims per 1000. It was the second-highest rate in the country, behind Kentucky. West Virginia also had the fifth-highest rate of child fatalities due to

Continued on page 9

## This week in West Virginia history

The following events happened on these dates in West Virginia history.

**Jan. 27, 1925:** Bernard L. Coffindaffer was born in Nicholas County. In the 1980s and 1990s, Coffindaffer erected clusters of crosses along the highways of West Virginia and much of the Southeast.

**Jan. 27, 1933:** Folk artist George Connard Wolfe was born in Standard, Kanawha County. A self-trained sculptor, he made his own tools from automobile leaf springs and engine valves and worked in stone and wood.

**Jan. 27-28, 1998:** Flat Top on the Mercer-Raleigh County line received a record snowfall of 35 inches in a 24-hour period.

**Jan. 28, 1902:** Miners Hospital No. One opened at Welch, with a young Dr. Henry Hatfield as president. The legislature had passed a law requiring the building of state hospitals for those engaged in dangerous occupations, and eventually, three hospitals were built in different sections of the state.

**Jan. 28, 1937:** In

a flood that drove a million Ohio Valley residents from their homes, the Ohio River crested at Huntington at 69.45 feet, more than 19 feet above flood stage. By the time the water receded, five people were dead, and the city was in ruins.

**Jan. 29, 1903:** The great rhododendron was designated the official state flower of West Virginia, after being recommended by the governor and voted on by students in the public schools.

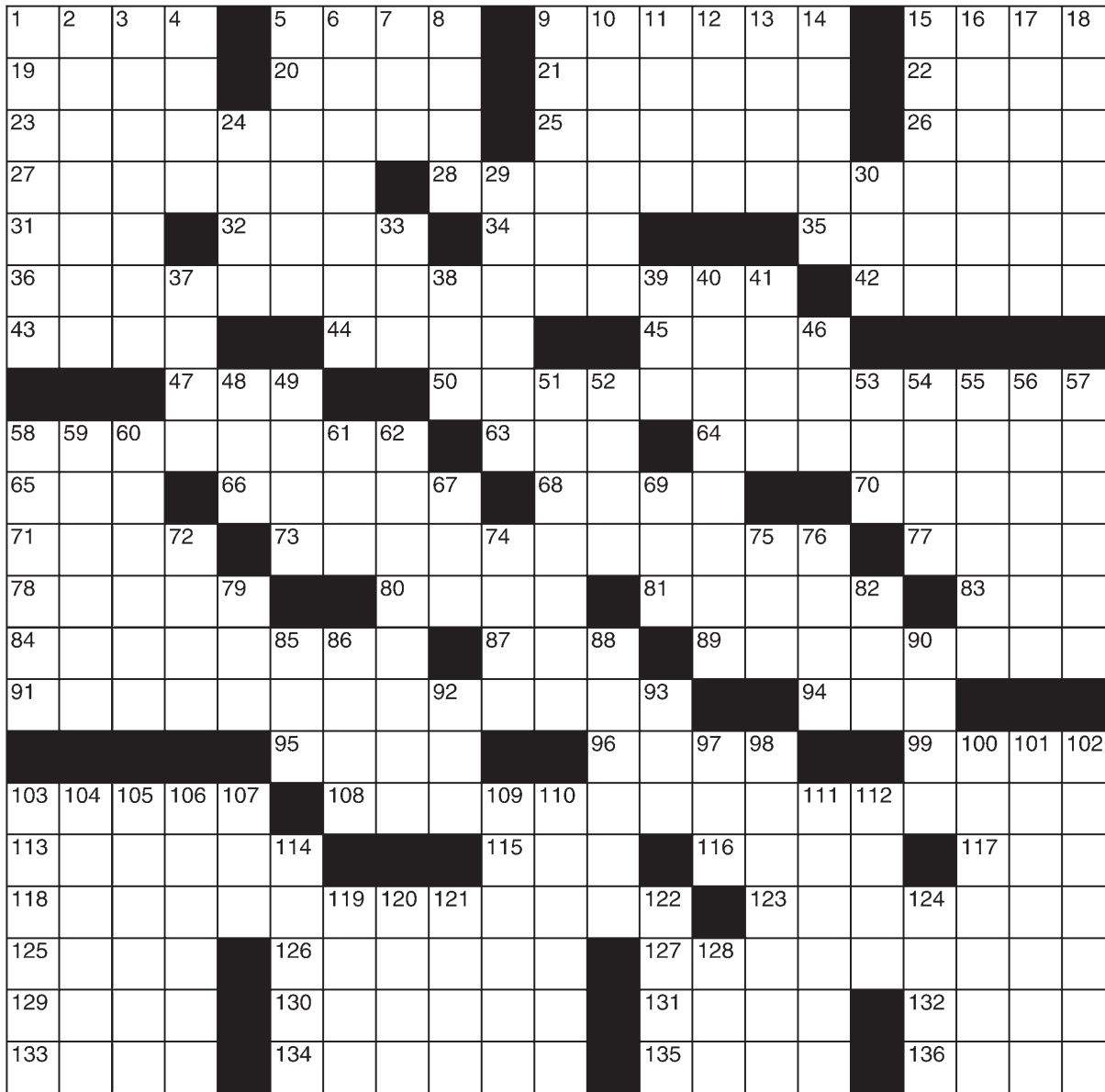
**Jan. 30, 1818:** Nicholas County was created by the Virginia legislature from parts of Greenbrier, Kanawha, and Randolph counties. The county was named for Wilson Cary Nicholas, a Virginia governor and U.S. senator who lived from 1761 to 1820.

**Jan. 30, 1895:** Mingo County was created from the southern part of Logan County. Mingo is the youngest county in West Virginia.

**Jan. 31, 1878:** Educator William Woodson Trent was born in rural Nicholas County. He served as state superintendent of schools from 1933 until 1957.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Musical McEntire
- 5 Bank acct. underwriter
- 9 Skate parts
- 15 Church seats
- 19 Students at Yale
- 20 — avis (one of a kind)
- 21 Actor Shaw
- 22 Take one’s leave
- 23 Photoelectric cells used for IDing
- 25 Title heroine of a 2001 French film
- 26 Onetime rival of Nintendo
- 27 Charges to get some quick cash
- 28 Property of a body in motion
- 31 Vardalos of the screen
- 32 Morales of “Bad Boys”
- 34 Roman 1,501
- 35 Noisy tot toy
- 36 Principles of household management
- 42 Rooted (in)
- 43 Hidden obstacle
- 44 Kitchen flooring, to a Brit
- 45 Sullen
- 47 Gore and Pacino
- 50 Humorous impact
- 58 Tightens, as one’s fist
- 63 Track circuit
- 64 Chute-deploying jumper
- 65 Goth foe
- 66 Fixed fashionably
- 68 Dollar part
- 70 Author — Rogers St. Johns
- 71 Taj Mahal locale
- 73 Person on a most-wanted list
- 77 Geraint’s patient wife
- 78 Averse (to)
- 80 Swanky
- 81 Diplomat
- 83 Suffix with ethyl
- 84 Strong coffee
- 87 Suffix with fact
- 89 One frosting a cake, e.g.
- 91 All-out attempt
- 94 Potentially shocking fish
- 95 Discontinued iPod
- 96 Rock concert equipment
- 99 Speak like Daffy Duck
- 103 Hits, as a fly
- 108 Imaginary band on the earth’s surface
- 113 Form a single file
- 115 “— tu” (Verdi aria)
- 116 Healing sign
- 117 Drink in a schooner
- 118 Luge, diving and biathlon
- 123 Saintly
- 125 Sit heavily
- 126 Clause’s cousin
- 127 Face-off area in hockey (or what’s found in eight answers in this puzzle)
- 129 Article in Germany
- 130 Yamaha products
- 131 “— girl!”
- 132 The Bradys’ Alice, e.g.
- 133 Elk relative
- 134 Sharply focused
- 135 Low in pitch
- 136 Poker cost

- DOWN**
- 1 Sends back into custody
- 2 Euphoria
- 3 Female honcho
- 4 “You wish!”
- 5 Most liberated
- 6 Go on a brief yacht outing
- 7 Furious state
- 8 Wine vessel
- 9 Marlon of film
- 10 Chinese noodle dish
- 11 Aid in wrongdoing
- 12 Sandwich shop
- 13 Actor Bana of “Munich”
- 14 Control the course of
- 15 Pre-euro Spanish money
- 16 Puts forth
- 17 Move like a hula dancer
- 18 Didn’t leave
- 24 Ho-hum grades
- 29 “No worries, dude”
- 30 Catch red-handed
- 33 Here, to Yves
- 37 Pulitzer-winning novelist Jennifer
- 38 Ltr. extra
- 39 Uncanny
- 40 Wets a bit
- 41 “Ew, gross!”
- 46 Marina del —, California
- 48 PC screen type
- 49 Frigate, e.g.
- 51 Ralph of “The Karate Kid”
- 52 Duel weapon
- 53 Govt. med approver
- 54 Bona —
- 55 Smoothed (out)
- 56 “My Heart Will Go On” singer Dion
- 57 Brokerage employee
- 58 Alpine abode
- 59 “The Raven” co-star Bela
- 60 Absorbed
- 61 Academy URL ending
- 62 Writ for court appearance
- 67 Arafat’s gp.
- 69 Dayton-to-Toledo dir.
- 72 Trac II successor
- 74 “Time — the essence”
- 75 Team VIP
- 76 Olden times
- 79 Clucking bird
- 82 “— -haw!” (rodeo shout)
- 85 Bad deed
- 86 Swindle
- 88 “Doggone!”
- 90 Penne — vodka
- 92 Mental haze
- 93 “You’re oversharing,” in texts
- 97 They may ru Windows
- 98 Some trig functions
- 100 Like “penne” and “graffiti”
- 101 Seek pleadingly
- 102 Go ahead of
- 103 Went uphill o downhill
- 104 Baseballer Mays
- 105 “Who’s interested?”
- 106 Tone down
- 107 Have dinner
- 109 Liam of film
- 110 Author Hemingway
- 111 Australia’s main airline
- 112 Force along
- 114 Kid-lit’s Longstocking
- 119 Uppercut landing area
- 120 Part of QED
- 121 Windmill part
- 122 Healing sign
- 124 Columnist Bombeck
- 128 Socrates’ “H”



Find the Super Crossword Answers on Page 9!

**Jan. 31, 1922:** Movie and television actress Joanne Dru was born in Missouri. Buckles purchased a farm in Logan. Her movie career included more than 40 films.

**Jan. 31, 1945:** Sergeant Jonah Edward Kelley of Mineral County was killed in action while leading his squad against German positions during World War II. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his “superb courage.”

**Feb. 1, 1832:** Education reformer Alexander Luark Wade was born. Wade reorganized rural Monongalia County schools to require progress through eight prescribed levels with a graduating exercise and receipt of a diploma. Wade’s system worked so well, it was copied in other counties and states.

**Feb. 1, 1901:** Frank

Buckles, the last known American veteran of World War I, was born in Missouri. Buckles purchased a farm in Charles Town in 1954 and continued to live there until his death in 2011.

**February 2, 1908:** Justice Marion Chambers was born in Huntington. Chambers was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in the Iwo Jima campaign in February 1945.

*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](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org).

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# N&J Briefs

FROM AROUND HARRISON COUNTY

This calendar of events listing is provided free of charge to churches and nonprofit organizations. Please submit your listing two weeks prior to the event (if possible) by 4 p.m. on Friday. Send via email to [newsandjournal@yahoo.com](mailto:newsandjournal@yahoo.com).

### Lowe Public Library

The Lowe Public Library has resumed its regular hours to the general public: Monday 11:30 am – 7 p.m. and Tuesday-Friday 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m, 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).

### Shinnston Senior Citizens

Shinnston Senior Citizens meets every Friday, weather permitting, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the American Legion.

### Bridgeport Public Library

Bridgeport Public Library at 1200 Johnson Ave. is open to the public. Also, readers can access the library's catalog by reserving books on their website at [www.yousemore.com/bridgeport](http://www.yousemore.com/bridgeport) and may pick up books on the following days and times: M-W-F 12 p.m.-8 p.m and Tuesday & Thursday 12 p.m.-5 p.m. 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.

### Book Sale

Bridgeport library will also hold a daily book sale from Jan. 3-Jan. 31, Monday-Friday from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Buy one bag of books and /or music CDs for \$3; get a bag of books and/or music CDs free. No limit on the number you may buy and get free. Single items are \$.25 each, DVDs are \$.50 each. For additional information call 304-842-8428.

### Celebrate Recovery

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

### Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Mission

408 Morgantown Ave, Fairmont  
Rev. Sasha Nedich (724) 966-7428  
[www.holytrinityserborthwv.org](http://www.holytrinityserborthwv.org)  
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Saturday, Feb. 5 Liturgy 10 a.m.  
Saturday Feb. 19 Liturgy 10 a.m.  
Please check to make sure of no cancellations (724) 966-7428

# “harrison FOIA fees”

cont. from page 1

fee or otherwise seek reimbursement based on a man-hour basis as part of costs associated with making reproduction of records.”

Pat McGinley, a West Virginia University College of Law professor who's worked on multiple FOIA cases in West Virginia over decades, pointed to the part of the law that references “actual cost in making reproductions of records.”

“This is about the public's right to know, and the importance of transparency so that people can understand what the government is doing,” he said.

“Actual cost” may include supplies, such as ink and paper, but not time or profit, he said.

He estimated that would mean a copy could cost a few cents, not a dollar.

Loree Stark, legal director for the state chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, agreed with McGinley's assessment. She said the Legislature made

clear in the law that the government can only charge reasonable fees for public records.

“The fees proposed in this policy are not reasonable,” she said. “Local government should work to provide more access to government to West Virginians, not less.”

Along with another WVU law professor, Suzanne Weise, McGinley noted in an Open Government Guide on WV-FOIA law that “while charges for research and search time may be imposed under the federal FOIA, a 2015 West Virginia FOIA amendment explicitly prohibits such charges. W. Va. Code § 29B-1-3(e).”

He said lawmakers added that amendment to nullify a Supreme Court decision that permitted public bodies to charge such fees.

“Charging more than the actual cost of reproduction could provide a basis for litigation,” he said.

Asked whether the Commission

was spending the costs listed in the fee schedule on fulfilling requests, Pysz said yes, but said she didn't have her calculations readily available.

“We are open government,” she said. “So people are allowed to see whatever they want. We'll give it to them.”

Bridgeport's fee schedule was considered, Pysz said. Bridgeport City Clerk Donna Kivosky provided a copy of that city's policy, and Harrison's proposed policy appears to be modeled after it.

Bridgeport charges similar fees. Kivosky said that policy was written in 2013 and amended in 2015. They don't charge for electronic records, she added.

Pysz did not immediately respond to a follow-up question sent over the weekend about electronic copies.

Harrison County's proposed policy makes mention of fee waivers granted “at

the discretion of the County Administrator.” Pysz said those requests would be discussed with legal counsel.

McGinley said the county needs standardization when making exceptions.

“In order to protect both citizens – their rights to information – and the administrator's ability to make a decision, you need standards,” he said.

West Virginia FOIA law gives custodians of public records “a maximum of five days not including Saturdays, Sundays or legal holidays” to furnish copies of the requested information; advise the person making the request of the time and place to inspect and copy the materials; or deny the request stating in writing the reasons for such denial. It includes exceptions for things like trade secrets, certain law enforcement records, and private medical information, among other exemptions.

# “politician in public”

cont. from p. 1

that serve them. After the initial surge of the coronavirus and the government assistance, many of the employers in the area were finding it difficult to attract and retain workers. This has been a national problem and many restaurants, stores, and other businesses were facing closure due to not having enough employees to serve the customers. One restaurant, Back Bistro, was nearly ten employees short of having a full crew and a local television station ran a story about owner Jeff Back's dilemma. Vice-Mayor Sarah

Aquino saw the story and had an idea. She approached Jeff Back and asked if she could work at his restaurant. After getting over the shock of having a well-known politician bussing tables and greeting guests, he said “Why not!”

Sarah is working about 20 hours a week and has partnered with the Folsom Chamber of Commerce to encourage others to step up and fill in for some of these needed jobs. They know that this is not a long-term solution, but they have committed to six months of working

to support their local businesses. Sarah said that she is enjoying the new adventure and getting to meet the patrons.

And Sarah's unique story has not gone unnoticed. After a local news station did a story on her “part-time” job, the story was picked up by several national media outlets and she has appeared on Fox and Friends, CBS Evening News, and over 300 other outlets. The city has estimated that Folsom has received over \$1.7 million dollars of exposure and hopefully

it will result in added tourism and possibly new businesses.

Sarah Aquino is an example of a public servant who saw a need and did something about it. She was not looking for publicity, but rather a way to pitch in and make life better for her citizens. I enjoyed having Sarah as a guest on the Amazing Cities Podcast and if you would like to hear more about her Amazing job, you can listen to the podcast at [www.amazingcities.org](http://www.amazingcities.org) and click on the link.

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# New owner, same quality at Muriale's

## GRAPEVINE

By Rosalyn Queen



After spending several hours at Ruby Hospital on Friday getting ready for my eye surgery on Monday, my son Michael and I were headed back to Clarksburg and Michael decided that we should stop for lunch. Mike suggested that we should stop at Muriel's since we had not been there since the new take-over. I have been friends forever with Rocco Muriale and have enjoyed many meals at his restaurant. I have also been a staunch supporter of Scott Duarte and have enjoyed that his many buffets were enjoyed at the Bridgeport Conference

Center and at Mia Margaritas. I had recently learned that Rocco was getting ready to retire and that Scott would be taking over Muriale's. As luck would have it, as we entered the restaurant we ran into Rocco and had a very enjoyable conversation with him. After we were seated, Scott came out and joined us. They both assured us that the menu and quality of the food would remain the same. And after Mike and I enjoyed our lunch, we agreed

that there was no change in the food and we both agreed to encourage our friends to frequent the restaurant. I hope that Rocco will enjoy his retirement soon and he mentioned to me that he would like to make a trip back to Italy. I, too, would like to make one more trip to San Giovanni, but this pandemic seems to put a damper on a lot of plans.

My sympathy to the family of Joe Minard. Joe's mother was an Oliverio from East

View and it was almost as though we were family. One of my first jobs was at Minard's and I learned a lot about waitressing. I also learned that to make a great salad it needs to be mixed in a wooden bowl.

The Progressive Women's Association held its monthly meeting this past week and they announced that they would be making Easter Bread and it would be for sale two weeks before Easter. Anyone interested in purchasing a

loaf should place their order by calling 304-624-6881. There will be a limited number of loaves made so orders should be placed as soon as possible.

We are now experiencing a little winter weather but before we know it, spring will be here. Take care, stay healthy and until next week "Now You Have Heard It Through The Grapevine."

# Building up strength to spectate

## Pine Bluff News



Last Friday, I had an appointment at the Clarksburg VA Hospital for breathing tests. While walking through the parking lot, I ran into Chris Shaw who was going to give the test. I said, "Damn, you're making sure I show up". He laughed and said that he was just out getting some fresh air before the appointment and spotted me pulling in. When we split up, he went in the side entrance (for employees) that's closest to the parking lot and I had to walk to the main entrance on the other end of the building (sure miss the valet parking). Chris had me huffin' and puffin' for about a half-hour on the machines. Trust me, I didn't blow any of them up. He's a nice guy. Later I saw pulmonary Dr. Dev and he said I had gained a little back since the last test two years ago. Well, that's something anyway. I watched basketball and

football all weekend again. It's tough on this old body playing point guard and quarterback in each game. I was sore for three days.

Sunday morning, I made a trip over town to fill up two gasoline cans due to the impending snowstorm on the way. I wanted to make sure I had extra fuel for the generator, just in case. Then I hit Mickey D's drive-thru to pick up breakfast. I had to build up my strength for the impending football games in the afternoon.

Monday morning, Pine Bluff (PB) woke up to five inches of snow on the ground

with a layer of ice underneath. I'm glad I didn't have to venture out and I felt sorry for the ones who had to. I did have a doctor's appointment, but I rescheduled it until Wednesday.

Wednesday, I kept the appointment with endocrinologist Jackson at White Oaks. I don't see him again for six months, so everything must be all right... for now. On the way back, I stopped at Price Cutters in town. I forgot to mention that they fixed the broken conveyor belt on the '20 Items or Less' counter about two months ago.

On the way out the

door, I ran into John Boy Martin. For years he lived beside the PB community center and a couple of years ago, he moved to the head of Long Run. I asked him how he liked living up the holler and he said that the good thing was he didn't have to worry about neighbors. He's definitely right about that because the closest one would be about a mile away.

Thursday afternoon, Lee stopped in for a visit and brought some homemade vegetable soup that Patty sent me...good girl. He's still having problems with the bottom of his right

foot, but otherwise he's doing Ok.

I have to chuckle every time I pass the 'green space' on the corner of Pike and Main Street in town. The city has lots of functions throughout the year on the stage erected there and I think it's pretty neat. Now, they have blacktopped along two sides of the area for parking spaces. The 'green space' is turning black with white stripes. It reminds me of a line from the old song "Big Yellow Taxi."

"They paved paradise and put up a parking lot." Until next time, have a great week and remember our Veterans. Ace

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# UHC: blood urgently needed

Submitted by Matt Chisler, Director of Public Relations at United Hospital Center

Only a month into the new year, a national blood shortage is further stressing the nation's fragile healthcare system. The fast-spreading Omicron variant is the latest COVID-19 complication forcing community blood drives to cancel and diminishing

the number of healthy blood donors.

United Hospital Center is responding to this heightened need for blood by partnering with Vitalant (formerly Central Blood Bank) to host a community blood drive on Wednesday, Feb. 2 at The Bridge Sports Complex on Court 1 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at 400 Forrester Blvd in Bridgeport. Appointments are recommended – either by

phone at 877-25-VITAL (877-258-4825), or online at donateblood.centralbloodbank.org and searching with Group Code W4310001.

UHC invites eligible donors in the North Central West Virginia community to come to The Bridge and give blood. All blood types are needed, especially type O and platelet donations. Type O is often needed in emergency situations as well as for routine

lifesaving surgeries, cancer treatment, and more. Platelet donors ensure cancer patients and those living with blood disorders can get their treatment interrupted.

Donors can give blood immediately after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine as long as they are healthy and well. It is a safe, comfortable process that takes only about an hour – from registration to juice and

cookies! The actual donation generally takes only about 10 minutes. First-time blood donors will learn their blood type at this event.

All blood donors will be entered into a random drawing to win a gift voucher from Spoonful of Comfort worth \$95.00. Spoonful of Comfort, started by two West Virginia University graduates, delivers bright packages of heartwarming comfort

food that provides a personal lift for the soul.

Vitalant encourages donors to eat a nutritious meal and drink plenty of water the day of their appointment. Everyone should bring ID (such as a driver's license). Masks are required for all donors, regardless of vaccination status. There is no waiting period to donate after being vaccinated for COVID-19 or the seasonal flu shot.

# Chill out about change

Words of Wellness

By Jill Fratto  
Life and Health Coach  
jillfratto@gmail.com



I can't believe it is January 2022. Another year passed and a new year of opportunity awaits. As I write this article, I look outside to a blanket of white and a still and peaceful neighborhood. Schools are closed and the roads are still a little too icy for easy travel. So what do you do with January days like this? From family and friends, I hear many different things. Some are excited to have a snow day and

play outside. Some are frustrated because they are not able to drive and do the things they want to do. Some like to use this time to "chill out," literally and figuratively. I love January for reflecting, slowing down after the holidays, and getting my mental and physical house back in order. I don't really enjoy going out in the snow myself, but I do enjoy

watching the peace from my window and seeing children enjoy it. January is a great time for thinking about what new things or situations you want in your life and what changes you want to make in the new year. I don't roll out of bed on Jan. 1 with a list of new year's resolutions. I use the whole month to think about what I want to change and how I want to go about it. A good way to go about this process is to think about the categories of life that are important to you

such as cultivating relationships, taking on a new work or creative project, focusing on your spirituality, or enhancing your health and wellbeing. Your categories are just that: yours. Think about what's important to you. First, determine what areas are strong right now. What are you doing well? Then, think about the areas that could use some attention. What I notice about slowing down in January is sometimes we uncover new ideas or driving emotions that

didn't have time to come out during the busier parts of the year. What instincts are you having? What aspects of your personality are coming out that don't get as much attention when life is hectic? Follow those thoughts. Take time to explore and really create not resolutions, but intentions for the new year. Keep those intentions close so that they don't get lost in the shuffle. Determine ways that you can manifest your intentions in your

daily life. Finally, don't get frustrated if you have a few bad days or even weeks. Life isn't about being perfect every day - it's about being better. What can you do better today than you did yesterday? What can you learn from yesterday that can make today and tomorrow better? Take time to sit with yourself and contemplate these things as you create the 2022 that you wish to live. Here's to your health, prosperity, and happiness in the new year!

# DHHR: schedule a Pap smear to prevent cancer

Submitted by WVU Cancer Institute

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month. The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program (WVBCCSP), a program dedicated to helping low-income, uninsured, or underinsured women

receive free or low-cost Pap tests, encourages women to schedule their Pap test during January, or talk with their health care provider about when it is right for them to be screened.

The Pap test has played a significant role in reducing cervical cancer deaths. While cervical cancer was once one

of the most common causes of cancer deaths for U.S. women, this is no longer true. The Pap test can detect changes in the cervix before cancer develops, and it can detect cancer in its earliest stages when more treatment options are available. Cervical cancer is nearly 100% curable when found early.

The most significant risk factor associated with cervical cancer is infection with the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), which can be prevented by getting an HPV vaccination. Other risk factors include smoking, infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), giving birth to three or more children,

using birth control for a long time (five or more years), or having multiple sexual partners.

An uninsured or underinsured woman with a family of four can have a total household income of \$66,252.00 and still be eligible for the WVBCCSP. Don't hesitate; contact one of the Program's providers

today to find out if you qualify, and to talk about what you can do to prevent cervical cancer. Women should visit the WVBCCSP website at [www.wvdhhr.org/bccsp](http://www.wvdhhr.org/bccsp) or call the WVBCCSP at 1-800-642-8522 for more information about the program or to find a provider in their area.



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# Mountaineers hit a losing streak



## The Bottom Line

By Bill Nestor  
Sports Editor

Last Saturday evening was bittersweet for West Virginia University Head Coach Bob Huggins. He coached a rare 1,300<sup>th</sup> career game in a sport where longevity requires results, and Huggins has long been known as a winner. Unfortunately, his team did not get the results against #18 Texas Tech. The setback to the Raiders was the third in a row for the Mountaineers.

coach is looking for conciliation prizes, but the schedule has been downright grueling. Three top 18 teams (Kansas, Baylor, and Texas Tech) in a row is a bit much for any program.

We have seen this scenario, when the Mountaineers hit a rough patch and had to make adjustments. Typically, those moves come on the defensive side because that's what Huggins knows best. If

he feels like this defense has potential, he will work on it relentlessly until his team perfects it. In Huggins we trust, as Mountaineer Nation says!

Huggins has a rare non-conference lock-up at this time of year at Arkansas. This Big 12/SEC Challenge tilt allows for an experiment that could include schemes and personnel moves. The Razorbacks are 10-1 at home; any new wrinkle that Huggins adds will meet a formidable challenge.

Big 12 hoops resumes with two revenge games this week. Two of the three teams that

helped create this losing streak are back in West Virginia's sights: The Eers head to Waco, Texas for a second shot at Baylor Monday. The Bears know this game could go either way.

Saturday, Texas Tech comes to town. The Red Raiders will have confidence from their previous triumph but Morgantown is a difficult place to play.

There is more than ample time for Huggins to get this team back on track.

Until next week... take care and God Bless!



*It's that time once again to acknowledge the efforts of Harrison County's student-athletes. Each week we 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 Athlete of the Week award is an avenue to promote the youth of our county, while bringing attention to their athletic accomplishments.*

Last week's winners of the Athletes of the Week award are Robert C. Byrd's Avery Childers and Charles Hawkins.

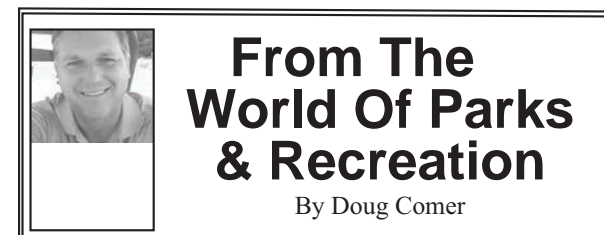
Flying Eagles basketball stand-out Avery Childers helped

her team to an upset win over previously-unbeaten North Marion this past Friday. Childers poured in a game-high 22 points and hauled down seven rebounds in the victory over the Huskies.

Flying Eagles hoopster Charles Hawkins had an impressive outing in his squad's win over Buckhannon-Upshur this past Saturday. He tossed in a game-high 18 points with a game-high four steals. Possibly the biggest contribution came in a two-handed dunk that changed the momentum of the game.

Congratulations to Robert C. Byrd's Avery Childers and Charles Hawkins for being named Athletes of the Week!

# Part beagle, part boxer, and a lot of ornery



## From The World Of Parks & Recreation

By Doug Comer

Around this time last year, many people in the family encouraged us to find a dog for our son Costa. And through a moderate amount of resistance, we convinced ourselves to finally take the plunge and make an addition to our family. We received Roxanne a few days after the holiday and things have never been the same: in some good ways, and in other ways, well....

Our little girl is part beagle, part boxer, and a lot of ornery. The moment she came up to Costa and licked him on the face, we knew that this was a match made in heaven. Now,

there are times they battle like siblings, but there are other times where she is man's best friend. Now almost double in size, our little puppy thinks that she is the glue that keeps us together.

Now, I did mention that she is a mixed breed of a dog, but I did not mention that she was part appliance as well. We should have named her Kenmore for her amazing ability to clean plates of food in just a few seconds. Nothing is protected in this house if it's at table level, as she will snag it without you knowing. From chicken nuggets to lunch meat, she will

eat anything. There was nothing like this written in the buyer beware agreement.

Now, I am sure that most of you have heard your kids say the term "FOMO" or Fear of Missing Out. This dog would be the queen diva of FOMO as she has to be by our sides. I am not saying that we do not spoil her a little, but she wants to always be around the action. And when I let her out to use the bathroom, well someone has to be there too. God forbid, I open the door to let her out at 2 a.m. while I am in gym shorts and a t-shirt and not stand there while she does her business. My wife says that Roxy almost looks like she is grinning a little because she knows we have to pick it up.

For all the craziness that this dog brings to our family, she is a loving dog. She is very protective of Costa and they love to play together. During the last snowstorm, the two could have been out there for hours having a snowball battle or making snow angels. They really are best friends.

Roxy loves her mom, a lot. She loves to snuggle with Jeovanna on the couch or in bed and she is always there whenever I am not at home. I am not saying that we raised the perfect little puppy. I am sure you could probably guess that being around our son for five minutes and seeing what six years has got us. But that puppy sure is perfect to us.

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# Shinnston kids place at tournaments

By Erin Beck  
Editor

Despite lack of a middle school wrestling team this year or a youth program in town, Shinnston kids did well in tournaments Jan. 15-16.

Saturday was the 9th annual Tony Williams Memorial Tournament, hosted by Grafton Wrestling Club at Grafton High School. Sunday was the Braxton County Youth Open Tournament.

Local mom Nickii Glaspell provided more information. She said Shinnston kids who placed included:

River Miker, who placed 1st at Grafton

Nick Glaspell, who placed second at Grafton and 1st at Braxton

Bearett Miker, who placed 2nd at Grafton

Ryan Skinner, who placed 2nd at Grafton

Toby Prangler, who placed 3rd at Grafton.

Silas Raines, who placed 4th at Grafton and 4th at Braxton

Cameron Glaspell, who placed fourth at Braxton

Glaspell said the middle school can't find

a coach, so her husband Cody took classes and plans to apply to coach next year. She reached out hoping to spread the word that there could be a local middle school team next year.

Four nights a week, they drive their kids to practice for Bridgeport Youth Wrestling. She noted that some parents can't do that.

Glaspell said her sons Nick, a sixth grader at Lincoln Middle School and Cameron, a third grader at Big Elm Elementary School both participated. She said it seems like a "switch flipped" with her oldest son last weekend, who has recently improved significantly after wrestling for four to five years.

Nick, who weighs 93 pounds, competed in the 12u (11- and 12-year-olds) 100-pound weight class "so he could have some competition," his mom said, as well as the 95lb middle-school bracket at Grafton High School. He placed 2nd in the middle school division and 3rd in the 100-pound regular division. For the day Nick went 6-2.

Cameron Glaspell wrestles 8u (7- and 8-year-olds) 70 pounds, and he went 3-2 but didn't place.

Sunday, they wrestled in Braxton County. Nick wrestled in the 12u 100-pound weight class and went 3-0 and placed first place. Cameron wrestled 8u 70-pound and went 3-2 and placed 4th.

Glaspell has an appreciation for the support because she notices that even if her kids lose, they learn something from each event, like how they could have gotten out of their opponent's winning move. The sport gives them structure, routine and helps them stay in shape, she said. It also teaches them to appreciate discipline, because it helps them reach a desired goal.

"They probably don't admit it," she said, "but I think they like the discipline that's there because they learn."

She said multiple Shinnston kids wrestle for Clarksburg and Bridgeport teams, including: Toby Prangler, 2nd grade at Big Elm Elementary



Local kids Nick, left, and Cameron Glaspell both placed in wrestling tournaments last weekend. Nick Glaspell placed first in the 12u 100-pound weight class in the Braxton County Youth Open Tournament. Courtesy photo.

school, Silas Raines, 5th grader at Big Elm Elementary school, Ryan Skinner, a 5th grader at Big Elm Elementary school, Roman Skinner, a 2nd grader at Big Elm Elementary school, Issac Elliott, a 5th grader at Big Elm Elementary School, Ashton Bailey, a 4th grader at Big Elm Elementary School, Casey Pumphrey, a 2nd grader at Lumberport Elementary School, Jace Poe, a 5th grader at

Big Elm Elementary School, Colton Hyre, a kindergartner at Lumberport Elementary School, River Miker, a 2nd grader at Big Elm Elementary School, and Bearett Miker, who is in pre-k at Big Elm Elementary School.

Raines, Skinner and Skinner wrestle for Bridgeport's youth team, while the rest wrestle with Clarksburg.

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**Joseph Brooks**



Joseph Delbert Brooks, 83, of Shinnston, passed away on Monday, January 17, 2022 at Stonerise of Bridgeport. He was born in Kansas City, KS on December 1, 1938, son of the late Joseph Nathan and Minnie Elizabeth (Cash) Brooks.

He proudly served in the United States Navy for 21 years. Joseph served as an aviation machinist mate, achieving the rank of Petty Officer 1st Class (ADJ 1). He repaired, and later instructed others to repair jet aircraft in the US Navy's 2nd oldest fighter squadron, FA-31, The Fighting 31st "Tomcatters". He was also a SYS ORG maintenance tech, a work center supervisor and motorcycle defense driving course instructor.

Joseph was a motor repairman and worked for Lumberport

Shinnston Gas. He loved to hunt and fish.

He was a member of the American Legion Post 31, Fleet Reserve Association branch 33, National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association, WV State Muzzle Loading Association, Appalachian Rangers (past President), State Representative for Appalachian Rangers to the WV State Muzzle Loading Association, Women's Club of Shinnston, Lumberport Lions Club, an honorary member of the Middle Island Longbeards Chapter of the NWTF and in the Fur-Trade Rendezvous Club.

Joseph is survived by his wife of 50 years, Sulayne Elinor (Honor) Brooks of Shinnston; one daughter, Debra Lynn Marion and husband Robert of The Villages, FL; three grandsons: Jeffrey Adam Benbenek and wife Kaitlin, and their son Connor, of Dunnellon, FL, Larry Allen Benbenek and wife Tatiana, and their children, Shelby and Charlie, of Bratislava, Slovakia and Joseph Benbenek and wife Sonya of Virginia Beach, VA; one sister, Susan Kronsage and husband William

of Montgomery, TX; one sister-in-law, Mary Brooks of Montgomery, TX as well as several nieces and nephews. "Adopted daughter", Amy Wilson and husband Chad, and their children, of Shinnston. Three special friends: Larry "Wop" Livingstone and wife Linda of Perkiomenville, PA, Bob Leasure and wife Debbie of Alma, and Charles Enich and wife Donna of Middlebourne.

In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by one brother, Edgar Nathan "Pete" Brooks.

Family received friends at Dorsey Funeral Home, 701 S. Pike St., Shinnston, WV, on Friday, January 21, 2022 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. Service was Saturday, January 22, 2022 at 11:00am with Pastor Chad Hutson officiating. Entombment followed at Floral Hills Memorial Gardens.

Military Honors were provided by the US Navy and Harrison County National Guard.

Dorsey Funeral Home is honored to be handling the arrangements for the Brooks family.

and Nina's Place; both were located in Lumberport.

In addition to her parents, Shelby was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Harold Pill, one son, Jeffrey Eugene Hamrick, one niece, Brenda June Ferguson and one great great nephew, Aaron Vanderhoff.

She is survived by her son, Robert Kenneth Pill of Gypsy; one sister, Carol Stout of Clarksburg; three nephews: Larry Williams and companion Georgia, Steven Vest and wife Deidra and Donnie Hashman, Jr.; five nieces: Debbie Quinn and companion Richard Goodwin, Kathy Ridenour and companion Dave, Christina Varner, Linda Sendling and husband Donnie and Amanda Hashman as well as several great nieces and nephews.

Family received friends at Dorsey Funeral Home, 701 S. Pike St., Shinnston, on Sunday, January 23, 2022 from 2:00pm to 8:00pm. Service was Monday, January 24, 2022 at 11:00am with Pastor Delores White officiating. Interment followed at Shinnston Memorial Cemetery.

Dorsey Funeral Home is honored to be handling the arrangements for the Pill family.

**Out Of The Past**

*Memorable Photographs from around Harrison County.*



Pictured is Wanda (Strader) Emmel in the 1950s. She was a physical education and journalism teacher at Shinnston High School. Photo courtesy Bobby Bice.

**Rhea Elizabeth Swiger Cline**

Rhea Elizabeth Swiger Cline, 75, of Bennett's Run, went to be with the Lord at 8:50am, Friday, January 14, 2022, at her residence. She was born in Dola, January 11, 1946, a daughter of the late Hoddie Earl and Esta B. Robinson Swiger.

Surviving are her nieces and nephews: Duane Robey and his wife Barbara, Bennett's Run, Barbie Sommerville and her husband Jim, West Milford, Joe Burr and his wife Sheryl, Lumberport, Tim Burr and his wife Kathy, Bennett's Run, and several great nieces and nephews and great-great nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Rhea was preceded in death by her siblings, Faye Earline Burr, Ella Pearl Robey, and Ray Earl Swiger.

Rhea retired from United Hospital Center with over 30 years of service. She was a life-long member of the Ten Mile Baptist Church in Dola. Rhea enjoyed her CB Radio, and going to country music concerts and the races. She also volunteered for the Lord's Pantry.

The family received friends at the Perine Funeral Home, 1348 S. Pike St., Shinnston, from 5-8pm, Tuesday.

A funeral service was held at the Ten Mile Baptist Church in Dola on Wednesday, January 19, 2022. She was to lie in state one hour prior to the funeral at the Church. Interment was in the Lion's Club Cemetery in Lumberport. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Ten Mile Baptist Church or the Lord's Pantry.

Condolences may be extended to the family at www.perinefunerals.com. The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Cline family.

**Shelby Jean (Stout) Pill**



Shelby Jean Pill, 83, of Gypsy, passed away on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at United Hospital Center. She was born in Maidsville, WV on December 16, 1938 to the late Raymond Ray Stout and Nellie Virginia (Malcomb) Stout.

Shelby graduated from Clarksburg Beauty Academy. She was the owner of Shelby's Beauty Shop



**Joseph Michael "Joe" Minard**

Joseph Michael "Joe" Minard, 90, of Clarksburg, WV passed away on Monday, January 17, 2022 at his residence surrounded by his family.

He was born in Clarksburg on January 5, 1932 a son of the late Michael Joseph and Rose Oliverio Minard.

Joe was twice married, having been preceded in death by his first wife, JeanAnn DeMeester Minard in 1964, and his second wife, Mary Contento Minard who preceded him in death on November 13, 2021.

Surviving are two sons, Michael Minard and his wife Mary of Morgantown and Samuel Minard and his wife Christine of Charleston; four daughters, Michele Minard of Buckhannon, Marisa Minard Veltri of Clarksburg, Marcia Black and her husband Dave of Pittsburgh and Maria Yoakum and

her husband Kenneth of Charleston; 15 grandchildren; 4 great grandchildren; one sister, Patricia Ann Hostutler and Husband Tom of Virginia Beach, VA; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his wives and parents, Joseph was preceded in death by one grandchild, Dominick Veltri; one brother, Anthony Peter Minard; and one sister, Constance Marra.

Joe was a graduate of St. Mary's High School and later attended college at West Virginia University where he earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

He was a United States Army veteran having served stateside during the Korean Conflict.

Mr. Minard was the owner and operator of Minard's Spaghetti Inn in Clarksburg, WV since 1955 following the sudden passing of his father. Joe served in the West Virginia Senate as a representative of the 12th district from 1990 to 1994 and from 1998 to 2013 where he later served as the Senate Clerk. Prior to that, he also served in the West Virginia House of Delegates from 1983 to 1990. He

later filled a seat in the Harrison County Commission starting in 2016.

Joe was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, the Columbian Club, Sons of Italy, Knights of Columbus, Clarksburg Lion's Club, Clarksburg Serra Club, and the WVU Alumni Association.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made out to the St. Jude's Children's Charity at 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105, in memory of Joe.

Family and friends called to the Amos Carvelli Funeral home on Sunday, January 23, 2022 from 2:00pm to 8:00pm where a prayer service was held at 7:30 to conclude the visitation. A mass of Christian Burial was held on Monday, January 24, 2022 at 10:00am at the Immaculate Conception Church with Father Casey Mahone presiding. Entombment followed in the Holy Cross Cemetery.

Expressions of sympathy may be extended to the family at www.amoscarvelli.com. A service of Amos Carvelli Funeral Home.

**Flags lowered for Joe Minard**

Flags were lowered in commemoration of the life and service of former West Virginia Senator Joe Minard on Monday. Gov.

Jim Justice issued a proclamation, ordering that all United States and West Virginia flags at the Capitol Complex in Charleston and all

state-owned facilities in Harrison County be displayed at half-staff from dawn to dusk Jan. 24, according to a news release.



# A Developing Community

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## Roads and Snow



Chad Edwards

By City Manager

Chad Edwards

We are almost through January (of 2022!) and we have seen a couple of nice snowstorms. Rather than bore you with one of my usual columns, I would like to bore you with some interesting snow facts.

One city tried to make snow illegal. In 1992, the City Council of Syracuse, New York passed an ordinance banning snow until Christmas. They are the snowiest city in the United States so it is safe to say this is one law Mother Nature has chosen to ignore. (Mental Floss/Cityworks)

A blizzard is defined as snow accompanied by 35 mph+ winds (The Weather Channel)

The first snow shovel was found in Russia. It was 6,000 years old (City Works).

The first motorized snowplow was made in 1913 to clear roads

off for the newly invented automobile. (Cityworks)

It snows in Hawaii in its higher elevations. (The Weather Channel)

The largest snow ever recorded was in Silver Lake, Colorado. 78.5 inches of snow fell in a 24-hour period back in 1921. (The Weather Channel)

The city with the record for snowfall in one year is Mount Rainier, Washington. Between winters in 1971 and 1972, they received 102 feet of snow. (Cityworks)

The coldest temperature ever recorded was in 1983. -128.6

degrees Fahrenheit was reported that year in Antarctica. (plowandmowz.com)

Ten inches of snow equals one inch of water after it melts. (plowzandmowz.com)

A septillion snowflakes fall from the sky in the U.S. every year. A septillion is one followed by 24 zeroes. That is 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000. (Mental Floss)

I hope everyone enjoys this winter and we will do our best to keep snow and ice off our roads.

## Fire chief reports 95 calls

Shinnston Fire Chief Dylan Oliveto reported 95 total calls, including 52 medical emergencies and seven structure fires for the month of December. He also reported the following other

Service Calls - 10  
Vehicle Accidents - 4  
Fire Alarm Activations - 19  
Brush Fires - 1  
Car Fires - 1  
Misc. Fires - 1  
Structure Fires - 7

## Lowe Public Library Notes

Submitted by Debbie Starkey, Library Director

**Closed Feb. 21 for President's Day**

**Curbside delivery is available if needed.**

### Mountaineer Therapy Dogs

#### Reading to Rover

The library was very involved with "Reading To Rover" until the pandemic struck and we want to bring it back!

This is what the program is all about. Is your child having a difficult time reading? Is your child nervous and anxious when he reads to you? This program is for him. We called it Reading to Rover and saw a lot of success with it. Our first student was about 6 when he started and wanted nothing to do with books or reading. Miss Barbara Higgins was the first person to bring her dog Brenda Lee for the children to read to. Well, this young man is now in college and a very avid reader. There were several ladies that have been here for the children and are still involved in the program, but I won't try to name them, for fear of leaving someone out.

The children will sit down and want to know about the dog. They relax and aren't worried about reading skills. They just want to read a story to him. There is no embarrassment if they miss a word; the dog doesn't judge them.

In a study on reading to dog programs, it was suggested that children who read to dogs improved their own reading skills in comparison to children who did not.

If you have a child between 5 and 12, we hope to revive "Reading to Rover" in March. Please contact the library and let us know if there is an interest. We will then set a date and time.

### February Events

Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24: Thursday for Toddlers at 1 pm. The children will make a craft and have a story read to them. Ages 2-4.

Feb. 11: "Crazy Cookie Craft" at 4 p.m. Have fun decorating a cookie for Valentine's Day. Ages 2-6. Please call the library by Wednesday, Feb. 9 to register your child.

Feb. 15: "The Hungry Book Club" at 2 p.m. Please bring your book to discuss and a recipe to share.

Bring a copy of your recipe to enter a drawing for the door prize. New members welcome.

Best-sellers available for check-out: "The Last Thing He Told Me" Laura Dave; "The Judge's List" John Grisham; "Wish You Were Here" Jodi Picoult; and "The Stranger in the Lifeboat" Mitch Albom.

New books: "Once A Laird" Mary Jo Putney; "Criminal Mischief" Stuart Woods; "Paris Detective" James Patterson; "Becoming" Nora Roberts; "A Man Of Honor" Barbara Taylor Bradford. Large print: "The Hope Chest" Carolyn Brown; and "The Secret of Snow" Viola Shipman.

## Woman's Club meets

Submitted by

President Debra Herndon

The Woman's Club of Shinnston met Tuesday, Dec. 21 at the Sunset Ellis Restaurant for a luncheon meeting. President Debra Herndon welcomed all present and Secretary Wanda Ashcraft led devotions on the best gifts you can give for Christmas. Each member received a holiday gift and enjoyed lunch

and fellowship.

Members each brought their favorite hat and took turns telling the story of the hat they brought. No more meetings will be held until April. Those present not previously mentioned were Judy Wilson, Debbie Starkey, Viviane Spagnuolo, Sulayne Brooks, Mary Ann Spadafore, and Chad Edwards.



## City to put parking lot by Gibby's

By Erin Beck Editor

During an executive session following the City Council meeting Jan. 10, City Council members approved a plan for a new public parking lot.

In an interview, Shinnston City Manager Chad Edwards said they

agreed to purchase the house on Charles Street next to Gibby's Ice Cream and Grill.

Edwards said Gibby's owner had purchased that house, which contains asbestos, possibly not anticipating the financial burden. If the owner of

Gibby's gets rid of the asbestos and tears down the property, the city agreed to put in a public parking lot. Edwards acknowledged that probably mainly Gibby's customers would park there.

He said that following executive

session, City Council members authorized him to make that deal but gave him no set cost guidelines. He estimated the city would pay \$6,000.

The Secretary of State website lists Kristi Barnard of Shinnston as the owner of Gibby's.

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## The City of Shinnston



Council meets at 7:00pm on the second and last Mondays.

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# “citizen of the month”

cont. from p. 1

Lincoln High Marching Band to many years at the Shinnston VFD. He is always eager to make his community better. And every organization that he’s been a part of is stronger because of his dedication.”

Kovalck also joked about his best friend since kindergarten. He said that they were “ormery in our younger years, but nothing serious.”

“And he probably owns the land speed record for both Pike St. and East Ave,” he added.

Kovalck said he often calls McIntyre for advice.

“He will argue with the devil (and even his mother) for what he sees as right. But he is always willing to look at topics from the other perspective.”

McIntyre served as a member of the Shinnston Volunteer Fire Department for a total of 22 years. He served in

different administrative and operational leadership roles throughout that time. He enjoyed his time with the SVFD but recently decided to “retire” from the fire department so that he could focus his time and energy on his kids.

Current Fire Chief Dylan Oliveto said the two have been friends since middle school.

“As long as I can remember, Derek has always been first class!” Oliveto said. “I am fortunate that I have been able to call Derek a close friend for better than 30 years and also a great colleague, hard worker, and dedicated dad. Derek served as my Deputy Fire Chief from the time I became Fire Chief until he retired from the fire department in 2019. He was my right-hand man in the fire service and always gave the community

100%. He isn’t afraid of a challenge and is always looking for ways to pitch in. His passion for his kids and youth sports is unmatched in our community. I can’t think of a person more deserving to be named a citizen of the month.”

McIntyre has also worked for Frontier Communications as an outside plant technician for the last 15 years. He works out of the Shinnston office servicing the community. Serving a small stint on the Shinnston City Council, McIntyre hopes to one day get back into it again. He plans to stay within the community as long as the community allows and continue to be an active member.

“I am very proud to be from Shinnston, and always lend a helping hand when possible,” he said.

“I am very proud to be from Shinnston, and always lend a helping hand when possible,” he said.



Derek McIntyre, February’s Citizen of the Month, gathers his family, including wife Megan, and from left to right his kids Colt and Kennedy and niece Haleigh, at the baseball field in Glenville. McIntyre is a Little League coach, as well as a former firefighter and City Council member. Courtesy photo.

# “kelli caseman column”

cont. from p. 2



Kelli Caseman.

child maltreatment and the highest rate of child victims with a caregiver risk factor of drug abuse. West Virginia has 21 child advocacy centers. This month, they reported that they have served a 40% increase in new

children over the last five years.

Accusations of abuse and neglect are serious, and splitting up families is a devastating thing to do, with long-term consequences. Even when parents

can reunify with their children, the trauma of investigation and removal can destabilize families for years to come. Race and economic and social status often impact decisions made in the system, from reporting to termination of parental rights. Taking kids from their homes is a very serious business.

Still, we also know that there are children who are not safe in their own homes, like the 4-year-old boy from Fairmont who had been abused by his mom’s boyfriend. CPS workers knew of previous incidents of abuse but failed to follow up on a temporary protection

plan. And then, one night, the boyfriend attacked him, and he died shortly after in the hospital. That was less than a year ago. Since then, there’s been a lot of finger-pointing at the parents and CPS. I see posts on social media about locking them all up. I don’t see discussions about our collective responsibility to prevent this kind of abuse in the first place.

It’s easy to ignore the things we don’t want to see but make no mistake: reform is inevitable. Without public response, political ideology may win over common sense. Over the years, I’ve heard radical

ideas about reducing our child maltreatment rates that often either see parents as hapless victims of the system or rotten to the core. Some have recommended increased incarceration and that we bring back orphanages. Others think we should dismantle the system altogether and blame reporters for overreporting. The narratives behind both extremes are inevitably problematic. I’m not a fan of either side. I don’t claim to have the answers to fix our child maltreatment problem or West Virginia’s child welfare system, but I know the first step begins with naming

the problem for what it is. It’s not about bad pay or high turnover rates; it’s about social issues that are sad, complex, and hard to face. It’s about taking responsibility to protect our community’s kids. We do that by preventing child maltreatment. Real prevention happens when everyone gets involved. How can we do better? It’s time to get together and talk about it.

*Kelli Caseman is the Executive Director of Think Kids, a statewide nonprofit that advocates for the health and well-being of West Virginia’s kids.*

## Harrison County natives make academic dean’s list

By Erin Beck  
Editor

Multiple Harrison County natives are achieving academic excellence at institutions of higher education throughout the country. According to news releases sent from colleges and universities, the following are some of the students who made the dean’s list this fall at their institutions of higher learning:

**College, PA**  
Emilee Henderson, of Bridgeport

**Coastal Carolina University**  
Payton Merica, of Bridgeport

**Slippery Rock University, PA**  
Kaylee Smith, of Bridgeport

**Ohio Wesleyan University**  
Cheyenne Martin, of Bridgeport

**University of Vermont**  
Zoe Schlosser, of

Bristol  
**Davis & Elkin**  
Mercedes Ray, of Clarksburg  
Victoria Sturm, of Clarksburg  
Michael Utt, of Clarksburg  
Hailee Whitehair, of Clarksburg

**Davis & Elkins (RN-BSN rotation)**  
Elizabeth Sendling, of Clarksburg  
Lindsay Marks, of Shinnston

**Grove City**

## Depression support office opens

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) WV is pleased to announce the opening of its statewide headquarters at Mountaineer Mall,

5000 Greenbag Road in Morgantown. The office will be open Tuesdays through Saturdays, from 11 am to 3 pm. The public is invited to stop

by to learn more, get brochures, and learn how DBSA WV can help. Proof of vaccination required to visit office.



**Answers**

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# Delegate Clay Riley, R- Harrison, appointed vice-chairman of Fire Committee



Delegate Clay Riley, R- Harrison, was recently appointed the vice-chairman of the Legislature's Committee on Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services. At left, Riley, of Shinnston, said, "I'm trying to get a good understanding of the issues by going to the people who deal with it on the ground every day." Pictured, he met with Shinnston Volunteer Fire Department on Jan. 15 and plans to meet with Lumberport Volunteer Fire Department next month. The Legislature began its 60-day session on Jan. 12. Courtesy photo.



## Buffalo Chicken Dip

*Submitted By Debra Smith*

When it's football season, and you're ready to watch the big game, or just having a house full of guest, it's time for crowd pleasing snacks!

Buffalo Chicken Dip is one of my family's all time favorite dips. It is super easy to make, and it is the one most requested.

This baked chicken dip is best served hot. The ranch dressing and hot sauce give this dip the traditional "Buffalo Chicken Wing" flavor. You can also put it in the slow cooker to keep it warm (if it lasts long enough). I hope this becomes one of your family favorites as well!

1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened  
1 cup shredded cooked, boneless, skinless chicken breast  
½ cup Buffalo wing sauce (or your favorite hot sauce)  
½ cup ranch salad dressing  
2 cups shredded Colby-Monterey Jack cheese  
French bread baguette slices, celery sticks or corn chips (for dipping)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spread cream cheese into an ungreased shallow 1 quart baking dish.

Layer the chicken, salad dressing, wing sauce (or hot sauce) and sprinkle the cheese on top. Bake uncovered, 20 – 25 minutes, until the cheese is melted. Serve hot with baguette bread slices, celery sticks or corn chips. Enjoy!

## Fire marshal: plan ahead to prevent fire tragedy

*Submitted by Timothy Rock  
Public Information Specialist*

Dozens of lives have been lost in the past few weeks from fires in residential housing throughout the nation. In their wake, teachable moments arise: the State Fire Marshal's Office wants to remind the public that they can protect themselves from such fires.

In the Bronx, New York, 17 died including eight children. This fire began on the third floor of a high-rise apartment building, allegedly caused by a malfunctioning space heater. Smoke and flames traveled throughout the building and ultimately killed people on multiple floors, including five people on the 19<sup>th</sup> floor.

This followed another tragedy earlier this month in Philadelphia. The 12 lives lost again included eight children. The fire began in a row house, when a Christmas tree was allegedly ignited by someone using a lighter. It traveled to adjacent row housing, resulting in additional deaths.

These tragedies were preventable, and provide stark lessons to be learned from: Portable heating and cooking appliances must be maintained and checked to ensure they remain in proper working condition. Where extension cords are used, they cannot be frayed or damaged.

Proper fire protection equipment, such as fire door assemblies with self-closing devices; smoke alarms; carbon monoxide alarms; and fire alarm and automatic sprinkler systems where required, must be inspected, tested, and properly maintained.

Now is the time to develop, discuss, and practice a fire escape plans to ensure familiarity within your residence, and review such plans in place for rented and leased property.

Igniting devices such as lighters and matches must be kept out of the reach of children, and caution and oversight used in situations that allow children to use such items.

Seek out local programs that can assist with fire safety materials, such as smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. There are also tax incentives for the installation of automatic sprinkler systems for select types of buildings and occupancies (see <https://nfsa.org/2020/06/02/the-cares-act-delivers-new-fire-sprinkler-tax-incentives/> for information on possible incentives available in West Virginia and throughout the nation).

"As your State Fire Marshal, I commend you – the public, homeowners, and landlords of apartment properties as well as owners of high-rise buildings properties - for the care and concern displayed in our state," said Kenneth Tyree, WV State Fire Marshal. "To keep us all safe from the tragedy of fire, I invite those who may have concerns or questions or who seek solutions and remedies to these to contact your local fire department or the Office of the State Fire Marshal for assistance.

We hope all can learn from these tragic circumstances and loss of life. We express our care and concern for all West Virginians and others who reside here to remain vigilant in their pursuit to prevent and stay safe from fire."