

The SHINNSTON News & Journal HARRISON COUNTY

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Focusing on local news throughout Harrison County.



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Shinnston's opioid settlement money could be "a chance"

By Maralisa Marra

Shinnston will receive nearly \$70,000 in settlement funding, of about \$290 million West Virginia will receive from lawsuits settled against opioid manufacturers in recent months.

Shinnston officials have said the city plans to put its funds towards the demolition of dilapidated properties that attract the use of drugs, as well as drug dealing.

Pharmacist and owner Yvonne West of Shinnston's local pharmacy, ProCare Pharmacy, said she doesn't think demolishing houses would directly address the problem.

"The people that walk the street, they just won't have a place to go," she said. "That's all that's going to do. They'll find somewhere else to go."

Several healthcare providers, as well as people in recovery, say the money could have a bigger impact if directed toward help for people with substance use disorder. Although funding is limited, the city could apply for more, or work with surrounding areas on a regional plan.

Shinnston may have a rare opportunity to help those struggling with homelessness and addiction because "it is still a community unlike most areas," and "everybody knows everybody in Shinnston," said Lou Ortenzio, executive director of the Clarksburg Mission.

"Shinnston has a chance maybe to make a difference because of that [community] strength. You know, you're not strangers to each other. You all are neighbors," Ortenzio said.

Settlement is part of "a giant puzzle"

Over the last several months, West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey announced several settlements with opioid manufacturers Endo Health Solutions, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Teva Pharmaceuticals, and Allergan, totalling \$290 million for drug abatement efforts.

Shinnston's share of the money recovered is 0.0968%, said Warren R. "Randolph" McGraw II, one of several attorneys who represent municipalities in separate lawsuits against the three branches of the opioid industry—manufacturers, distributors, and pharmacies—that many affected communities say are responsible for the epidemic.

"They targeted the blue-collar areas of the country where men and women go out and labor [in] physically hard jobs, and so they started marketing and selling this drug [OxyContin] as a cure-all for everything, basically," McGraw said.

Of the settlement funding, 0.0968% of the \$290 million dollars is \$280,720. Shinnston will actually recover 24.5% of that sum which equals around \$68,800, McGraw said.

Shinnston could still receive more money. McGraw noted that manufacturers only represent one of the three branches of the opioid industry—manufacturers, distributors, and pharmacies.

He also said that 72.5% of the money will go to a regional abatement fund, while another 3% will be held by the state. The state will be broken up into six regions, he said.

The city would have to apply for the rest of the money.

Also, more lawsuits are ongoing. While the state settled lawsuits with the "Big Three" opioid distributors in 2017 and 2019, including \$37 million with distributor McKesson in 2019, and \$20 million with Cardinal Health and \$16 million with AmerisourceBergen in 2017, according to the Associated Press, cities and counties decided to take those same companies on in their own lawsuit in pursuit of more funding. On July 5, municipalities were scheduled to go to trial in a lawsuit against distributors AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health, and McKesson.

However, that trial was postponed.

In West Virginia, 54 counties and over half of the cities participated in the mass litigation. Huntington and Cabell County had decided to sue on their own, in an attempt to recover more money—\$2.5 billion

See "A Chance" on Pg 3.



From left to right, Albert Aichele, Donald Edgell, Alissa Buck, and Mike Wolford gather at the front of the Mission in Clarksburg, where they found help achieving recovery. Residents of the Mission shared ideas about how opioid settlement money could help others in recovery. Photo by Maralisa Marra.



Raelyn Vance, a 2022 graduate of Lincoln High School, earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest achievement within the Girl Scouts of the USA.

Raelyn Vance earns highest Girl Scout achievement

Only 5.4% of eligible Girl Scouts earn Gold Award

By Lynn Williams Vance

When Raelyn Vance, a 2022 graduate of Lincoln High School, decided to join Girl Scouts in the second grade, she had no idea what possibilities would lie ahead of her. She thought joining the organization would allow her to do fun things with her friends, and most importantly, sell cookies.

Not only did it give her those opportunities, having sold nearly 12,000 boxes of cookies during her scouting career, but it also allowed her to complete many activities that would help her community. Most recently, Vance completed her Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest achievement within the Girl Scouts of the USA, earned by Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts. Only 5.4% of eligible Girl Scouts successfully earn the Gold Award.

Fulfilling the requirements for the Gold Award starts with completing two Senior or Ambassador Journeys or having earned the Silver Award and completing one Senior or Ambassador Journey. After having fulfilled the Journey requirement, 80 hours is the suggested minimum amount of time for completing the steps: identifying an issue, investigating it thoroughly, getting help

See "Achievement" on Pg 4.

Help for the Humane Society



Home Style's Girls Night Out returned Thursday, July 7. Owner Amanda Sayers, pictured, partnered with the Humane Society of Harrison County for the comeback of the event. The Humane Society of Harrison County was to receive 20% of sales during the event, and puppies and kitties were also available for adoption. Dinner was

provided for donations, and desserts were available for sale from Sweet Events Bakery. Sweet

Events also raffled off a cake and a seat in one of their cookie-decorating classes, and all proceeds from the raffle went to the Humane Society, as well. Organizers also had dollar donation drawings for

prizes. Photo by Maralisa Marra.

Shinnston residents to contact city for yard repair

Following "tense" start, water company, city agree

By Maralisa Marra

Following a meeting with city officials, Ferguson Waterworks, the company contracted to install automatic water meter readers for Shinnston residents, said that some yards remain torn up because one crew is responsible for installation and one crew is responsible for yard repair.

City officials added that residents should call the City Building if their yards remain in disrepair, and city officials will put them in touch with Ferguson Waterworks, which is based out of Columbus, Ohio.

During the City Council meeting June 13, city officials said city workers have had to remedy installation problems that should be Ferguson's responsibility, and that Ferguson workers are tearing up yards. Councilman Pat Kovalck had said city workers had to repair a leak at his residence.

In emails the following week, Ferguson Waterworks

See "Repair" on Pg 8.

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of
Harrison County

Stonewood holds grand celebration

Over the Fourth of July holiday weekend, a local community celebrated its 75th anniversary of becoming a city and it was a memorable occasion. The City of Stonewood came into existence on Dec. 17, 1947, when the town of Stonewall Park and the town of Norwood joined forces during the post-World War II timeframe.

Harrison County was one of the fastest-growing counties in the state and glass factories made up a large part of the economic development. The Pittsburgh Plate Glass factory was a large complex and was located along Elk Creek in the newly formed Stonewood. The tight-knit community has remained one of the nicest places to live in Harrison County, with a variety of housing options and a low crime rate.

See "Hunt" on Pg 3.



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

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Guest Column

By Charlotte Lane

**PSC public comment hearings
are important**

By Charlotte Lane

Chair, West Virginia Public Service Commission

The Public Service Commission has scheduled several public comment hearings on various cases for this summer. Most of the hearings are for an electric rate case but there are hearings scheduled for gas and sewer cases as well.

During the pandemic, the Commission was unable to hold public comment hearings in person and relied instead on video conferences, online comments and letters to learn about your concerns. Commissioners Lerrick and Raney and I are glad things are getting back to normal and are very much looking forward to seeing constituents in person as we travel around the state.

Public comment hearings give us the opportunity to meet face-to-face with you, the ratepayers. We often ask questions about customers' personal experiences with the utility company. This gives us more insight into the real-world problems and issues that customers face. In fact, we have often pursued questions from the bench at evidentiary hearings that stem from information and incidents we learned about during a public comment hearing. So, you see, what you say really does count and is taken into consideration while we strive to balance the interests of the state, the utility and the ratepayers, as the PSC is charged to do.

Our goal is to get as much feedback from the public as possible at public comment hearings. Your input is a critical element in our decision-making process, so the more people we hear from, the better. Most of our public comment hearings are well attended. Some have been standing room only. But we have also had occasions when no one showed up.

Here are a couple of tips to make the most of your time when speaking at a public comment hearing. First, either make notes or write out your comments. This will help you make sure you have included all the points you want to make and that you haven't left out anything important. Remember that the court reporter is recording what you say for the official record, so please speak clearly.

I hope to see you at a public comment hearing this summer.

Correction

In an opinion column June 30, The Shinnston News and Harrison County Journal inaccurately described Mike Caputo's role in the West Virginia Legislature. He is a senator. The newspaper regrets the error.

THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

July 14, 1861: Union troops under Gen. Jacob Cox drove Confederate militia and cavalry out of Barboursville during the Battle of Barboursville. Union forces remained in control of Barboursville for the remainder of the war.

July 15, 1886: Congressman Cleveland Monroe "Cleve" Bailey was born on a farm in Pleasants County. He represented West Virginia's 3rd Congressional District for eight terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, 1945-47 and 1949-63.

July 15, 1988: Interstate 64 was completed when the final section between Sam Black Church and the West Virginia Turnpike was opened to traffic.

July 16, 1869: Philanthropist Michael Late Benedum was born in Bridgeport. He made a fortune in the oil and gas business, but he is best remembered for the establishment of the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

July 17, 1861: The Battle of Scary Creek took place in Putnam County. It was one of the earliest battles of the war and one of the first Confederate victories.

July 17, 1914: Singer Eleanor Steber was born in Wheeling. She made her debut with the Metropolitan Opera in 1940.

July 17, 1922: The Cliftonville Mine Battle took place east of Wellsburg in Brooke County. The gun battle between striking miners and sheriff's forces left at least nine people dead.

July 18, 1776: The Methodist bishop Francis Asbury first set foot in present West Virginia outside of Berkeley Springs. He worked extensively in what is now the Eastern Panhandle, preaching and lecturing almost

ACROSS

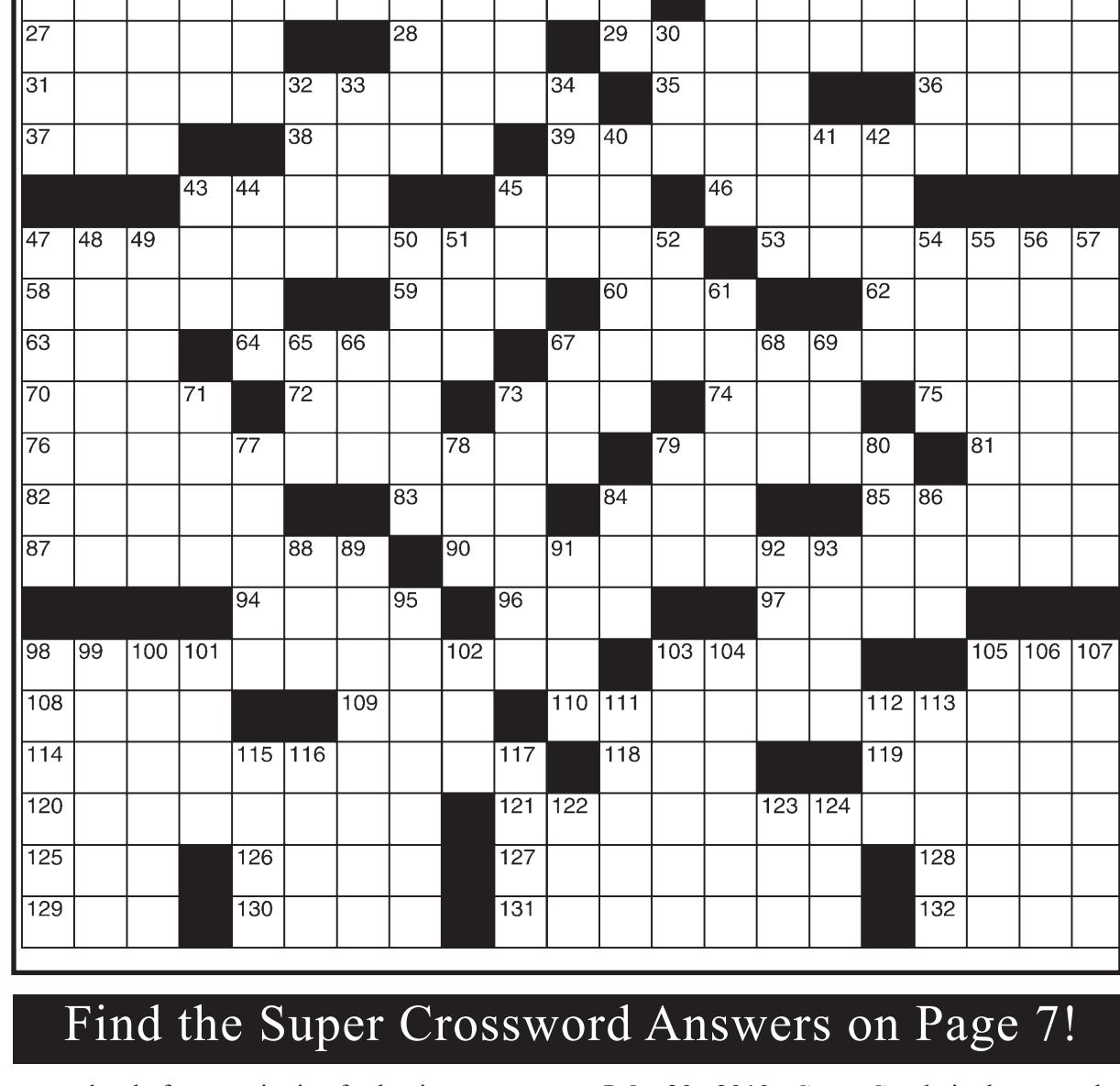
1 Jason's ship
5 Categorized
12 Schoolboys
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19 Coffee bit
20 Sea cow
21 "Orinoco
Flow" singer
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25 Toy-package
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27 1950s politico
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28 — -CIO
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Cowboy"?35 Barber's stuff
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38 — -bitsy
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63 Hank in the
Basketball
Hall of Fame
64 Floats in the
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67 Make a
genetic
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Wolf Man"?70 Jules Verne
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73 Dawn
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75 Muscle jerks
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director of
"Splash"?79 In districts
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82 Broadcaster
83 Rumpus
84 Stable feed
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"Travesties"?94 "Me neither"96 — so sorry!"
97 — so sorry!"
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Europeans"?103 Rational
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to birds
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110 Spill hot
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"Iron Man"?114 Kidnap
the star of
"Madam
Secretary"?118 Mil. jets' site
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125 Certain pipe
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126 Provided
127 Retired
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128 Ladder rung
129 Certain pipe
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130 Mimicked
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132 Former
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DOWN

1 Something
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14 Batik worker
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16 Soho setting
17 Actor Levy
18 Hot dog
24 Mae West's
"Diamond" —
26 Intro painting
course, say
30 Self-love
32 Be inclined
33 Tingly feeling
34 1974 CIA
spoof flick
40 Lubes again

THREE-TO-FIVE
FIRST NAMES

41 Glass edge
42 Piaf of song
43 Phone game,
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44 Another time
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47 Gab,
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49 Infatuates
50 Capital of
Canada
51 Moms
52 Sgt., say
54 Flawlessly
55 African land
56 Ballot caster
57 Bedtime hour
61 Delights in
65 Relief sound
66 "Alice"
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67 Cape —
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71 Law school
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77 Marvelous
78 Radio spots
79 Electric jolt
80 Dimwit
84 "Let's see ..."
86 "Says You!"
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88 "Eat — Chickin"
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slogan)
103 "On
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104 Even though
105 A lot like
106 Wood
overlay
107 Composed
and ready for
printing
111 "The Alienist"
novelist Carr
112 "As — care!"
113 Crooner Cline
115 Women's
Open org.
116 Hurdle
117 "Yeah, right"
122 Tall bird
123 164-nation
commerce
gp.
124 Au courant



Find the Super Crossword Answers on Page 7!

every day, before continuing farther into western Virginia.

July 18, 1893: Spencer State Hospital opened. With its connected brick buildings, a quarter mile in length, the hospital was sometimes referred to as the longest continuous brick building in America. Spencer State Hospital remained in operation until June 1989.

July 19, 1863: A Confederate raid led by Gen. John Morgan came to an end on Buffington Island, near Ravenswood. The Confederates were overtaken by federal troops, local militia, and three U.S. Navy gunboats.

July 19, 1946: Author Stephen Coonts was born in Morgantown. After graduating from West Virginia University and serving in the navy during the Vietnam War, Coonts became a best-selling action and adventure novelist with the 1986 publication of "Flight of the Intruder."

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July 20, 2010: Carte Goodwin became the nation's youngest senator when he took the oath of office. Goodwin was appointed to fill Robert C. Byrd's seat in the U.S. Senate following Byrd's death.

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](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org) at 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. Send via email to newsandjournal@yahoo.com.

Used Book Sale

July 7-July 29
Bridgeport Public Library
1200 Johnson Ave. Bridgeport
Monday-Friday 11 a.m.- 7 p.m.
Saturday 11 a.m.- 2 p.m.
304-842-8248 for more information

Lunch at the Library

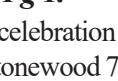
Weekdays, July - August 12
Free lunch, 12 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Kids 18 years & under
Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library
404 W. Pike St., Clarksburg, WV, 26301
Registration is not required.
Please do not leave your children unattended.

American Legion Auxiliary

Thursday, July 21
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 31 monthly meeting
Covered dish dinner 6 p.m.; bring one of your favorites.
Meeting 7 p.m. Post 31, Shinnston

Designer Purse and 31 Bingo

Sunday, July 24- 1:30 p.m.
Door open at noon, early birds 1 p.m.
20 games \$20, 21st game \$1
Harrison County Senior Center
500 W Main St, Clarksburg, WV 26301
Sponsored by the GFWC Woman's Club of Bridgeport
Proceeds go to little red wagon (transportation for kids at St. Jude's Children's Hospital)



"Hunt" From Pg 1.

Putting together a celebration of any kind requires a lot of effort and the Stonewood 75th anniversary was no exception. A committee began planning activities over a year ago. Most of the activities were centered around the Stonewood Volunteer Fire Department and the large, paved area was filled with vendors, food trucks, a stage and inflatable bouncy houses. The CENTRA trolley was giving tours of the community and it was one of the more popular activities with dozens of attendees riding around the neighborhoods and hearing from the tour guide, one of which was Mayor Jim Terango. Parking was readily available along the grassy areas next to Elk Creek and along many of the streets near the fire department.

As with any outdoor event, the weather was a factor and the cloudy skies opened occasionally but didn't dampen the spirits of the attendees. My wife and I visited the celebration on Saturday and joined hundreds of visitors enjoying the event. We had a delicious sandwich of Italian Sausage and some fresh-squeezed lemonade, which was one of the best I have ever had. We sat near the stage and enjoyed the Layne Dancers as they entertained the crowd. There was even a visit by Batman and Wonder Woman, who arrived in the huge Batmobile that parked near the stage.

As we walked through the crowd, we saw many people we recognized, including Harrison County Circuit Clerk and former Sheriff, Albert Marano and his wife, as well as Harrison County Delegate Ben Queen. I also saw Crystal Johnson, Stonewood's office manager, who was busy throughout the event helping get everyone in the right place and working with the many volunteers. It was incredible how well organized the events were and how everyone worked together to make the event special.

As someone who has attended hundreds of events in cities and towns across the country, the Stonewood celebration seemed to check all the boxes for putting on an Amazing event. A consistent comment that I heard, as I walked among the crowd, was the desire to continue the event on a yearly basis. While I know it is a lot of work and requires a lot of coordination, I would agree that this would be a wonderful celebration to add to the many festivals and events throughout Harrison County.

If you weren't able to attend this year's event, you missed an Amazing time in one of West Virginia's Amazing Cities.



"A Chance" From Pg 1.

for a 15-year plan—for an area widely viewed as the epicenter of the opioid crisis.

The trial was postponed, according to The Herald-Dispatch, because on July 4, Senior Judge for the Southern District of West Virginia David A. Faber ruled in favor of the distributors AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health, and McKesson in the Huntington and Cabell County lawsuit.

McGraw said there are various ways in which each city and county can utilize their settlement funds. Counties have struggles to pay regional jail bills, he noted. Cities, meanwhile, have struggled to tear down abandoned buildings, he said. McGraw also said that the fund could assist cities with their police department costs, but he noted that these are "just a few examples."

He said that hopefully on a regional level, the settlement funds for the region can go to treatment facilities.

"We could debate how cost effective perhaps this piece or that piece is, and it's probably going to be different for every city and every county and every region of West Virginia, but it's a giant puzzle and every piece needs to be addressed," according to McGraw. He also noted that "it just comes down to the financial ability and willingness of the local governments."

"I think that every piece of the puzzle is important," McGraw said.

While city officials have previously said they wanted to spend the money on demolishing dilapidated structures, new Mayor Rodney Strait added that the city is early in the planning process and only recently learned how much money they would receive. "It's kind of up in the air for us," Strait said, "We haven't made any plans on how to spend it."

Recovery requires support

A group of about a dozen residents at the Mission in Clarksburg, who have personal experience with substance use disorder, recently met to discuss ways the money could be spent that would have helped them enter recovery.

The Mission offers a variety of programs that focus on recovery from substance use disorder. They offer shelter, sober living homes, 12-step programs, Bible studies, and recovery coaching, among other services.

They talked about many options like implementing better prevention programs in schools, recovery coaches, demolition of dilapidated buildings, sober living homes, harm reduction, and Suboxone clinics.

Residents said that for them to recover, support from others was crucial.

"When I came here [the Mission], I was in complete denial," said one of the residents, Mike Wolford. "I was just looking for a bed, and I'm glad that the staff took me in, and I was able to realize that I had a lot of mental illness issues that I needed to work on that I was just pretending didn't exist."

"I wanted to be, you know, not outside anymore, but I'm so grateful for friends that helped me get here and Lou and everybody that took me in," said Albert Aichele, another recovering resident. "I'm so grateful for that because it's exactly what I needed—my life was a mess, and I needed off of drugs and alcohol, and it has been a blessing ever since."

Chad Claypool reflected on why he went into recovery, as well.

"I knew if I stayed out there that I was going to spend the rest of my life in prison, so I came into recovery, went to rehab, I didn't believe in God or anything like that, and I heard about this place [the Mission], and they said it was Christian based," he said. "So, I was like, 'You know, that's the only thing I haven't tried in life.' I haven't put my trust in God or believing in God to change my situation around, so I went from one rehab to this one, and yeah, since I've been here, I finally started believing in God which I never thought I would do. It really changed my life around."

Residents said they believed support from others would also help others enter recovery. Of all the options they discussed, they believe money put toward recovery coaches would be the most effective at combating the overdose crisis. Peer recovery coaches are people in long-term recovery who use their lived experiences and training to help others enter recovery.

"I don't think that demolition alone is going to actually solve anything because they're still going

to be homeless. They're just going to have to find somewhere else to stay," Wolford said.

Claypool had another idea that could potentially regenerate funds for the city, "A sober living house regenerates money, they charge them rent and everything else."

He also noted those programs hold residents accountable and create structure and stability.

"Sober living helps people because then they have to go to [Narcotics Anonymous] or [Alcoholics Anonymous]—it's more than just bringing them off the street," Claypool said.

Residents were most in support of the idea of having recovery coaches readily available for anyone struggling with addiction in Shinnston and surrounding areas. A poll was taken, and recovery coaches took the lead.

While Shinnston's money wouldn't go far toward salaries, residents also said that recovery coaches can be part-time, and they are even accessible virtually. Help4WV offers recovery coach services both in person and virtually.

"Find people that are in recovery, and maybe they could be leaders like Lou," said another resident, Alissa Buck.

Healthcare providers: help starts "on the ground"

The Clarksburg Treatment Center provides outpatient care to people struggling with opioid addiction. They offer medication-assisted treatment, which research shows saves lives and helps people achieve recovery. They offer multiple types of medication: methadone, buprenorphine, naltrexone, and Suboxone.

Medical Director at the Clarksburg Treatment Center Dr. Robert Phares said the office provides counseling first, noting that "so much of addiction is the mental, emotional side."

Upon hearing of the \$68,800 in settlement money coming to Shinnston, Phares' mind immediately went to transportation.

"So I was thinking, '68 grand?'" he said. "Could that buy a van? Could that be part of the ambulance service or the fire service?"

"I've got several Shinnston patients, and I know for certain that several times, they've had difficulty coming into their office visits," Phares said.

West, pharmacist and owner of ProCare Pharmacy, and her employees have experienced a couple issues with people who are homeless throwing away backpacks of their belongings in the pharmacy's trash bin. But rather than putting the funds towards the demolition of dilapidated buildings, West believes the best way to help abate the drug issue in the Shinnston area is to find someone—maybe a social worker, a recovery coach, or someone from a rehabilitation or recovery program—to connect people who are homeless and struggling with substance use disorder to detox, rehabilitation, and recovery programs.

If the city decides to use the funds on dilapidated properties, West noted some buildings could be converted into treatment facilities.

"They have to do something directly on the ground," West said, "They have to go out, go down in these little camps that these people have, and basically have some bread and peanut butter, and go in there, and say, 'Listen, we want to help you. What do you need? We want you out of this situation. What is it going to take?'"

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GRAPEVINE

By Rosalyn Queen

It's tiella time

We all know what a good tiella is, and when one of the first vegetables in the garden is a zucchini, then we can have that first tiella because zucchini is the key vegetable of this delectable dish.

In some of the research I have done I found that tiella means a "big pot." I suppose that is how this dish got its name. It also is known to have the meaning of "oven-dish," and there are a number of different variations to this Italian dish.

My secret to a good tiella is the type of pot you use. Back in the day, my mother always used a round baking dish with a lid or a Dutch oven with a tight-fitting lid. We found that the best way to make a good tiella was to bake it in the oven, but modern times has made it easy to make it in a crock pot or to cook it on the stove in a heavy-lidded pot.

The most popular contents used in a tiella are one medium sized zucchini sliced, one medium onion sliced, two bell peppers sliced, four hot

Hungarian wax peppers sliced, six medium sized potatoes peeled and sliced, and one small can of tomato sauce. This serves four people.

Put two tablespoons of vegetable oil in the bottom of the container and start layering the vegetables beginning with the potatoes. Between each layer of potatoes, onions, peppers, and zucchini sprinkle some Parmesan cheese and spread several tablespoons of tomato sauce. Continue layering the vegetables until all have been used.

Top the vegetables with a heavy layer of Parmesan cheese. Then, put in a 350-degree oven and bake until all the vegetables are tender. If cooking in a crock pot, cook on high for about three hours. If cooking on top of the stove, cook on medium heat until vegetables are tender.

You will find that modern cooks add some type of meat sauce to their tiella, but we never did this because this dish was considered a "poor man's dish," and we did not have extra meat.

Everyone was anxious to have the first tiella with the fresh vegetables out of the garden. Generally, this casserole was served by itself with fresh bread and a garden salad. It can also make a good side vegetable dish for your meal.

I encourage you all to visit your local farmers' market and get some fresh vegetables. I picked up some delicious tomatoes this week and made a great salad with them.

Stay safe, enjoy summer, and until next week, "Now You Have Heard It Through The Grapevine."

"Achievement" From Pg 1.

help and building a team, creating a plan, presenting your plan, gathering feedback, taking action, and educating and inspiring others.

For her Gold Award, titled "Music for the Youth," Vance, an LHS band student at the time, came up with an idea for her project that would not only help the high school band, but her former middle school band as well. To address the issue of forgotten items often left behind when students go away to band camp, Vance came up with the idea to donate a portable toolbox to the organization and fill it with donated hygiene items and other

"It seemed to work," said Vance. "We had 29 students from the elementary schools attend."

Kimble also thought the first-ever clinic was a success and hopes he can continue the project Vance started, which is a Gold Award requirement.

"It was an astounding success," said Kimble. "We had a great amount of student participation and I found that each day we were getting more and more kids. That's how you know it is going well. The kids had a great time playing their instruments and I had a great time introducing them to middle school." For each day of the clinic, Kimble set up stations where the students participated in various musical activities. "I think the biggest positive is that the kids had fun making music," he said. "In the long term, I think this will lead to kids going back and telling their friends how much fun band is, which will hopefully lead to more and more wanting to be a part of what we are doing here at LMS."

Kim Smith, Big Elm Elementary band director, also participated in the clinic. She said the clinic is a great system to have in place to solidify students' switch to middle school.

"This is a great way for fifth graders to test the waters of middle school band before they get to middle school," Smith said. "This is also a great recruitment opportunity for the middle school and will help bridge the gap between fifth and sixth grade."

Big Elm fifth-grade saxophonist Isabella Partain wasn't sure she wanted to play in the band when she entered middle school, but said the clinic helped her to make the decision to play.

"The step-up clinic has definitely helped me as well as meeting Mr. Kimble, getting to play new music, and meeting others in the band," said Partain. "Doing the step-up clinic makes me feel prepared for middle school band."

Lumberport fifth-grade percussionist Kadyn Gump said after attending the clinic, he is excited for middle school band.

"I thought attending this event would be fun and I'd get to play more. I'm excited about middle school band now," he said.

LHS Senior Percussionist Braden Hamrick volunteered to help with the clinic.

"I was glad to help because I love teaching the kids music and how to play an instrument," said Hamrick. "I'm also a Boy Scout working on my Eagle Scout project and thought it would be great to help Raelyn with her scout project."

Vance also earned her Girl Scout Silver Award in the eighth grade. Her 50-hour project included making bears out of microfiber cloths for WVU Children's Hospital in Morgantown.

The portable was first used in the summer of 2019 at band camp prior to the COVID-19 shutdown. Although it has not been utilized at camp since this time, Vance said it has been used in the band room when a student needed a personal hygiene product. It was a second use for students she had not originally intended.

LHS students will return to band camp at the end of July where the portable will once again be utilized.

The second portion of the project was to address the issue of fifth-grade band students who often move on to middle school band without a program to get them acclimated.

"I came up with the idea to hold a band camp-like event that would introduce fifth grade band students entering the middle school band program to their director, their peers and new music," said Vance. "The director and myself came up with the idea to hold a 'step-up' clinic three days after school prior to the middle school end-of-the-year band concert."

Students from both feeder schools—Big Elm Elementary and Lumberport Elementary—were in attendance for the step-up clinic, a term the band director felt necessary to encourage students to attend. Vance said Lincoln Middle School band director John Kimble didn't want students to feel pressured that the camp was a requirement for middle school band.

As part of her Girl Scout Gold Award, Raelyn Vance came up with the idea to hold a band camp-like event that would introduce fifth grade band students entering the middle school band program to their director, their peers and new music.

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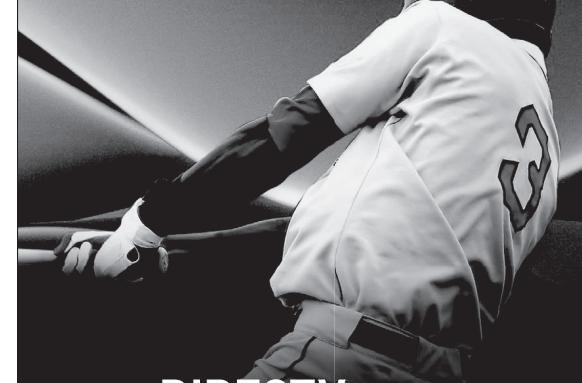
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HCSCC SPOTLIGHT

Featuring news from the Harrison County Senior Citizen Center

Center representatives on hand at Clarksburg events



Representatives of the senior center gathered at Clarksburg's First Friday event on June 3. From left to right, HCSCC Board President Bill O'Field, Betty Waddy, Jerry Riffle & son, Randall Lynch, & Beth Fitzgerald, HCSCC executive director.



The senior center participated in outreach activities on Saturdays between May 21 and June 18 at the Clarksburg Farmers Market. From left to right, Terri Bland; Amy Haberbosch Wilson, executive director of the Harrison County Economic Development Corporation; Lisa Sutton, Clarksburg Hilton Garden Inn director of sales and marketing; Clarksburg Mayor James Marino; and Bill O'Field, HCSCC board president.

Marshville Satellite members meet at Harrisville landmark



Marshville Satellite members visited Berdine's 5 and Dime, a West Virginia treasure that has been in operation since 1908, in Harrisville on June 1. They then stopped at the Fairview Dinner in West Union for an enjoyable lunch. From left to right are Tom McCarty, Sharon McCarty, Sue Maass, Vickie Clutter, Bob Clutter, Harley Jeffries, Patty Murphy, Cliff Marshall, Ruth Jeffries, Diane Clutter, Lynne Clutter, and Bill O'Field, HCSCC board president. One of the funny highlights of the trip was a pair of men's underwear seen hanging in the window, with the phrase "Hillbilly Brief Case" on the hanger handle.

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The Bottom Line

By Bill Nestor
Sports Editor

LIV Golf and the fallout it brings

Since 1916, the PGA Tour has been home for the top professional golfers in the world. The Professional Golfers' Association has long ruled professional men's golf and has been the driving force behind the best players on the planet. However, the PGA Tour does not have anything to do with the four major tournaments.

The Masters, PGA Championship, U.S. Open, and The Open Championship are ran individually. The PGA runs the remaining week-to-week events including the top billing venues such as The Players Championship and the top money event: the FedEx Cup.

Why is there such a huge emphasis on winning an event in the PGA Tour?

A victory provides a golfer with a tour card for two years. Another win is the icing on the cake for the best golfers on the planet. They receive even more opportunities to tee it up with additional exemptions.

The motivation for players on the tour is two big boosts, more money, and more events to play which increases earning potential. The more they play, the more they make.

The heavy competition means better golf which brings out more fans and that makes everyone happy. The bigger the event, the bigger the payout, and the more exemptions the golfers will receive. It has been a constant process on tour for these professionals for a long time.

This year there has been a new player in town. LIV golf has become the new kid in town, and they

have caused quite a stir in the golf world. They got one of the golf gurus that has carried the torch for professional golfers for several decades. Greg Norman is the chief executive officer for a group that is trying to become the king of the hill.

This June, the LIV tour introduced several top players that have made the jump from the PGA Tour and have given the new kids on the block their fair share of star power.

Dustin Johnson, Phil Mickelson, Kevin Na, Sergio Garcia, Martin Kaymer, Graeme McDowell, Louis Oosthuizen, Lee Westwood, Brooks Koepka, and Charl Schwartzel are the top dogs that have been pulled away from the old guard.

The main issue for the average golf fan is where the money to play these stars is coming from. Many consider it "dirty cash" because it has been backed by the Public Investment Fund which is the sovereign wealth fund of Saudi Arabia.

There is a public perception that the funders of LIV are some bad people that have done some bad things. The thought behind this venture is to bring some good publicity to some bad people.

In late June, over 2,000 survivors of family members that were slain or hurt in 9/11 put pen to paper in opposition to this new tour. Their efforts were in vain as players opted for more money (most of which was guaranteed for just participating) and big payoffs for high finishes.

Another perk was the LIV events included just three rounds (54 holes) of play.

The biggest hurdle for defectors was the potential loss of participation in the major tournaments. However, early indications show that both the PGA Tour and LIV golfers will be allowed to play in the majors. Until final approval is provided, there will be major problems for golfers on both sides. It will be a developing story that golfers will follow for some time.

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

movie-themed room. The goal is to take the ordinary classroom setting and turn it into a place to have fun and learn at the same time.

While the program is only a half-day, the kids are served two meals. The first is a breakfast, beginning at 8 a.m., and then lunch is served around noon. Before COVID-19, all meals were served family-style. Once the program resumed, each person has been served separately. However, the importance of sitting together and making conversation is still an important part of the day and kids are still doing that. Book likes the fact that kids are sitting together and talking during meals.

"You just do not have family dinners like they did so long ago. With technology, parents and kids get lost in their phones or tablets when they should make conversation with families. We offer a chance for those who sit together to talk about their week, or what is coming up in their weekend or to just talk about kid stuff. We embrace the fact that the kids are all sitting together conversing while enjoying a great meal."

For those who wonder if the program works or not, historically the program involves testing in the beginning and then a post-test to see the progress. And over the years, the program has proved its importance with these tests. Those who have outgrown the program have excelled in middle and high school. In fact, many have asked to come back to volunteer and demonstrate what they have learned.

"The fact that we have many kids approach us about volunteering shows how important the program means to them," said Book. "It seems that many of the kids we see grow through the program want to pay it forward and come back to help the ones behind them. Also, this program is a tremendous recruiting tool for our parks programs and even for the mentor positions. Energy Express has left a lasting impression here at North View and will continue doing so for many years to come."

Energy Express making a difference at North View Elementary

When a program has been operating in Harrison County for close to three decades, it tends to run on its own as years of effort in growing a program pay off. Energy Express, a summer reading program affiliated with AmeriCorps and the West Virginia University Extension office, built a reputation for helping kids maintain or even improve their reading levels. This six-week summer program, under the direction of the program's county representative Mike Book, has had a positive impact on those who have attended.

"Energy Express is something I take very seriously as the goal is to keep kids interested in reading and learning," said Mike Book, who is also director of parks and recreation. "We have made it a fun program that exposes the kids to the wonderment of reading through various activities including group reading, one-on-one and reading alone. Then you add in arts and crafts and other group activities to make it a balanced, fun program for the kids."

One site is located at North View Elementary, where 40 kids were awarded a scholarship to attend the program. Beginning in first grade, eight students from each grade do not enter a classroom setting but a room based on the imagination of the mentor who runs the classroom. With a theme every year, students are welcomed to a land under the sea or even a

movie-themed room. The goal is to take the ordinary classroom setting and turn it into a place to have fun and learn at the same time.

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Little League team headed to state championship



The Shinnston/Clarksburg 12-year-old Little League team defeated Fairmont by a score of 7-4 in the District 5 Championship on June 28 at the Bridgeport Sports Complex. They now head to the State Little League Championship games to be held in Martinsburg. Those games begin Friday.

In the front row, pictured are Anthony Belcastro, Jacob Holt, Noah Myers, Jaxson Anderson, Roger Duckworth, and Coleton Lanham.

In the second row, pictured are Coach Jason Belcastro, Aspen Dyer, Cohen Wilfong, Jacob Watts, Anderson Levake, Isaac Barksdale, Colt McIntyre and Cole Vincent.

In the back row, from left to right, are Coach Jason Myers, and Shinnston Little League President Derek McIntyre.

Tee It Up!

By Bill Nestor
Sports Editor

This week's edition took us to Mount Clare to Bel Meadow Golf Club. This long-standing golf tradition, created by Robert Trent Jones, has indeed stood the test of time. The course opened in 1966.

Bel Meadow is an 18-hole course that ranges 6,938 yards from the tips, and it is a par 72. A trio of tees provides a fun and challenging round of golf from top to bottom.

The front side is fairly straight forward and what you see is what you get. The back nine starts with a lengthy par 5 that provides an elevated approach shot over water. The risk versus reward element comes into play down the stretch with plenty of opportunities to go low.

There is nostalgia from the beginning of the round until the end. This tract is in great shape, and that is a reflection of the efforts of the dedicated workers at Bel Meadow Golf Club.

The 19th hole is legendary, and many people like this venue so much that they have their marriage receptions on site. It is not only a great place to play a special round of golf, you can also make it a great day for much more than that!

Fall soccer sign-ups begin

The Shinnston Soccer Association has opened registration for fall, said Wendy Spurling, association registrar.

There are no try-outs, and all skill levels are welcome.

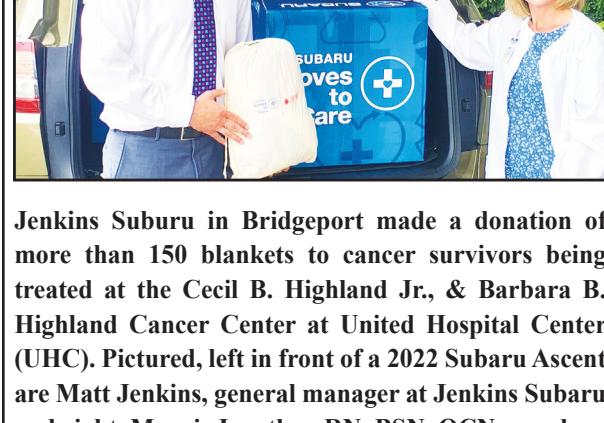
Children born from the years 2010 to 2019 are eligible to register. Spurling said whether there is a division for 13 and 14-year-olds will depend on how many kids choose the recreational league instead of middle-school soccer.

Visit www.shinnstonsoccer.org to sign-up online. Those new to the league will need photos of their player and their birth certificate.

Those interested can also reach out to Wendy Spurling at 412-719-9305 with any questions.



Subaru donates to UHC



Jenkins Subaru in Bridgeport made a donation of more than 150 blankets to cancer survivors being treated at the Cecil B. Highland Jr. & Barbara B. Highland Cancer Center at United Hospital Center (UHC). Pictured, left in front of a 2022 Subaru Ascent are Matt Jenkins, general manager at Jenkins Subaru and right, Maggie Lowther, RN, BSN, OCN, oncology program coordinator at the cancer center. Courtesy photo.

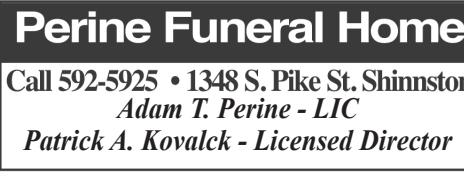
Jenkins Subaru in Bridgeport has partnered with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) to bring warmth to cancer survivors being treated at the Cecil B. Highland Jr. & Barbara B. Highland Cancer Center at United Hospital Center (UHC), according to a news release. More than 150 blankets were donated.

"This kind gesture makes a huge difference and warms the hearts of our patients, as well as puts a smile on their faces during the most trying of times," said Maggie Lowther, RN, BSN, OCN, oncology program coordinator at the Cecil B. Highland, Jr. & Barbara B. Highland Cancer Center at UHC. "I want to personally thank Jenkins Subaru and LLS for conveying such care and hope to those who need it most."

Subaru retailers and the LLS joined together to deliver 230,000 blankets through the June Subaru Loves to Care initiative for cancer survivors across the country.

"Jenkins Subaru and Subaru of America are happy to have made this gift possible. UHC and its staff are highly valued assets to the community and state, and we have enjoyed working with them once again to spread our message of care and love to cancer survivors in the region," said Matt Jenkins, general manager at Jenkins Subaru.

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OBITUARIES

James Lawrence

Merritt, Sr.



parking cars, and in oil and gas. Jim found his lifelong career in the West Virginia coal mine industry. He started out as a coal miner, then as an electrician in the coal mines before he found his passion and love as a coal truck driver. He worked for various companies before spending most of his tenure at Raymond Liberati Trucking Company for 29 years. It was in the trucking industry he became affectionately and notoriously known as "Big Chief" on the CB Radio. Jim was a loyal and loved employee with only taking a few sick days due to heart attack and surgery in

his entire career. Jim believed if you didn't work 16-hour days, you weren't working. He was a highly sought-after truck driver for his perfect driving record, knowledge, his well-known dedication, and work ethic. He ended his 50-year career in the coal industry when he retired from Roblee Coal Company with 15 years of service in 2008. Jim also enjoyed fixing and rewiring electronics. People from all over would bring CB radios, CB mics, scanners, and an array of broken electronics for him to fix. He had a true knack for fixing anything electronic and was fascinated with how things worked.

Jim was always known as a jokester and a hustler as well as a man that always saw the best in people even when others didn't. He was easy to talk to and was always ready to shoot the breeze at the table while smoking out his window watching the neighborhood. You couldn't help but love his easy-going personality and his view of the world. He could stack a deck like a true outlaw and loved watching westerns. He hated wastefulness and truly enjoyed the simple things out of life. He was extremely dedicated to his family and friends and could always be counted on. Jim truly took care of the ones he loved. He enjoyed watching his grandchildren grow up and lovingly teasing them. Jim was a member of The First Baptist Church of Nutter Fort. Jim will undoubtedly be missed by many.

The family would like to thank Amedisys for the help in his care and his wonderful nurse Maria Renzelli.

In addition to his wife, parents, and grandparents, Jim was preceded in death by his sister Edna Marie Cain.

Jim worked ever since he could walk starting with working on the farm, cutting timber,

he is doing."

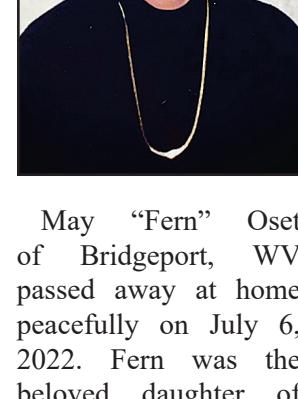
"Courage is being scared to death but saddling up anyways." — John Wayne

Jim always found sending plants or flowers as a waste of money. If you feel compelled to do something please just make a donation to your local church, parish, or your favorite charity.

Family and friends called the Amos Carvelli Funeral Home, 201 Edison Street, Nutter Fort, WV, from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, July 7, 2022. The funeral service was held on Friday, July 8, 2022, at 1 p.m. at Amos Carvelli with Pastor Ron Owens presiding. He will lie in state for 1 hour prior to the service.

Interment followed in the Stonewall Park Cemetery, Stonewood, WV.

May "Fern" (Langshaw) Oset



May "Fern" Oset of Bridgeport, WV passed away at home peacefully on July 6, 2022. Fern was the beloved daughter of the late Katherine and William Langshaw born December 24th, 1951.

She was best known by her friends and family as easy going, devoted, and loving. She always saw the good in others and was adored by all those that met her. Fern is survived by her loving husband of 45 years, Steven Oset.

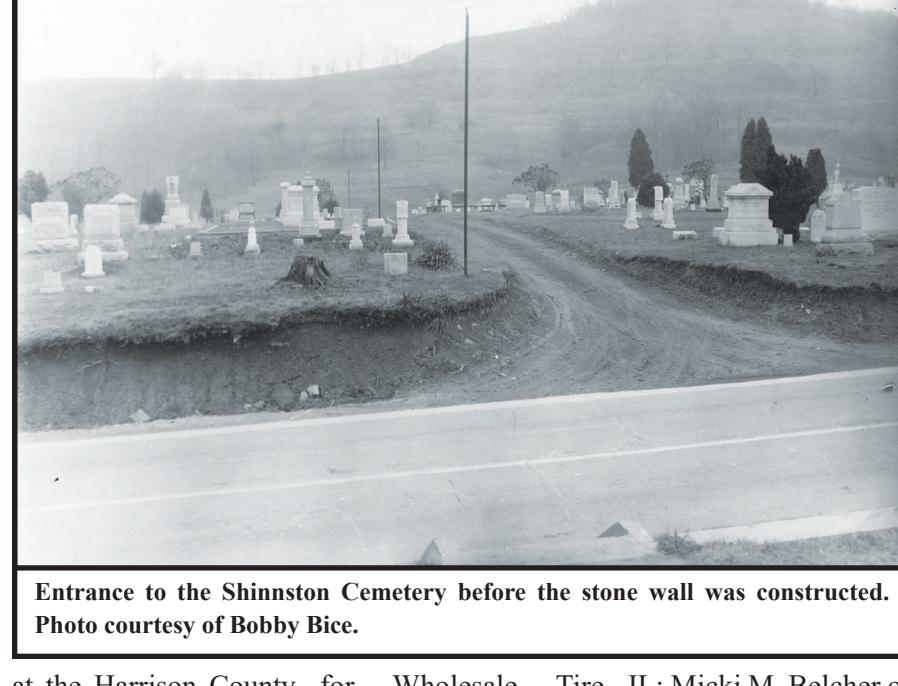
In addition to her husband, she is survived by her daughter Amanda Trubiano (Keera), her son William Wilson (Denise), and her daughter Katherine Jones (Matt). Fern's memory will live on through her 8 grandchildren and her 6 great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her four brothers: George Ireland, Pat Langshaw, Charlie Langshaw, and William Langshaw, Jr. She is survived by her brothers: Joe Langshaw, Danny Langshaw (Janice), Victor Goolday (Emily), Thomas Langshaw (Dolores), Albert Langshaw, and Robert Langshaw. She is also survived by two sisters: Kathy Husfelt (Rudy) and Nancy Williams.

Fern loved and valued creating memories with her children, grandchildren, and family. She also thoroughly enjoyed the relationships built with friends while working

Out Of The Past

Memorable Photographs from around Harrison County.

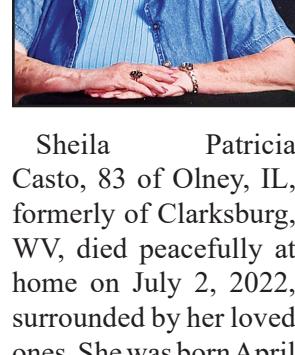


Entrance to the Shinnston Cemetery before the stone wall was constructed.
Photo courtesy of Bobby Bice.

at the Harrison County Senior Center and for Wholesale Tire in Clarksburg for 37 years. Sheila was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Eagles for 25 years where she enjoyed playing in the kazoo band and dressing up as Cher while her friend Marion dressed as Sonny. She was Lutheran by faith. Sheila did a lot of work, but her most prized work was raising her five girls on her own. She made sure that we all got the parts of her that we needed.

There will be an intimate graveside service on Friday, July 15th at Floral Hills Memorial Gardens: 457 Zach's Run Road, Mt. Clare, WV 26408. Davis Funeral Home and Onsite Crematory is honored to serve the Oset family.

Sheila Patricia Casto



Sheila Patricia Casto, 83 of Olney, IL, formerly of Clarksburg, WV, died peacefully at home on July 2, 2022, surrounded by her loved ones. She was born April 2, 1939, in Lumberport, WV, daughter of the late Michael Galvin and Rosalie (Looman) Galvin.

Sheila graduated from Lumberport High School. She worked as a credit manager

for Roanoke, VA; and Traci T. Wellman and husband George of Clarksburg; niece Sandra Lane and husband Jimmy of Lumberport; grandchildren Jonathan McAtee, Erin LeVan, Jamie Coleman, Danny Eagleson, Lori Brown, Brianna Trowbridge, Matthew Eagleson, Corey Nutter, Patrick Jones, Brandon Wellman and Zachary Wellman, and 32 great grandchildren.

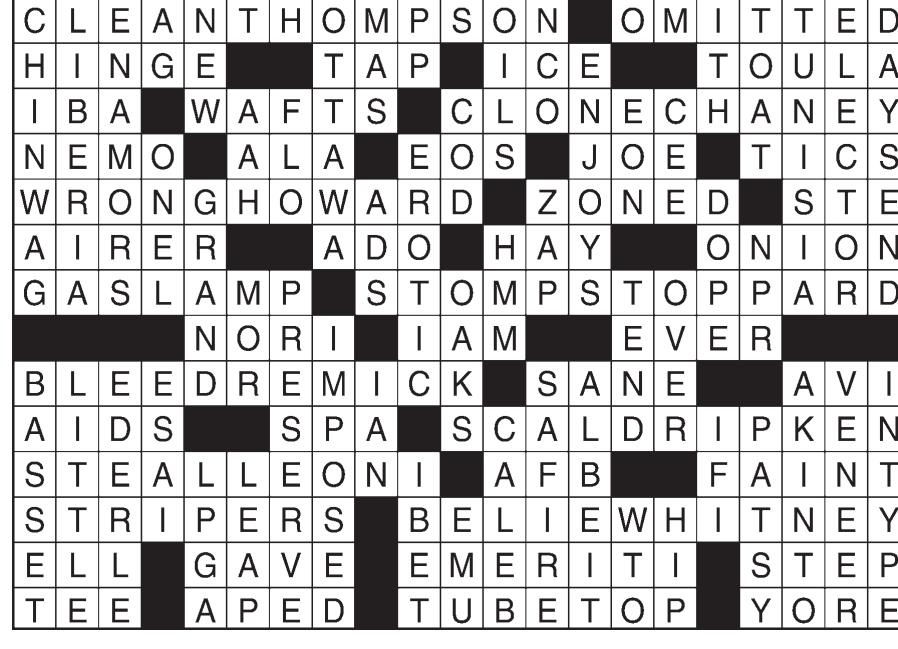
In addition to her parents, Sheila was preceded in death by daughter, Terri T. Zimmer; the love of her life, Harding Baber; three sisters, Violet "Binki" Ayers, Mary Alice Davis, and Anna Jo Copeland; and one brother, John Robert Galvin.

The family received friends at Davis Funeral Home, 124 Olen Thomas Drive on Saturday, July 9, 2022, from 2 p.m. until time of Funeral Service at 4 p.m. with Pastor Nathaniel Trowbridge officiating.

Davis Funeral Home is honored to serve the Casto family.

Super Crossword

Answers



U.S Route 50 ramp closed

The ramp on U.S. Route 50 eastbound at North View will be closed from 7 a.m. to 7 a.m. through Aug. 13 for construction of the new overpass bridge.

North View residents will only be able to access U.S. Route 50 going westbound at this location, according to a news release from the West Virginia Department of Transportation.

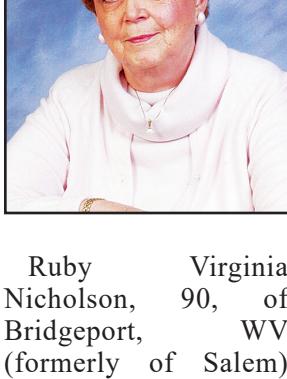
The bridge will remain

open, with only one-way traffic onto Sycamore Street.

Alternate routes include the West Pike Street exit, County Route 20, and the Joyce Street exit.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation advises motorists to expect delays. Inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances could change the project schedule.

Ruby Virginia Nicholson



through the Colonel Lowther Chapter in Salem, WV.

She was preceded in death by her former husband, her parents, and four brothers: Carson, Milton, Robert, and an infant brother, and her brother-in-law Bruce Richardson.

She is survived by her three daughters: Lucia Condon and her husband Michael of Livonia, MI; Daphne Rigle of Greentown, IN; and Terry Nicholson and her companion Dwight Britton, of Bridgeport; four grandchildren: Tracie Bidwell of Brighton, MI; Brian Morrison and his wife Nicole of Thompson's Station, TN; Thomas Rigle, Jr. of Greentown, IN; and James Rigle

and his wife, Elizabeth of Kokomo, IN; two great grandchildren: Brendon Morrison and Hayden Rigle; and one sister: Brenda Richardson.

She will be cremated, and interment was at the Bridgeport Cemetery. There was a private graveside service only.

Anyone wishing to make a donation, please do so to the charity of your choice. Davis Funeral Home is honored to serve the Nicholson family.

She was born at home on October 16, 1931, in Salem, WV. Her parents were Emory and Gemilla (Cross) Wilson. She graduated from Salem High School in 1949.

On June 1, 1949, in Clarksburg, she married Lucian E. Nicholson. They had three children.

She was previously employed by WYK Associates in Clarksburg and the WV State Police Department in Shinnston as a driver's examiner.

She was a member of Simpson Creek Baptist Church and retained her faith her entire life.

She was a member of the Daughters of The American Revolution

UHC employee recognized for disinfecting efforts



Ronja Coffman, the WVU Medicine United Hospital Center environmental services team member pictured at left, was recognized for disinfecting the most hospital rooms with Xenex LightStrike Germ-Zapping Robots, of more than 1,000 healthcare facilities worldwide, in 2021. Thomas Evans, account executive with Xenex, at right, hands her a certificate in honor of the distinction.

The disinfecting robots are brought in by an environmental services team member to destroy microorganisms that may have been missed during the manual cleaning process, according to a news release.

"I am incredibly proud that our disinfection program led the world in the number of rooms disinfected with the LightStrike robot technology in 2021," said Coffman. "I am truly honored to receive this distinction, but our entire EVS team does a fantastic job to make our hospital as clean as possible." Coffman is responsible for deploying the seven robots located throughout the hospital.

"Repair" From Pg 1.

Public Relations Manager Peg Hall Williams said the company first learned of problems on June 15.

While she said the company looked forward to "open and transparent discussions," she then added, in another email, that the company would be "happy to respond to your questions after that meeting when we have additional details."

Meetings of governmental bodies, when a quorum is present and when they are deliberating toward official action on behalf of the public, are generally to be held openly in West Virginia, with certain exceptions.

On Thursday, June 30, city officials met with Ferguson Waterworks to discuss their complaints.

The Shinnston News attempted to cover the meeting. A Ferguson Waterworks representative immediately left after City Manager Chad Edwards introduced a reporter to those gathered around a table. "There's a bunch of people involved now, and since we're a big company, now we got to tell them what's going on," the representative, who did not identify himself, said.

Edwards noted, "It's a little bit tense..."

Later, Edwards said the meeting went well, and that the Ferguson employee had not been authorized to speak to the media.

He said during the meeting, he served as a mediator while Ferguson employees spoke to city officials and workers.

"It was actually an OK meeting," Edwards added. "We just hammered out some details, and I think we're back on track."

While city officials were concerned that city workers were being charged with the installation of meters, that is not occurring, according to Edwards. Instead, "our guys have actually been working on the leaks, not actually putting the meters in," he said. He said if a line or valve breaks, city workers are to fix it.

He also said that there "wasn't a whole lot of communication," and the city and Ferguson are going to do a better job at that throughout the rest of the meter installation process.

"I have a much better feeling about things," he said.

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Edwards also said that if property is

damaged, citizens can call the office at the City Building, and Ferguson's number will be given to residents so they may speak directly with someone from the company.

Ferguson "has agreed to take all responsibility for anything that goes wrong while this is going on, and he'll talk to them, and then that way people can tell Ferguson what happened, and they can deal with it directly," Edwards said.

Ferguson has also offered to give the city weekly updates at the end of each week, so if there are any problems, they can be addressed within the week, according to Edwards.

In an email July 6, Ferguson Waterworks Public Relations Manager Peg Hall Williams said yards may remain torn up after installation because "Ferguson Waterworks mobilizes two crews for all meter replacement projects in process; one team goes to the meter and changes it out while the other team plants the grass and repairs the area around the meter. Several factors, such as weather and other working conditions, can impact the time between the first crew changing the meter and the second team getting behind it to repair yards. The City of Shinnston water meter replacement project is still in process. To date, we have installed 1,960 water meters out of 2,300."

She added that, "During the meeting, the City Manager notified Ferguson Waterworks that one yard needed repair. We worked with the subcontractor and the yard is repaired. If any other matters arise, the subcontractor on the ground has agreed to notify all parties promptly. To ensure this happens, we are meeting regularly. Collectively, we feel we are on the right path to completion."

Shinnston had previously agreed to media coverage of the meeting. City officials in West Virginia are also required to abide by state open meetings law.

Williams, in response to a question about why the meeting was closed, said, "This would be a question for someone at the City of Shinnston. Unfortunately, Ferguson Waterworks is unaware of what constitutes an open meeting for the City of Shinnston."



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