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## Gift shop schedules Grand Opening

By Erin Beck  
Editor

Emory and Stephanie Oldaker had thought about opening a retail store for years.

He lived in Shinnston as a kid, attending Wyatt School before his parents moved.

The couple went on to open a nationally successful online candle-making company, among other business ventures.

Fans of Shinnston's small-town feel, they moved back to his hometown in November of 2021. Emory Oldaker was walking down Pike Street and noticed a vacant storefront, and he saw an opportunity.

One week later, the lease was signed.

Street for Friday. To their grandkids, Emory Oldaker is "Pops," while Stephanie Oldaker is "Gigi."

"Pops and Gigi's wouldn't exist if it weren't for our grandchildren," he said.

They'll sell trendy, boutique clothing for children and women, as well as handbags, according to Emory Oldaker.



"We're going to have New York-style clothing, but we're going to have them at affordable prices," he said.

Custom-designed graphic tees will also be a major aspect of the business. They're planning to sell shirts with inspirational and encouraging sayings. Businesses, sports teams and others can request shirts with their logos.

When people shop at big-box stores, they may end up wearing the same designs as people they know. Graphic tees at Pops and Gigi's will be unique.

"That's the beauty of us having this opportunity is that we can create any design that someone wants," Emory Oldaker said. "It doesn't have to be something we offer."

*Continued on Page 3.*



They could continue to sell their premium candles and max welts, made with cleaner-burning, longer-lasting coconut wax, instead of the paraffin wax you find at box stores.

They also recognized that they could fill an unmet niche in the area.

Pops and Gigi's, a new specialty gift shop and boutique in Shinnston, has scheduled its Grand Opening at 203 Pike



A sampling of clothing that will be offered at Pops and Gigi's Gift Shop, which has scheduled a Grand Opening for Friday, is displayed. Courtesy photos.

## Lincoln High School's prom was Saturday.

Turn to Page 8 for photos.



The Robinson Grand is planning a tribute show to Elton John, who has more than fifty Top 40 hits in the UK Singles Chart and US Billboard Hot 100. Courtesy photo.

## Robinson Grand plans Elton John tribute

Submitted by the Robinson Grand

Robinson Grand Performing Arts Center is excited to announce Captain Fantastic, the premier Elton John tribute show, will play downtown Clarksburg on Saturday, August 6, 2022, at the historic Robinson Grand Performing Arts Center, located at 444 W. Pike St. in Clarksburg, West Virginia.

Take a journey with the Rocketman! Captain Fantastic will dazzle audiences with an amazing musical extravaganza as he and his Rocketband

perform stunning re-creations of Elton John hits from the 70s. Audiences will be amazed with the costumes that go from bizarre to breathtaking, and his amazing 5-foot baby grand piano will shower the auditorium with lights, smoke, lasers, and a few surprises. Captain Fantastic has performed at Walt Disney World, Caesars Palace, and for the United States Navy.

"You are going to hear electric music, solid walls of sound," said Jason A Young, the Robinson

*Continued on Page 3.*



### BUILDING AMAZING CITIES

By **JIM HUNT**  
*author, speaker, consultant*

## Cruising Amsterdam

Our arrival at the Amsterdam Central train station was a relaxing end to a pleasant three-and-a-half-hour train ride. We gathered our luggage and headed out to find a cab to our hotel. One difference from Paris was the unbelievable number of bikes at the station and on our ride to the hotel. Amsterdam is second to Copenhagen, Denmark for most bikes per capita and over half of all city journeys are done by bike. The city has wide bike paths, and it is not uncommon to see dozens of bikes coming at you as you wait at an intersection. You see young kids riding in small carts behind their parents and elderly people riding with bags of groceries in large baskets on the front of the bikes. It is estimated that while the population of Amsterdam is around 800,000, there are more than 1.2 million bikes. And that is not to mention the thousands of electric scooters that buzz around the city.

Our hotel was called the NH Amsterdam Centre and it was a very nice hotel located in the heart of the city. After storing our luggage at the hotel, we headed out to our wine and cheese cruise on the canals. The take-off point was located in front of the famous Anne Frank House and we took pictures in front of the Anne Frank statue and the door to the house. The cruise was



News & Journal columnist Jim Hunt took a tour of Amsterdam via canal. A tour guide pointed out the unique houses and talked about their history. Photo by Jim Hunt.



Jim Hunt said people from all walks of life went along for a tour of Amsterdam via canal. Photo by Jim Hunt.

on a thirty-person boat, with a captain and a young Italian girl named Sara who took care of the drinks and cheese.

I would recommend taking a cruise to get to see a lot of the city in a fairly short time. Sara told some stories about the founding of Amsterdam and why it was such an important city. The spice trade was the key economic factor that brought wealth to the city, and it was said that many types of spice were worth more than an equal weight of gold. And because Amsterdam

*Continued on Page 8.*



David DuKate, who caught this photo at Lower Dog Run Lake in Harrison County, said he was lucky to get to watch this Great Blue Heron fishing. "This was a nice-sized, largemouth bass that it caught," he said. "I thought this may be more than it could handle. To my surprise, he swallowed the fish right down." Courtesy photo.



Each week copies of the News & Journal are distributed in each hospital to patients compliments of these community-minded sponsors listed:  
**UNITED HOSPITAL CENTER, LOUIS JOHNSON V.A. HOSPITAL, HIGHLAND CLARKSBURG HOSPITAL & WV VETERANS NURSING FACILITY**



**Guest Column**  
By Kent Leonhardt

# Do your part: plant an extra row

By Kent Leonhardt  
West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture

Attention farmers, producers and home gardeners! As we set in motion our spring planting, we call on you to do your part to grow West Virginia's food resiliency by planting extra rows this year. Supply chain issues, inflation, the pandemic and the War in Ukraine have shown us the importance of creating an independent U.S. within the world market. History tells us that famine typically follows a pandemic and I fear, just like our energy sector, continued reliance on foreign nations for food will have dire consequences. We already have experienced what this could look like when prices and food scarcity skyrocketed during the beginning of the pandemic. We survived by shifting our focus towards local agriculture which led to all-time records for local food sales and meat processing. As we look for ways to foster growth through local agriculture, I am asking all producers to consider planting an extra row of something, anything commonly consumed in West Virginia.

As we saw production shift due to the pandemic, it became vital we not only support local producers but encourage average citizens to grow their own food. The strains on the food system we experienced in the early part of the pandemic were due to the closure of restaurants. Without these businesses, 30% of food we consumed in the United States was taken out of the marketplace. As restaurants closed their doors, processing facilities had to focus on direct consumer production, increasing more strain on our grocers. We are seeing the trend reverse as we shift back to our pre-pandemic lifestyles. Now inflation, supply chain issues and the rising cost of gas plague the U.S. economy.

Increased gas prices will accelerate consumer prices beyond what we are already seeing. Fuel is one of the most expensive inputs for many of our industrial sectors, including agriculture. Increased fuel prices also have been one of the causes of the trucker driver shortage. The pain the average consumer is seeing at the gas pump has much more serious downward ramifications in our food chains. Increased energy prices mean more expensive fertilizer which will reduce food production here and abroad. This will undoubtedly result in lower yields and, therefore, less food. For beef farmers, this means less hay available which leads to fewer animals wintered and possibly younger and smaller animals sent to market. Fewer truckers, more expensive fuel and fertilizer, and less production will put a damper on the national food system.

Now with the war in Ukraine, we can predict the breadbasket of Eastern Europe will not be able to produce exports as they have done in the past. This will likely put more pressure on food prices and increase shortages on a world scale. If these conflicts continue, the United States will be asked to provide foreign aid which will include food. My military training has drilled into me the need to prepare for unforeseen circumstances. Foreign conflicts, pandemics and other emergencies are those scenarios. If we do not prepare, it will be our citizens who feel the pain.

As your Commissioner of Agriculture, I have advocated for investing in local foods since I took office five years ago; this includes branding programs such as West Virginia Grown, investments into infrastructure, as well as workforce programs. We must do more to support the 23,000 farmers in the Mountain State and the \$800 million worth of commodities they produce. The gap between local production and consumption continues to widen with no indication it will slow down. Relying on national and foreign food systems is not the future of our state. If we hope to make our state and economies as resilient as possible, we must invest inward. If our leaders will not act, I ask the citizens to do their part by planting an extra row this year. Your families, friends, neighbors, and local food banks will appreciate your efforts.

## Local students achieve WVU recognition

Of 52 students named Outstanding Seniors at West Virginia University, four are from Harrison and Marion counties, according to a news release from the university.

Those students include Grant DuVall, of Bridgeport; Olga Hawranick, of Fairmont; Laura May, of Fairmont; and Lauren Moore, of Clarksburg.

All are enrolled in the Honors College as well. Established in 1995 to signify the 40th anniversary of the WVU Foundation, the Outstanding Seniors award recognizes students for their contributions and achievements in scholarship, leadership and service.

# Super Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Outlook
  - 7 Opponents
  - 13 Rolling Stones frontman's family
  - 20 Despise
  - 21 Funny in a twisted way
  - 22 Shrinking salt lake in Asia
  - 23 "Does this medication act as a sedative at all?"
  - 25 French painter Henri
  - 26 Pops
  - 27 Dark warrior Kyo of sci-fi
  - 28 Magical elixir that turns people into mouselike rodents?
  - 30 Sun or moon
  - 32 People using paste
  - 35 — Moines
  - 36 26th letters, to Brits
  - 37 The singer of "Kiss an Angel Good Mornin'" was nosy?
  - 41 Caustic liquid
  - 44 Mogul
  - 45 Football field
  - 47 Loss of the sense of smell
  - 52 Out of kilter
  - 53 Upkeep of a kitchen stove?
  - 57 Peter of Herman's Hermits
  - 59 Freeman of "Angel Face"
  - 60 "... roughly"
  - 61 Landscaping tool used by a large company?
  - 68 Culinary mushroom
  - 69 Not ingested
  - 70 Coll. in Lower Manhattan
  - 71 First letter
  - 73 Follies show
  - 74 Question to someone who rudely interrupts a chat?
  - 78 Ruckuses
  - 79 Teeny power source
  - 81 Nation in "The Hunger Games"
  - 82 Captured during a revolt?
  - 87 Frosting tools
  - 92 Bit of conjunctivitis medicine
  - 93 Ballesteros of golf
  - 94 Pages transmitted by PCs
  - 95 Gave the heave-ho to
  - 97 Cost to buy an airline ticket?
  - 101 FBI workers: Abbr.
  - 105 Cooke of soul
  - 107 Actor Chuck
  - 108 Small child
  - 109 Arsons?
  - 113 Some refinery input
  - 114 Bummed
  - 116 Emilio of Hollywood
  - 117 Apt things to feel when solving this puzzle?
  - 123 Really dumb
  - 124 6-Down plus one
  - 125 State tree of New Jersey
  - 126 — Pilate (biblical official)
  - 127 Most tender
  - 128 Wisenheimer
- DOWN**
- 1 — Baba
  - 2 "Mayday!"
  - 3 Avenged
  - 4 Kett of comics
  - 5 Neighbor of Sudan
  - 6 What X may mean
  - 7 Creep higher, as shorts
  - 8 Wrinkle remover
  - 9 "I do," e.g.
  - 10 Sothern of "Kid Millions"
  - 11 Actor Schreiber
  - 12 Young cod
  - 13 "Misery" star
  - 14 Give — (care)
  - 15 Cat, to Juan
  - 16 Ostentatious showiness
  - 17 "Charlotte's Web" actress Davis
  - 18 Turf anew
  - 19 Camille Saint- —
  - 24 Annual: Abbr.
  - 29 Meadow
  - 30 Eight: Prefix
  - 31 "Wide Sargasso Sea" novelist Jean
  - 32 With 118-Down, child of a boomer
  - 33 Emma Peel player Diana
  - 34 Withered
  - 38 Jane in court
  - 39 Something hit by a basso
  - 40 Lightly lit
  - 42 Swenson of "Benson"
  - 43 John in court
  - 46 Title for 33-Down
  - 48 Not rough
  - 49 — Melodies (old toons)
  - 50 Pant-leg line
  - 51 Coral rings
  - 53 Bicolor horse
  - 54 Busy insect
  - 55 Once named
  - 56 Fish-fowl link
  - 58 Some refinery input
  - 61 Run, as an art exhibition
  - 62 In the future
  - 63 Rescind
  - 64 Waited a bit
  - 65 Ltr. holder
  - 66 Henna or anil
  - 67 Chap
  - 68 Orange Bowl loc.
  - 71 Motels
  - 72 San Francisco's — Valley
  - 74 Astros, on scoreboards
  - 75 Rock blasters
  - 76 Unseal, in poetry
  - 77 Old Egypt-Syr. alliance
  - 79 "Life is like — of chocolates"
  - 80 They're large in large-print materials
  - 83 Pro-gun org.
  - 84 Sports arbiter
  - 85 Tennis' Lend
  - 86 Blood fluid: Prefix
  - 88 Coral islet
  - 89 Way out of a building
  - 90 Nevada city on I-80
  - 91 USAF NCO
  - 94 Bad grades
  - 96 Flow barrier
  - 98 Wears away
  - 99 Set straight
  - 100 Movie
  - 101 Tons
  - 102 Painter's undercoat
  - 103 Tarte — (apple treat)
  - 104 Artery insert
  - 106 Some viral trends
  - 110 Roman 107
  - 111 Brand of lens solution
  - 112 Farm tower
  - 114 Banana part
  - 115 Verdi opera
  - 118 See 32-Down
  - 119 Eden evictee
  - 120 Hosp. areas
  - 121 Cable TV's — Geo Wild
  - 122 Cloud's place

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## Find the Super Crossword Answers on Page 7!

## THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

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

**May 5, 1923:** A fire started by welders working on a new swimming pool destroyed most of Luna Park, an amusement park in Charleston. Although Luna's owners announced that they would rebuild, the park never reopened.

**May 6, 1812:** Activist and physician Martin Robison Delany was born in Charles Town. In February 1865, he was commissioned as a major in the U.S. Colored Troops. He was the only African American Civil War officer to be given a field command.

**May 6, 1968:** A continuous miner machine at the Gauley Coal & Coke Saxsewell No. 8 mine cut into an adjacent mine, which was filled with water. The resulting flood drowned four miners and trapped 21 others.

**May 7, 1857:** William Alexander MacCorkle was born in Rockbridge County, Virginia, on his father's plantation. He served as West Virginia's ninth governor.

**May 7, 1928:** The Keith-Albee Theater opened in Huntington. The opening program featured a comedy called "Good Morning, Judge," a newsreel, and five stage acts. But the theater itself, with its elaborate interior, clearly was the star of the evening.

**May 7, 1983:** The New River Gorge National

Park and Preserve began operations when the first visitor center opened near Fayetteville.

**May 8, 1864:** Clarence Wayland Watson was born in Fairmont. Watson was a prominent coal baron and served in the U.S. Senate from 1911 to 1913.

**May 8, 1998:** Senator Jennings Randolph died at the age of 96. He was first elected to Congress in 1932 and served for 40 years.

*Continued on Page 3.*

"A Newspaper The Whole Family Can Read"

Shinnston Harrison County

# The News & Journal

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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. Send via email to [newsandjournal@yahoo.com](mailto:newsandjournal@yahoo.com).

#### Lumberport Lions Club Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, May 7, 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.  
Lumberport Methodist Church  
\$7 a meal

#### Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Mission

408 Morgantown Ave, Fairmont  
Rev. Sasha Nedich 724-966-7428  
[www.holytrinityserborthwv.org](http://www.holytrinityserborthwv.org)  
Liturgy: Saturday, May 7 at 10 a.m.  
Saturday, May 21st at 10 a.m.  
Saturday, June 4 at 10 a.m.

Please check to make sure of no cancellations  
724-966-7428

#### Singing camp

“Born to Sing Show Choir and Singing Camp Come Back”

June 29 – 23, 3:30 pm to 7 p.m. daily  
LIFE United Methodist Church School of Music  
3000 Technology Drive, Fairmont  
Ages 5 to 15. Beginners to experienced.

Find your best voice, eliminate stage fright, on-stage performance and more.

Email Anne Schooley, director, at [anschooley@mteer.com](mailto:anschooley@mteer.com) for complete info.

### “History” Cont. from Pg. 2

**May 9, 1843:** Confederate spy “Belle” Boyd was born in Martinsburg. On July 4, 1861, Belle shot a Yankee soldier and started her spy career.

**May 9, 1863:** Confederate raiders arrived at Burning Springs, Wirt County. There they set fire to 150,000 barrels of oil, oil tanks, engines for pumping, engine houses, wagons, and oil-laden boats.

**May 10, 1908:** The first official observance of Mother’s Day was held at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton and simultaneously in Philadelphia. The holiday resulted from a vigorous campaign by Anna Jarvis who wanted to commemorate the spirit of her mother’s work as a social activist.

**May 10, 1960:** John F. Kennedy defeated Hubert Humphrey in the West Virginia primary. It dispelled the widely held belief that being a Roman Catholic was a crippling handicap for a presidential candidate.

**May 11, 1909:** Filmmaker Ellis Dungan was born. After years of working in the feature film industry in India, he settled in Wheeling, where he shot documentaries and produced films for the state and the region.

**May 11, 1930:** Physician John C. Norman, Jr. was born in Charleston. A noted thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon and researcher, he was best known for his work toward creating an artificial heart.

*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).*

### “Gift Shop” Cont. from Pg. 1.

If somebody says, ‘Hey, you should do something like this,’ we can create it.”

Sweets and treats, some home decor, gifts, mugs and greeting cards will also be available.

His wife is making the sweets and treats. He said they’re also looking into providing sale opportunities for area vendors.

He said he’s been humbled by how welcoming the community, including

city officials, have been so far.

Their daughter Emily will also be helping; Oldaker said they are also open to hiring later on if demand is high.

Once the website is ready, online shopping will be available at [popsandgigis.com](http://popsandgigis.com). Interested customers can follow the store at Pops and Gigi’s Gift Shop on Facebook for more information in the meantime.



### “Robinson” Cont. from Pg. 1.

Grand’s consulting program manager. “You may think you’ve gone down the Yellow Brick Road!”

Sir Elton John, the legend to whom Captain Fantastic pays tribute, is one of the best-selling artists of all time, having sold over 300 million records worldwide in a six-decade career in music. Today he remains one of the world’s most internationally acclaimed musicians. His amazing life and career were chronicled in the 2019 film “Rocketman” starring Taron Egerton.

“Captain Fantastic is going to bring our audiences more than just the music of Elton John; he is bringing the energy, the pageantry, the showmanship, the total package,” said Young. “We are preparing for a night like no other at the Robinson Grand.”

The Robinson Grand Performing Arts Center is one of West Virginia’s premier performance venues. A recent \$15 million renovation has transformed

our beautiful historic local theater into one the state’s most spectacular small theater destinations in which to experience an event. Preserving the distinct historical charm of the 1913 theater, the Robinson Grand boasts the most modern updates and conveniences of any local performance venue. The comfortable 1,000-seat size of the theater makes every seat feel intimately connected with the onstage performance.

Tickets for Captain Fantastic: a Tribute to Elton John start at \$20 and went on sale on April 29. They can be purchased online at [tickets.therobinsongrand.com](http://tickets.therobinsongrand.com) or by calling the Robinson Grand ticketing center at 855-773-6283.

## Golden Horseshoe winners named

The West Virginia Department of Education announced, in a news release last week, the 2022 Golden Horseshoe winners for Harrison County.

Since 1931, students who have demonstrated exceptional knowledge of West Virginia history on the state-administered exam have been honored as Knights of the Golden Horseshoe. This year, 221 winners will join the ranks of West Virginia citizens who have won this prestigious award. Harrison County winners will be recognized at a Golden Horseshoe ceremony on June 14 at the West Virginia Culture Center in Charleston, WV.

The 2022 Harrison County winners include: Charles Lane, Washington Irving Middle School; Addison Veigel, Bridgeport Middle School; James Fazalare, Bridgeport Middle School; Braydon Hendricks, Mountaineer Middle School; Shyanne Rathbun, Mountaineer Middle School; Abigail Louk, South Harrison Middle School.

## WVU keeps ACT, SAT optional

To address the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and reduce the overall stress of the college application process for students, West Virginia University will again extend its test optional admissions policy for the ACT and SAT in certain cases.

“While pandemic restrictions have been lifted in most areas of the country, we are still seeing the impact of the past two years,” George Zimmerman, WVU assistant vice president for enrollment management, stated in a news release.

“The pandemic has changed the way many people live their daily lives. Higher education is not immune to these types of changes. Test optional admissions have allowed schools across the country to provide students with new choices when it comes to applying to college. The pandemic made this shift necessary, and we have seen students embrace test optional admissions processes as part of their college search.”

This extension includes the fall 2023 and spring 2024 terms, the third such extension at WVU since fall 2020, part of a national admissions trend putting more emphasis on student GPAs and overall academic performance.

While test requirements have been modified for admission to the University, select majors still require an ACT or SAT. Students planning to enroll may be required to take a math placement exam.

The University will continue to offer scholarships for test optional applicants and those providing scores. The ACT or SAT remain requirements for the PROMISE Scholarship.

Additionally, certain programs have specific testing requirements and test scores could be necessary for course placement. Details are available through the undergraduate admissions office.

# STAY FOCUSED

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## GRAPEVINE

By Rosalyn Queen

## Sutter Roofing recognized for service

Officers of the Progressive Women's Association of Harrison County recently met with the staff of Sutter Roofing & Metal Company, Inc. for a presentation of \$5,000 check to the PWA. Sutter had received the money along with a second-place award for charitable work done for the PWA.

Earlier this spring, Sutter learned of the need for a new roof for the PWA and made arrangements to install one free of charge. The PWA had been suffering for over a year because of damages incurred by a bad roof. Sutter tried putting a band-aid on the job but this was inadequate to stop the problem. Sutter then came to the PWA with a solution, installing a new roof.

In 2013, Continental National American and National Roofing Contractors Association partnered for an awards program to honor charitable works by NRCA member contractors and to promote the good deeds of the construction industry. The winners are announced annually during the International Roofing Expo at NRCA's Industry Awards Ceremony. The ceremony was held in New Orleans, and the award was received by Doug Sutter, president of Sutter Roofing. Also attending the event were Marjorie Toohey and Nathan Harvey.

The second-place \$5,000 award was selected by a panel of judges.

Sutter Roofing and Metal Company was established in 1902 in Clarksburg by Claire "CP" Sutter. Now in the fourth generation of Sutters, Doug is the president and Marsha Sutter is the secretary and treasurer. They will soon be observing 120 years of service in West Virginia and now in Florida. Sutter specializes in commercial roofing and service as well as new construction and reroofing.

At the presentation, I said, "The PWA thanks Sutter for the donation of a new roof and for entering this project into the competition award. The new roof has made our building complete for our use and for the many uses of the community. The board of directors of the PWA has agreed to use the prize money for repairs to



The PWA is presented with a \$5,000 check from Sutter Roofing. Sutter Roofing was given the money for previous work it did for the PWA. Standing from left to right are Sharon Twentier, PWA secretary; Nathan Harvey, Sutter general manager; RosaLyn Queen, PWA treasurer; Marjorie Toohey, Sutter service and marketing manager, Betty Waddy, PWA president and Laura Goff Davis, PWA vice president. Courtesy photo.

the building such as the bathrooms and the glass doors and locks. Our building is in A1 shape and is a place that the community can be proud to use. Thanks again to Sutter and their staff."

Now that repairs are being completed, and with the addition of a new kitchen, individuals are encouraged to rent the facility for their spring and summer events. It is the ideal location for reunions, weddings, showers, birthday parties and fundraising dinners. Call 304-624-6881 for more information.

Stay Healthy, Stay Happy and until next week "Now You Have Heard It Through The Grapevine."

## Disabilities listening session planned

Groups that work to increase the prevalence of independent living options and support for people with disabilities are holding a listening session in Clarksburg.

The West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council, along with the West Virginia Independence Network, will hold multiple listening sessions throughout the state to receive public input for developing the State Plan for Independent Living, build grassroots support for establishing new Centers for Independent Living, identify groups willing to work on the establishment of new Centers for Independent Living, and gather personal stories of individuals with disabilities statewide who benefit or who could benefit from a Center for Independent Living.

Nine listening sessions are planned. A session will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Clarksburg at 606 Emily Drive on June 16 at 1 p.m.

"If you are a resident of West Virginia and have a disability or are a family member or a caregiver of a person with a disability, we want to hear from you," a news release states. "Join us in person or virtually and let us know how you believe independent living funds should be used, what services should be provided, and where services should be provided."

You may attend the listening sessions in person or, if you cannot attend in person, you may attend an August 25 listening session on zoom at the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84941904417?pwd=ZHRnOEJlZDVieEpaTFaTENCvUj4UT09>

## Energy Express enrolling youth participants

Submitted by WVU Today

West Virginia University Extension's award-winning youth literacy program, Energy Express, returns this summer for another year of educational programming for West Virginia youths.

Energy Express is a free six-week program that focuses on literacy and nutrition-based education and activities. There will be 58 sites statewide, focused in West Virginia's rural and low-income communities. Children entering first through sixth grade are eligible to enroll.

Youths engage in art, STEM, literacy, recreational and other activities that help to bridge the learning gap that happens during the summer. Last year, more than 1,000 children across West Virginia participated in the program, with 75% of those maintaining or increasing their reading achievement scores.

In addition, more than 30,000 take-home books were given to participants, and 45,000 healthy meals were served to children in the communities.

Energy Express is made possible by the partnership it maintains with AmeriCorps. Members serve as caring mentors and community coordinators during the program to help site

supervisors and other volunteers create a meaningful experience for the children.

"Energy Express lets them not only build their reading and writing skills, but it also gives them a bond with other kids that they may not have had in a classroom setting," said Delcie McCord, a third-year AmeriCorps volunteer in Lewis County. "It lets them take their imagination and put it on paper or into a project, whereas in a regular school setting they may not have time to explore that."

Energy Express will run from June 20 to July 29; however, June 20 is West Virginia Day, so some sites may delay the start date.

Many county WVU Extension offices send and collect registration forms through local schools. Applications will be accepted through the end of the school year or until all spots are filled.

To find the nearest Energy Express site to you or to register your child, please contact your local WVU Extension office. For more information on the program, visit [energyexpress.wvu.edu](http://energyexpress.wvu.edu).

If you want to learn about WVU Extension, visit [extension.wvu.edu](http://extension.wvu.edu) or follow @WVUExtension on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and Instagram.

## Poll workers needed

Harrison County needs poll workers for the Primary Election on Tuesday, May 10, according to a news release from the clerk's office. If interested, please call 304-624-8615 for more information.

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# BUSINESS MATTERS

## Minigh Family Dentistry named Business of the Month

*Patients become “just like family”*



**By Erin Beck**  
*Editor*

At Minigh Family Dentistry, Dr. Andrew Minigh aims to change patients’ minds about the dentist.

Some people are afraid of the dentist; some have had bad experiences.

“We really want to show people that it doesn’t have to be like that,” he said.

Minigh Family Dentistry, which held its annual Easter Egg Hunt in Shinnston last month, is May’s Business of the Month.

At the dental practice, which includes locations in Shinnston and Glenville, Minigh, as well as his sister Dr. Andrea Kinder and other staff members, pay much of their attention to patients’ teeth. They offer a range of services from root canals, whitenings and fillings to dental implants and bridges.

But along with providing general, cosmetic and restorative dental services, they’re also paying attention to their patients as people.

Both Minigh and Kinder said they enjoy building relationships with their patients.

“They just become like family,” Kinder said.

A self-described “people person,” Minigh chose dentistry as a specialty first.

“I just really enjoy interacting with people. You’re just in an environment where you can really see and talk with a lot of people, and a lot of times, they just have to listen to you, because you have your hands in their mouth,” he joked.

He recommended the profession to his sister.

“He just really enjoyed it,” she said. “He’s a very contagious personality.”

Kinder said she had wanted a field that included helping people and giving back. She was also fascinated



**Minigh Family Dentistry, Business of the Month, held its 5th annual Easter Egg hunt on April 16. The event saw a large turnout this year. Courtesy photos.**

by science, particularly biology.

But now, she is sometimes surprised by how invested she feels. It isn’t just a job to her.

“You really create a relationship with them, and you care about them,” she said. “Maybe that sounds silly, but I just didn’t expect it. You can just feel so invested. And you may think it’s just people’s mouths, or people’s teeth, but you really feel like you play a role in their life.”

To build relationships with patients, they must also build patient trust.

Both said they make sure to be honest up-front with patients about what to expect. They let kids touch the tools so they feel more comfortable.

People can’t generally see their fillings, Minigh noted. But they do remember if they felt pain, and if they were treated well.

At Minigh Family Dentistry, they ask about family members. Minigh said they don’t rush people. He doesn’t want patients to feel like he’s “just trying to make a dollar off them.”

“People sometimes just want to talk,” he said.

“We have a lot of older patients that maybe their spouse died or they’re just lonely. Sometimes half the appointment is just talking to them and letting them talk.”

He also said they aim to make the environment

*Continued on Page 7.*

## Warner cautions of third-party solicitations

The West Virginia Secretary of State’s Office has received reports of businesses receiving solicitations in the mail from a third-party vendor offering to assist with obtaining a copy of their “Certificate of Existence,” according to a news release. While third-party business services assistance is not illegal, this solicitation has misled many businesses. In West Virginia, a Certificate of Existence is not required annually and is needed only in limited circumstances.

For businesses that do require a copy of their Certificate of Existence, one can easily be requested for \$10 through the WV One Stop Business Portal at Business4.wv.gov. Reports indicate that for the same service, third-party solicitors are requesting more than eight times the regular statutory cost at \$85.

Before agreeing to such services, Secretary of State Mac Warner encourages businesses to know their options and consider the dangers of sharing sensitive information. Warner also encourages business owners to consider obtaining the certificate themselves at a much lower cost. If the owners do decide to use the third-party services, they should confirm in advance that the third-party company providing the service is properly registered with the Secretary of State’s office and authorized to do business in the state.

For more information or assistance, please contact the WVSOS Business & Licensing Division at 304-558-8000.

## Jena Liggett named Bridgeport Conference Center general manager

Charles Pointe Hospitality announced, in a news release last week, that Jena Liggett has joined their team as the new general manager of the Bridgeport Conference Center. Liggett is a West Virginia native returning home in time to help the conference center celebrate its 16th anniversary in Bridgeport, Harrison County and North Central West Virginia.

Liggett’s responsibilities include oversight of all phases of Bridgeport Conference Center sales, operations, and guest satisfaction. This responsibility will include all on and off-site dining services and catering provided by Charles Pointe Hospitality.

“We are pleased to welcome Jena to Bridgeport and are very excited to have her on our team,” said Steve Ludwig, director of hospitality for Charles Pointe Hospitality. “Jena brings a passion for people, event planning, and hospitality. She also has extensive food and beverage management experience. Jena will be valuable to our continued growth.”

Most recently, Jena was the private event manager at the Currituck Club on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Prior to that, she was the general manager of Kimball’s Kitchen, a Four Diamond Restaurant located at the Sanderling Resort in Duck, North Carolina

Since opening to the public 16 years ago, the Bridgeport Conference Center has welcomed an average of 55,000 visitors per year with an estimated economic impact of more than \$20 million in revenues.



**Jena Liggett, a native of Buckhannon, brings over 20 years of food and beverage management and leadership experience to her new role as general manager of the Bridgeport Conference Center. Courtesy photo.**

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## From The World of Parks & Recreation

By Doug Comer

# It's time to plan for summer

Before you know it, June will be here, and you'll have to decide what you are going to do with the kids during the school summer break. With plenty of programs, camps and even traveling on the agenda, sometimes families get a little overwhelmed with what is best for their kids. Harrison County Parks and Recreation can ease your stress with a summer program that could be in your backyard. Director Mike Book can explain.

"Our summer program has been a fixture in the communities of Harrison County now for decades. Offering a safe and fun environment full of recreation, arts and crafts, and free play, our program helps families who may struggle during the summer months on finding things for their kids to do. This is where we can help."

Book, who started out as a playground mentor, has seen changes in parks programs. From working out of the trunk of his vehicle to operating the Recreation Complex, which replaced the old 4-H center in the early turn of the 2000s, the summer program has been the one constant that those in the area can always rely on.

The free program has set foot in all parts of the county including Spelter, Wallace,

Maple Lake and Lost Creek. However, due to decreases in numbers, it was best to condense the sites into areas that are readily accessible. Low employment numbers and a lack of kids at those facilities have been factors in the reduction of sites available.

"We would have a playground program pretty much anywhere you looked," said Book. "Our staff roster would topple around 80-100 kids and there was great demand for those jobs. Today, we are lucky to get enough staff for work at the current sites we have right now. And yes, we have reduced the number of sites to less than eight. But this decision and the locations have been thought out as they are areas where kids can get to these sites through family commutes."

The free of charge program is six weeks and offers breakfast and lunch. All kids between the ages of six through 15 are welcome to attend. Park leaders help with organized sports or activities and many of the kids who work there include upperclassmen in high school and college. And since the inception of the program, many generations have been a part of it.

"It is kind of comical to be out and see some 50-some-year-old person come up and meet me and ask if I remember them from parks and recreation," said Book. "There are a lot of years between 12 and 50 and after I ask their name, then yes, a memory pops up about them. They tell me that their child or grandchild is in the program now and how wonderful the summers were because of programs like this. It is a feel-good moment hearing and speaking to those that our program made a difference."

For more information on the program and sites, or if looking for employment, please contact the parks department.

## 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 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 & 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.

This week's winners of Athletes of the Week are Liberty's Emma Kyle and Bridgeport's Ben McDougal.

Mountaineer softball player Emma Kyle had an impressive day in a pair of losses last Wednesday. Kyle was two for three with a pair of doubles and a run scored against Lincoln. She was two for three with a home run against Philip Barbour.

Indian baseball player Ben McDougal tossed a five-hitter that included shutting out Wheeling Park this past Thursday. In the process, McDougal struck out 14 batters in the win.

On Saturday, McDougal got offensive. In a pair of wins over Hedgesville and Spring Mills, McDougal was four for five with two triples, a double, four RBIs, and two runs scored.

Congratulations to Liberty's Emma Kyle and Bridgeport's Ben McDougal for being named The Shinnston News & Harrison County Journal's Athletes of the Week!



## The Bottom Line

By Bill Nestor  
Sports Editor

# State title could be in Lincoln softball's sights

Bridgeport to rely on tried-and-true system

Lincoln's softball team finished the regular season with a 19-1 record. The Cougars will take a six-game win streak into postseason play. During that span, they also avenged their lone setback of the campaign to Philip Barbour. The last week of the first reason provided a pair of key victories over Robert C. Byrd and Liberty.

Lincoln has had its fair share of big innings along the way during this 20-game stretch. The Cougars came up huge in the fourth inning of their 6-3 win over Robert C. Byrd last Monday. Lincoln hung a five-spot on the board in the instrumental fourth frame. The triumph was that much more impressive because they were facing one of the most dominating pitchers in North Central West Virginia, Fran Alvaro.

Katie Shingleton was the lone multi-hit performer for the Cougars. Shingleton was two for three with a double and two runs batted in. Delaney Haller was one for three with a double and one RBI. Haller continues her domination in the circle going the distance for the win. Haller also struck out 12 Flying



Katie Shingleton



Delaney Haller

Eagles in the affair.

Lincoln closed out regular season play with a win over Liberty in Shinnston. The Cougars garnered the 5-2 win last Wednesday. Alexis Williams went three for three for Lincoln with a pair of doubles. Haller was two for four with a double while scoring a run. Cadence Lambert was two for four with a run scored.

Haller earned the victory in the circle, fanning 11 batters while walking just one batter.

The Cougars earned the top seed in the sectionals and are in prime position for a deep run in the postseason. Haller has established herself as a player of the year candidate and is one of the best big game hurlers in the Mountain State. This could be the season that Lincoln brings home a state title.

...

Bridgeport's baseball team continues to prep for a run for an astonishing eighth straight championship. Veteran mentor Robert Shields just can't seem to do anything but win! His system is tried and true, so don't expect him to deviate from the norm. They start late and play long building momentum like a runaway freight train that

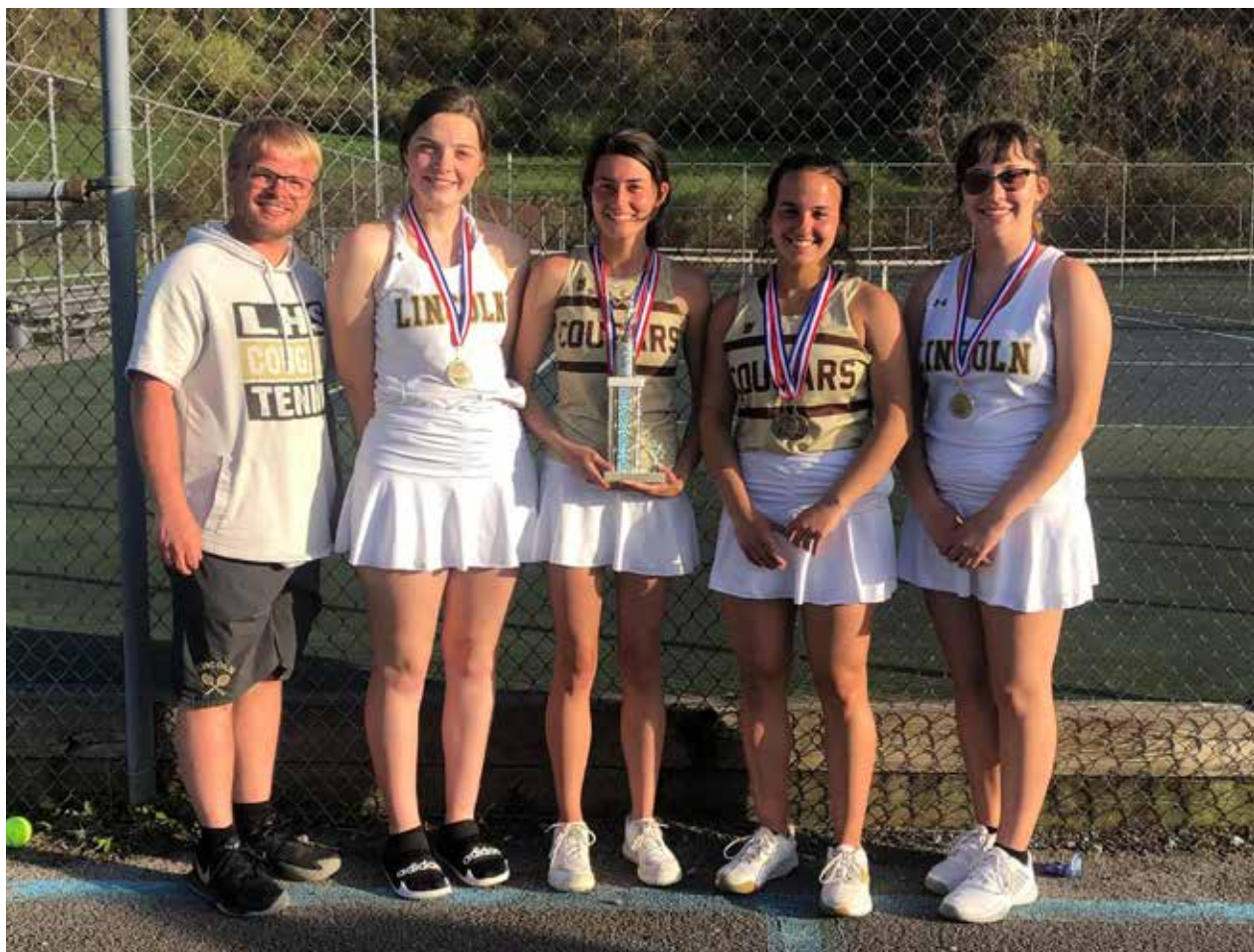
derails opponents en route to title town.

Most Harrison County teams start their post-season around mid-March. The Tribe hits the diamond at the start of May. The extra time allows Shields to work with the newcomers and to build cohesiveness prior to play. It also enables him to play more games heading into the second season, which builds momentum at the most significant time possible.

Shields doesn't back away from anyone during the season. He will play not only the best teams in West Virginia but surrounding states as well. He will use those matchups as measuring sticks to evaluate his players' performances under these pressure-packed lockups. Every year they lose a handful of games (at the time of this article, they had lost four games, which is the same number of setbacks as a year ago), which keeps his squad humble and hungry.

Shields will lean on his upperclassmen for leadership. Years prior, they had gained valuable playing time and opportunities to contribute so when the spotlight is on, they are prepared to excel. While this current crop of leaders is busy paving the way to Charleston, the youngsters are learning the system while being groomed to grab the reigns a couple years down the road. It takes a great deal of effort to maintain the program at a high level but that is what makes the team and this run so special.

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



The Lincoln High School girls tennis team members were named Big 10 Girls Overall Team Champions last month. Left to right: Coach Vinny DeMarco, Kylee Freeman, Madison Merrill, Keri Yanero, and Raelyn Vance. Courtesy photo.



DeMarco was also named Big 10 Coach of the Year. . Courtesy photo.

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# OBITUARIES

**Harry Sanford Ferrell, Jr.**



Harry Sanford Ferrell, Jr., 47, of Gypsy, passed away on Friday, April 22, 2022, at United Hospital Center. He was born July 2, 1974 in Farmington, MI to the late Harry Sanford Ferrell, Sr. and Bonnie Loucinda (Dean) Ferrell.

Harry is survived by two daughters: Amy Morrison and significant other, Donald Cottingham, of Clarksburg and Nicole Morrison of Grafton; one son, Bryan Morrison and fiancé, William Soles; one brother, Gary Ferrell of Lumberport; four sisters: Tammy Rohrbough and husband Jerry of Weston, Cindy Hughes and husband David of Clarksburg, Pamela Ramsey and husband George, III of Clarksburg, and Shelby Powers and husband Larry of Clarksburg; Nick and Justin Polings and Zach and Meranda Rohrbough, as well as many more nieces, nephews and cousins.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his significant other, Lisa Morrison.

In keeping with Harry's wishes, he will be cremated.

**Mary Winifred "Winnie" Hayhurst**



Mary Winifred "Winnie" Hayhurst, 91, of Mount Clare, passed away on Saturday, April 23, 2022 at the Clarksburg Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, with her family by her side.

Mary was born on June

11, 1930 in Clarksburg, WV, a daughter of the late Wilbur W. and Z. Mildred Hitt Casto.

She was married to George E. Hayhurst on September 17, 1948 and he preceded her in death on May 9, 1986. They were married for 38 years.

She is survived by her three children, George "Ed" Hayhurst and his wife Belinda of Mount Clare, Joyce Jenkins and her husband Larry of Clarksburg and Darlene Wheeler of Diamond, OH; six grandchildren, Todd Wheeler and his wife Amy of Ravanna, OH, Tim Wheeler and his wife Kristine of Newton Falls, OH, Tammy Hornof and her husband David of Deerfield, OH, Eddie Jenkins and his wife Stephanie of Clarksburg, Heather Nutter and her husband Nate of Lost Creek and Jessica Barnett and her husband Dave of Clarksburg; fourteen great-grandchildren, Reese, Rachel, Robin, Tyler, Tabby, Shianne, Grace, Kyle, Kaley, Wyatt, Jordan, Liam, Seth and Leah; three great-great-grandchildren, Kylie, Baylee and Addison; as well as several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband and parents she was preceded in death by her two brothers, Robert and Dale Casto; two sisters, Patty Castagnola and Ann Singleton; son-in-law Leroy Wheeler; and her sister-in-law, Ruth Casto; Mary was the last surviving member of her immediate family.

Winnie was a graduate of Lumberport High School Class of 1948. She spent her career as a seamstress having worked for Stone & Thomas Department Store and Clarksburg Sewing Center. She was Christian by faith and a member of the Mount Clare United Methodist Church for over sixty years where she also taught Sunday school for over thirty years. She belonged to the United Methodist Women's Society and held membership at the Clara Rebekah Lodge and the Senior Center of Harrison County.

A funeral service was held on Friday, April 29,

2022 at 11:00 am with Reverend Brian Plum officiating. Interment followed in the Floral Hills Memorial Gardens.

Expressions of sympathy may be extended to the family at www.amoscarvelli.com

A service of Amos Carvelli Funeral Home.

**Robin B. Schell**



Robin B. Schell, 64, of Shinnston, went home to be with the Lord on April 22, 2022. She was born in Youngstown, OH on October 17, 1957, to the late Robert Lee Ledsome Sr. and Georgia (Bowman) Ledsome. She is preceded in death by her husband, Fred Lee Schell, whom she married July 3, 1989. Robin is survived by her son Earl M. Schell of Shinnston, WV; brother Robert Lee Ledsome of Princeton, WV, brother Harry Jack Ledsome of Mannington; and sister-in-law Toinita Ledsome of Mannington, WV.

Robin previously worked at Wishing Well Nursing Home, Holiday Inn, KFC, and St. Barbara's Nursing Home. She was a member of the Church of God of Prophecy and was an Official Pastor Booster. Robin loved the Lord and read her Bible daily, prayed, enjoyed listening and singing to Gospel music, and doing word search puzzles.

Friends were received at Harmer Funeral Home on Saturday, April 30, 2022 from 11:00AM to 1:00PM. A funeral service followed at the funeral home with Pastor Kay Lake, Michael Cartwright, and Jerry Garrett.

Online memories and condolences may be shared at Harmerfuneralhome.com

A service of Harmer Funeral Home, Shinnston.

# Out Of The Past

Memorable Photographs from around Harrison County.



Advertising signs were located where the present Lincoln High's parking lot is. The house in the background was the old Rice homeplace. Photo courtesy of Bobby Bice.

"Minigh" Cont. from Pg. 5.

as comfortable as possible for patients. Last year, the building underwent remodeling. Minigh said the goal was to make everything "bigger and brighter." In the new waiting room, they also added iPads to entertain waiting kids.

Minigh began working at the office as an associate with a previous dentist before taking over the practice in 2011. He said school prepared him for providing dental services, but he's had to learn some of the other aspects of the work, including how to balance paying employees well while keeping prices affordable, on the job. They haven't raised customer rates in several years. Minigh said he knows many patients are low-income.

There is no charge for the annual Easter Egg Hunt, which saw a particularly large



Dr. Andrea Kinder



Dr. Andrew Minigh

turnout this year. Minigh said he wanted to host an event that kids could get excited about without parents having to worry about the expense.

Hundreds of kids came out to find about 1,200 eggs and treats, as well as balloon animals, popcorn and lemonade. Family also received gift bags, which included treats for parents as well, such as gift cards. They also received more help this year, Minigh said, including help from

Chick-Fil-A, Gibby's, McDonald's and Texas Roadhouse. Blackwell LLC was also a sponsor.

Minigh has "a giving heart," Kinder said. "People coming to see us, that helps provide a life for us so that we can provide for our family," she said.

In return, they want to give back, she said.

The dental office's Shinnston location is at 407 Pike Street and the phone number is 304-590-0600. In Glenville, it's located at 809 Mineral Road.

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## Super Crossword

### Answers

A	S	P	E	C	T	R	I	V	A	L	S	J	A	G	G	E	R	S	
L	O	A	T	H	E	I	R	O	N	I	C	A	R	A	L	S	E	A	
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P	O	N	T	I	U	S	S	O	R	E	S	T	S	M	A	R	T	Y	

## United Way in running for grant

United Way of Harrison and Doddridge Counties is one of four organizations representing West Virginia and the sole United Way in the running to be chosen to receive a \$25,000 grant courtesy of the State Farm Neighborhood Assist Program, according to a news release.

Voting at www.neighborhoodassist.com ends Friday.

The State Farm Review Committee has narrowed the field to the Top

200 finalists and the final decision as to which community improvement project wins is decided by a majority public vote.

"Anyone, 18 years of age and older, anywhere can vote...doesn't matter if they're in California or Clarksburg!" said Aimee J Comer, fundraising and community development director for the United Way of Harrison and Doddridge Counties.

"Amsterdam" Cont. from Pg. 1.



During a tour of Amsterdam, Jim Hunt got to see the Anne Frank statue. Photo by Jim Hunt.

was susceptible to flooding, the houses had hooks protruding from the top of the buildings to hoist up the spice to the top floors for storage.

Our fellow passengers on the cruise were a mixture of people from throughout the world. Sitting across from us were four young guys from the Philadelphia area who were celebrating a bachelor party. They were in a good mood and drank their share of wine, right up to the end of the cruise. Sara explained that in the old days, the canals were often very smelly and polluted. As public sewage treatment came into favor, the tourists flocked to the scenic waterways and Amsterdam became a favorite vacation spot for people from throughout the world. She also said

that most residents had small gardens in the back of their homes.

Some of the houses along the canal are leaning in different directions and it is quite noticeable to the naked eye. Sara explained that much of the city is built on wooden pilings and after many years, the wood rots and the houses lean. When they get too bad, they are demolished but many people put up with the off-kilter houses.

Amsterdam is a very walkable city and we enjoyed walking along the cobblestone streets and keeping an eye out for bicycles. There are hundreds of shops and restaurants, and we enjoyed some delicious meals. Our granddaughter Avery ordered some French Toast at a small café and it was one of her favorite meals on the trip. The city is very safe and easy to get around and the weather was in the mid-60s, which made it even more enjoyable.

## Students of the Month recognized

In a news release, Lincoln High School has named the students of the month for March.



Matthew Robert Chevront

Matthew Robert Chevront is the son of David and Mary Chevront and the grandson of Roger and Sharon Chevront and Robert and Anne Bevacqua.

Throughout his four years at Lincoln, Matthew has earned a spot on the honor roll due to his exceptional grades. He is in the top 25 of his class and has qualified as a PROMISE scholar. Matthew has taken many college-level classes throughout high school, which will have earned him 18 college credit hours upon graduation, and he received Top Scholar in classes. Also noteworthy is the fact that Matthew has received the highest SAT scores in the entire school.

Matthew has been a member of DECA, Drug Free Club, Ping Pong Club, Escape Room Club, Key Club, and National Honor Society. He has also been a three-year member of the varsity baseball team.

Outside of school, Matthew enjoys boating, fishing, and snow skiing.

Matthew will attend West Virginia University this fall where he will earn a bachelor's degree in Exercise Physiology and then hopes to be admitted to WVU's School of Physical Therapy to become a physical therapist.



Trace William Scott Lane

Trace William Scott Lane is the son of Mark and Tresa Lane of Shinnston. He is the grandson of Marion and Brenda Lane and Carol (Thompson) Kisner, the step-grandson of Gary Kisner of Lumberport, and the grandson of the late Marshall Flowers of Lumberport and the step-grandson of the late Bill Thompson of Lumberport.

Trace has maintained a 4.0 GPA and has made the perfect honor roll all four years at Lincoln High School. He has received many top Scholar Awards and has received certifications in Office Access, Office Excel, PowerPoint, Office Word, Office outlook and Adobe photoshop.

Trace is also a member of the National Honor Society and has been an active member of the marching, concert, and pep band for all four years of high school. He is also a member of the Gaming Club. Trace has taken college classes at Fairmont State University during his senior year in which he currently has 4.0 in all classes.

Trace has been accepted into the Computer Science with Cybersecurity program at Fairmont State University. He also plans to minor in Gaming at Fairmont State University.

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At Lincoln High School's prom Saturday, Myla Milano was named the prom queen and Westin Heldreth was named prom king. Courtesy photos.



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