

## “Songs & Stories” to showcase local talent



A.M. Benson, an Americana/country singer, plays his guitar in a moody atmosphere. Benson came up with the songwriter series at The Soapbox in Shinnston, kicking off Friday at 7 p.m.



Austin Glaspell sings and plays his guitar for shoppers outside of Sun Moon Apparel in Bridgeport.



Local semi-country musician Allen Beverly strums his guitar.



Silas Matheny, a multi-instrumentalist roots musician, sings and strums the banjo.

By Maralisa Marra

Shinnston singer and songwriter Andy “A.M.” Benson had a vision for the music scene in town, and he is determined to bring it to fruition.

“I’ve been tossing an idea around for a while about doing some kind of songwriter showcase,” Benson said. “I didn’t want to do an open mic, but something similar just to hear original music. That was my goal with this because this area is saturated with music.”

As a songwriter himself, he said that he wants to hear what other songwriters are doing. Benson said he was talking to Brendan Gallagher of Black & Teal Concepts one day about his idea, and Gallagher suggested that Benson put on showcases similar to Nashville writers’ rounds which feature up and coming singers and songwriters to be discovered.

“They go out and they do these songwriter rounds, and they share

their songs that they’ve written,” Benson added.

With Gallagher’s encouragement, Benson decided to move forward full speed, and Songs & Stories was born.

Songs & Stories is meant to showcase local musicians’ work in an intimate setting that will allow each singer and songwriter to perform their original songs alongside sharing stories about their inspiration for each song and their writing methods.

Benson plans for Songs & Stories to be broken into installments, and he said, “Each installment of Songs & Stories will ideally feature four musicians and will be regional to make sure local musicians aren’t having to travel too far to bring their music to you. This will be a much more intimate type of show to get the crowd involved and something brand new for music lovers to check out.”

Benson is calling the project “The Songs & Stories WV Songwriters”

See “Talent” on Pg 8.

## Council: ballot measure could be “catastrophic”

By Erin Beck

With no opposition, Shinnston City Council passed a resolution during their Oct. 11 meeting in opposition to Amendment 2, which is on the Nov. 8 General Election ballot.

Amendment 2, which would be added to the West Virginia Constitution, would authorize the Legislature to exempt business machinery, equipment and inventory, as well as vehicles, from property taxes. It would give the Legislature control over 27 percent of total property tax revenue – an estimated \$515 million. The vast majority goes to county governments, municipal governments and school districts.

The resolution states, “Whereas, the City of Shinnston finds that the residents of the State of West Virginia, including the hardworking residents of Shinnston, will ultimately pay for the significant corporate tax cuts contemplated by the Legislature in anticipation of the passage of Amendment 2, such as new sales taxes, higher real property taxes, other fees, and/or a combination.....” and “the loss of funds could

See “Council” on Pg 3.

## City nearing settlement over “nuisance” property

By Erin Beck

The City of Shinnston is nearing a settlement with NAJ, LLC, following a lawsuit filed against the Charleston-based company, said Trey Simmerman, attorney for the city.

Last week, Simmerman said the potential settlement was “circulating.”

In the lawsuit, filed in Harrison County circuit court on March 14, the city, represented by

See “Property” on Pg 3.



Trey Simmerman, attorney for the City of Shinnston



This Charles Street property is one of multiple owned by NAJ, LLC in Harrison County.

## City considering dog park, pickleball court



City Manager Chad Edwards was directed to continue his research and present city officials with more information on a potential dog park and pickleball court in Shinnston, during the Oct. 11 meeting.

By Erin Beck

Shinnston City Council decided to continue reviewing the feasibility of a dog park and pickleball court in Shinnston, members decided without opposition at their meeting Oct. 11.

At their meeting in Council chambers at 43 Bridge St.,



Councilmember Julia Currey spoke about a potential pickleball court in Shinnston during the Oct. 11 meeting.

councilmembers said that during their previous work session Sept. 26, they had concluded the West Side was best suited for a dog park and the city park was more suited for a pickleball court.

City Manager Chad Edwards is planning to look into cost and sizes.

“I have investors and resources,” said Councilmember

Julia Currey, in reference to the pickleball court. She said the court could also be a money-making venture for the city because it could be on a circuit for tournaments.

In other business, members are planning a special meeting and a public hearing on changes to the way the problem of abandoned and dilapidated properties are

See “City” on Pg 3.



**BUILDING  
AMAZING CITIES**

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

## Take a trip to memorable Mannington

I had the pleasure of visiting the town of Mannington this past week and meeting with Mayor Lora Michael. Over the years I have driven through Mannington many times and when I worked for the West Virginia Housing Development Fund, we did several projects in the town. I was always impressed with the architecture of many of the buildings and homes and the layout of the streets. It highlighted the rich history of Mannington and its role as a prominent economic driver in the state around the turn of the

See “Hunt” on Pg 10.



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Opinion By Kent Leonhardt West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture

Inflation Reduction Act is threat to food resiliency

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) is being touted as a big win for climate change as it makes available hundreds of billions of dollars for renewable energy.

The quickest to build and the fastest growing sector of renewable energy is solar. In theory, all you need is some panels, land and access to plenty of sunshine.

Despite increased funding, the reality is the world cannot solely run on renewables no matter how much folks hate fossil fuels.

As profits continue to shrink for the farmer due to inflation and rising fertilizer costs, producers may have to make the ultimate decision and take their farm out of production.

Regardless of where you land on this debate, for our country to be energy and food-independent, we must find a compromise utilizing all sources of energy.

Correction

The Oct. 6 edition included an inaccurate website address for the West Virginia Miss Amazing Pageant for girls and women with disabilities.



Super Crossword BEST OF BREED

- ACROSS 1 Agents, informally 5 Wombs 10 Soccer great Mia 14 Warms up 19 Fix up copy 20 Condor claw 21 Emollient plant juice 22 Incandescent 23 Good occasion to buy securities 25 After-hours 26 Youngest of Chekhov's 'Three Sisters' 27 Davenport, e.g. 28 Dish of melted cheese on toast 31 Small marsupial with long hind limbs 35 Doubtters 36 Dutch painter Jan 37 Actress Thurman 38 Depot: Abbr. 41 Financier Onassis 42 Rocker Nugent 43 Tiny flash of light 45 Light classical orchestra 51 Flips out 53 Met again, as a legislature 55 Painful spots 56 Mendelssohn orchestral piece in A minor 62 Merlot, e.g. 63 'Yentl' actress Feldshuh 64 Paranormal gift, for short 65 Prankster's messy missile 66 Prankster's messy missile 67 Hunt quarry 68 Pack animals around Lhasa 73 Actor Julia 75 'Dr.' of rap 76 Lean red meat source 77 — Bo 78 Eisenhower's wife 79 On Soc. Security, say 80 Popover served with roast beef 86 Thin as — 88 Gorbachev's wife 89 'Count' of jazz 90 'The Simpsons' ainer 93 'Lorna —' 95 — cone 98 U.S. spy org. 99 Part of OTC 101 Platform for iDevices 102 Entr'— (interludes) 104 Dispute go-between 109 Very sleek 112 Maine and Montana, to Canada 115 Fact fudgers 116 Firefighter Red 117 Residence apropos to this puzzle (hint: see the starts of 10 long answers) 123 Resolved to accomplish 124 Fairway club 125 At the zenith 126 Org. looking for aliens 127 Party givers 128 Annoyer 129 Playwright Clifford 130 Eve's garden DOWN 1 Yank's rival 2 Instruct 3 Flew, as a plane 4 Patron of physicians 5 Ogden native 6 Pothole filler 7 Lean red meat source 8 Fish spawn 9 Bisected 10 Corridor 11 ' 'Tis so sad' 12 Fliers drawn to flames 13 African mongoose 14 Very sharp road curves 15 Heron variety 16 Cover story 17 Pick-me-up 18 Hits hard 24 Thom — shoes 29 Canon camera 30 Prefix with space Josephine 31 Q-U link 32 Big swallows 33 Mennonite subgroup 34 Oversaw 39 Recipe amt. 40 Ark builder 43 Moo goo — pan 44 Lovers' get-together 46 'You can't — train' 47 Sports drink brand 48 Art of paper folding 49 Waddling bird 50 Opposite of NNW 51 Didn't leave the house 52 To the — degree 54 Ones who can sense others' feelings, in sci-fi 56 Engine additive 57 Jockey Angel or baseballer Wil 58 Burden too heavily 59 Lay eyes on 60 Suffix with neat 61 'Absolutely!' 68 Novelist 69 'I believe ...,' in texts 70 Small donkey 71 Water nymph 72 '— darn tootin!'

Grid for the crossword puzzle with numbers 1-130 indicating starting points for words.

FIND THE SUPER CROSSWORD ANSWERS ON PAGE 9!

THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

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

Oct. 20, 1990: The current USS 'West Virginia' was commissioned. The USS 'West Virginia' is an Ohio Class Trident ballistic missile submarine that is 560 feet long, 42 feet wide, and displaces 18,750 tons when submerged.

Oct. 21, 1865: Bishop Matthew Wesley Clair Sr. was born in Union. He was one of the first African-Americans elected as a bishop in the predominantly white Methodist Episcopal Church.

Oct. 21, 1918: Hulett Smith was born in Beckley. In the 1964 gubernatorial primary Smith carried 53 of the state's 55 counties, receiving more votes than his three opponents combined.

Oct. 22, 1693: Lord Thomas Fairfax was born in Kent, England. He inherited five million acres in Virginia, land that included much of the present Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia.

Oct. 22, 1821: Collis P. Huntington was born in Harwinton, Connecticut. In 1869, Huntington purchased the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway and set about extending its tracks from Richmond across southern West Virginia to the Ohio River.

Oct. 22, 1977: Construction of the New River Gorge Bridge was completed after three years of work. The New River Gorge Bridge in Fayette County is one of West Virginia's best-known landmarks.

Oct. 23, 1943: German prisoners arrived at Camp Ashford in White Sulphur Springs. Built by the U.S. War Department, Camp Ashford was one of two camps in West Virginia that housed prisoners of war during World War II.

Oct. 24, 1929: Composer George Crumb was born in Charleston. In 1968, Crumb was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for 'Echoes of Time and the River: Four Processionals for Orchestra.'

Oct. 25, 1918: Athlete Marshall 'Biggie' Goldberg was born in Elkins. He led the Chicago Cardinals to

the NFL championship in 1947 and was elected to the NFL Hall of Fame in 1958.

Oct. 25, 1951: Writer Denise Giardina was born in Bluefield and raised in neighboring McDowell County. She is best known as a novelist and also has a long history of community activism.

Oct. 26, 1801: Jefferson County was established from a portion of Berkeley County by the Virginia General Assembly and named for Thomas Jefferson.

Oct. 26, 1934: Athlete Rodney Clark 'Hot Rod' Hundley was born in Charleston. Hundley earned first team All-American recognition his senior year at West Virginia University.

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.

Advertisement for The News & Journal newspaper, including contact information for Michael Showell, Erin Beck, and Debra Smith, and subscription rates.



# 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).

### Alumni association meeting

6 p.m. Thursday at the Bice-Ferguson Memorial Museum  
Anyone who attended or graduated from Shinnston High School is invited.  
Input is needed on important decisions.  
Those with questions may call Debbie Malone at 304-203-1374 or Alice Bowman at 304-669-6188.

### Auxiliary meeting

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 31 monthly meeting  
Thursday, 7 p.m.  
American Legion Post 31, Shinnston  
All members are welcome.

### Spaghetti dinner

St. Ann's Catholic Church, 610 Pike St., Shinnston  
Dine-in & take-out spaghetti dinner  
Oct. 30 from 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. or sold out  
No phone-in pre-orders will be accepted.  
The meal also includes salad, bread & dessert. Dine-in includes beverages.  
Adult \$12. Children \$5.

## “Property” From Pg 1.

Simmerman, alleged that NAJ, which owns the abandoned home severely damaged by fire at 101 Charles St., had created a public nuisance in violation of city and state code.

The lawsuit refers to NAJ, LLC as a “shell entity utilized by its owners to purchase real estate properties at tax sales throughout West Virginia, including in the City,” and that on those properties, “there are located materials, conditions and substances which create a public nuisance(s), namely dilapidated and dangerous buildings, and other offensive and unsightly matter in excessive amounts and quantities.”

The lawsuit says this nuisance reduces property value and promotes “blight and deterioration which, if permitted to remain, will continue to destroy the natural beauty of the City and have adverse economic and social effects on the City.”

Robert L. Johns and Thomas F. Johns are the LLC’s sole listed

officers/members, the lawsuit states. The company has not responded to multiple reporter inquiries.

Rather than seeking solely monetary damages, the lawsuit says that because of NAJ’s “persistent nuisance activity,” an “action for damages is wholly inadequate.” The city asked the judge to award the city a lien against NAJ’s real estate “in any amount of any costs/expenses incurred by the city in abating said nuisance conditions” but also asked the court to order NAJ, LLC “to refrain from any future action that results in the creation of a public nuisance.”

City officials had made a number of remarks and had multiple discussions about how to solve the problem for at least a year and it was unclear during Council meetings whether a lawsuit had ever been filed.

City Manager Chad Edwards has also said NAJ had purchased another property in Shinnston during talks with the company.

Following a public records request for correspondence and legal documents, Edwards referred further questions to Simmerman, who provided the lawsuit case number, 22-C-43-2.

In response to inquiries, officials in Bridgeport and Clarksburg also confirmed NAJ, LLC owns properties elsewhere in the county.

Kim Karakiozis, Clarksburg director of finance, said “NAJ, LLC owns several properties in Clarksburg and in Harrison County... They purchased the majority, if not all of them, from the Sheriff’s annual Tax Lien Sales.”

Brian Newton, Bridgeport city manager, said NAJ “owns three properties in Bridgeport. We have had trouble with a couple of the properties and took them to court on one of the properties. We got a judgement against them on that particular piece of property.”

## “City” From Pg 1.

handled in the city, including the potential development of a land reuse agency. Council decided to table that item for more time to review the ordinance.

According to a draft ordinance, that agency would be overseen by a board and be given the right of first refusal to obtain tax-delinquent property at tax sales. The draft ordinance states that “vacant, abandoned and tax-delinquent properties impose significant costs on neighborhoods, communities and the City as whole by lowering property values, increasing fire and police protection

costs, decreasing tax revenues and undermining community cohesion.”

The abandoned, burned home on Charles Street, owned by NAJ LLC, has been a frequent topic of discussion among city officials. The Charleston-based company hasn’t responded to repeated requests for comment.

Councilmember Patrick Kovalck said he needed more time on a previously-discussed ordinance on regulation of short-term rental properties, such as Airbnbs, in Shinnston.

Mayor Rodney Strait reported that he had suggested a Knox

Box for a master key that emergency officials could use in the event of an emergency at the townhouses that Kenny Cook is building across from Dorsey Funeral Home.

Edwards reported that a study on city officials’ pay compared to other municipalities was complete; results will be discussed during an upcoming work session.

Edwards also reported that the police department is low on officers, with four officers. A fifth prospect is in the police academy, he said.

## “Council” From Pg 1.

be catastrophic for the residents of West Virginia statewide by depriving them of sufficient essential services, such as police officers, emergency responders and educational needs.”

The resolution refers to the potential amendment as what could be “one of the most substantial changes to West Virginia’s Constitution in nearly 100 years.”

“It is not the place of Shinnston, West Virginia to tell registered voters how to vote on this issue,” the resolution states. “However, the City of Shinnston is committed to the well-being of its residents and visitors and, as such, seeks to inform the public of the potentially devastating and far-reaching impacts that Amendment 2 could have on public safety and local government services in Shinnston.”

According to the resolution, the City of Shinnston finds that passage would “decrease control of local levying bodies and transfer that control to the state by causing the removal of

certain constitutional protections that allow these bodies to provide critical funding for law enforcement, fire protection, emergency medical services, and public education...”

The resolution also states that there is no consensus among lawmakers and the governor as to how that money for counties and cities could be replaced, and that replacing that money would require new legislation. While lawmakers who support the resolution say they would replace the lost revenue, they haven’t provided a clear plan for public review.

The resolution states that the loss of funding could “result in less services for residents and visitors to Shinnston, including fewer police officers, emergency responders, teachers and school personnel” and that “at this point, there is no clearly established plan to replace the funds for these important local services if personal property taxes upon which they rely are eliminated or reduced.”

The West Virginia Manufacturers Association, which supports the amendment, has said it would pave the way for business recruitment and retention, as well as put



Governor Jim Justice, a Republican, split with other leaders in his political party to oppose Amendment 2.

money back into the pockets of the state’s taxpayers, in part because the Legislature could choose to exempt personal vehicles from property taxes.

Governor Jim Justice, meanwhile, has said the amendment would provide the most benefit to big business, including out-of-state corporations, according to MetroNews, and the Republican governor also proposed that the vehicle tax could be singularly eliminated with a bill rather than a sweeping change to the state Constitution.

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## GRAPEVINE

By Rosalyn Queen



## Women of Distinction honorees announced

The Progressive Women's Association has announced that the following women will be honored at the annual Celebrate America luncheon to be held at the Uptown Event Center on Oct. 28 at noon.

These women are being honored for their achievements but most importantly for their contributions through volunteerism. These women are involved in projects that make a big difference in our community.

If you want to attend this celebration of these wonderful women, RSVP by Tuesday. Call 304-624-6881 or email [uptowneventcenter2014@gmail.com](mailto:uptowneventcenter2014@gmail.com).

As always, our most sincere thanks go to Davis Funeral Home for helping the PWA make this event special for these wonderful women.

Heritage Festival and mother to Regina Maria XLIII, Maria enjoys making fritti in front of the festival office each month and celebrating her heritage during Labor Day weekend in the streets of Clarksburg, dancing the tarantella with her loved ones. Now, she proudly passes down Italian traditions to her grandchildren.

Her passion for event decorating flourished during the latest WVIHF, as she created beautiful decor for the two recent WVIHF Galas and Queen's Dinner. She designed Regina Maria XLIII's red gown train. She is honored to be joined by fellow Italian women for the celebration.

## Marissa Maria Bailey



Marissa is a Clarksburg native and is the reigning Regina Maria XLIII of the West Virginia Italian Heritage Festival. Marissa is the daughter of Tom and Maria Lucente Bailey, granddaughter of the late Joe and Velma Lopez Lucente and Jim and Dot Bailey, and great-granddaughter of Sam and Rose Scott Lopez and Frank and Daisy Devono Lucente.

A three-time summa cum laude graduate of West Virginia University, she carries a master's in integrated marketing communications, a bachelor's degree in strategic communications, and a bachelor's degree in musical theatre. Marissa attends and cantors at All Saints Catholic Church and is a member of the Sons and Daughters of Italy in Morgantown. She recently began her career as a special events coordinator for WVU Medicine.

Marissa has attended every WV Italian Heritage Festival since she was born, learning traditions from her grandparents, aunts, parents, and siblings, Jamie Jo McDonald and Thomas

Bailey. She started out performing on the Main Stage at age 2 and has been performing on the Main Stage every year since. At age 16, Marissa co-initiated a duet show on the Main Stage with a live orchestra, singing traditional Italian music. This show continues today.

Her family has been involved in the WVIHF since its inception, volunteering at booths, fundraising, selling vegetables, cooking steak sandwiches, driving in the parade, preparing the streets, and decorating for the Queen's Gala and Queen's Dinner.

Her Italian heritage remains at the center of her life, shaping her into the young Italian woman she is today. She is proud to be surrounded by a strong Italian family who passed down the traditions and pride for their heritage that Marissa continues to live today.

## Tina Marie (Benninger) Cullen



Tina was born and raised in the Italian-rich North View section of Clarksburg. This is where the pure love for Italian culture, in every aspect, was a simple given. Tina Marie was taught Italian traditions at an early age by her grandmother Mary. She is the daughter of Arch N. Benninger and Angie Veltri, also both of Clarksburg. She is the granddaughter of Thomas P. and Mary C. (Marra) Veltri. Her great-grandparents were proud immigrants from San Giovanni in Fiore in Italy.

Tina is a school nurse of nine years for the Harrison County school board and has worked at Norwood Elementary in Stonewood for the past eight years. While at Norwood, she has headed the school backpack program where she worked in conjunction with several of the local churches and charity groups in the community. Tina would ensure the less fortunate in school would go home weekly with healthy foods and necessities to get them through the weekend or

holidays.

Tina's grandmother instilled in her a strong sense of helping and volunteering in the community however she is needed. Tina has two sons that she is very proud of, Alex Michael and Anthony Joseph DeMary, of which both are remarkable examples of their moral and cultural raising.

Tina says, "please take much pride and joy in the small things, for one day you will look back and realize they were the big things." Tina treasures this opportunity to share a part of her Italian family and feels deeply honored to be among these beautiful Italian ladies.

Tina is married to Kevin Cullen and they reside in Clarksburg.

Lisa Demarco  
(bio and pic unavailable)

## Mary Helen Hess



Mary Helen was born and raised in Harrison County. Mary Helen was born Mary Helen Shields to John and Mary Shields of Stonewood on March 20, 1979. She is the oldest of five children, three girls and two boys.

Growing up Italian Catholic meant many fun traditions throughout the holidays and through the church. There were always gathering with many aunts, uncles, and cousins for a celebration. She attended St. Mary's Grade School and graduated from Robert C. Byrd High School.

Just before graduation, President Bill Clinton came to RCB to host a town forum on education, and she was asked to provide the introduction. Meeting the president was a surreal experience and one that she will remember forever.

Mary Helen was crowned Regina Maria XX at the 1999 Italian Heritage Festival. Her parents brought her to the first festival in a stroller at just a few months old.

After completing prerequisites at WVU, she was admitted to the physician assistant program at

Alderson Broaddus College and graduated in 2004. It was there that she met her husband, Ned Hess, and they married in 2004. Mary Helen has two children, Juliet, who was born in 2008, followed by Joel in 2013 and Anthony in 2015.

Her first job as a physician assistant was at MedPoint Urgent Care in Bridgeport. From there she worked in the urology department at Ruby Memorial in 2006. She worked there for eight years before working at the VA hospital, where she is still employed as a urology physician assistant. It is a small hospital so getting to know many of the staff and having regular patients makes it a wonderful place to work. It gives her great joy to serve our veterans.

She states that she has not done many notable things in her life but is so very honored to have been chosen to be a part of this group of women and hopes to continue to be a better person who gives back more than she takes.

## Laura Kennedy



Laura Kennedy is a project engineer with Dieffenbach & Hritz Engineers. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from West Virginia University in 2004.

As contributing to the local community is important to Laura, she has served in various organizations and teaches children's church at her local church. She is also a published author of two children's books, "Mary Don't Be Afraid" and "Pat's Van Goes Splat: A Lesson in Honesty."

Laura was born in Bethesda, Maryland to Hobert Jr. and Jane Corley. Her parents moved back to West Virginia to raise their children in Elkins. Laura is descended from the Martelli and Falcone families of Abruzzi, Italy through her paternal grandmother. She is the devoted wife of Ryan

See "Grapevine" on Pg 9.

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## QUESTIONS ABOUT CANCER SCREENINGS AND TESTS FROM UHC ONCOLOGY

Cancer screenings increase the chance of spotting signs of early cancer development in an individual who would otherwise be showing no symptoms. Though it may be common to think, "cancer could never happen to me," it is important to never leave your health to chance. Those with a family history of cancer, or other lifestyle or health factors that increase their risk for cancer, should talk to their doctor about receiving a cancer screening.

### How do I know if I need to be screened?

- Change in bowel or bladder habits
- Nagging cough or hoarseness
- Thickening or lump in the breast or elsewhere
- A sore that does not heal
- Change in a wart or mole
- Unusual bleeding or discharge
- Indigestion or difficulty in swallowing

### Is there a way to screen for all types of cancers?

There are several cancer screening tests available, but certain tests are commonly done on a routine basis. The other screenings will be determined by the assessment obtained from your primary care.

- **Breast cancer** – mammograms are the best at detecting breast cancer.
- **Colorectal cancer** – almost always develops from precancerous polyps in the colon or rectum. Screening tests can find precancerous polyps and they can be removed before they turn into cancer.
- **Cervical cancer** – pap test can find abnormal cells in the cervix. HPV looks for the virus that can cause these cells to change. Pap tests can find changes early for a better chance of being cured.
- **Lung cancer** – history of heavy smoking. If you are a current smoker or you have quit within the past 15 years, then you need to be screened.

### Do I need a doctor's referral to get screened?

Your primary care will get the appropriate cancer screenings in place for the cancers that are routinely screened. The primary care will ask you several questions during your yearly physical to determine if other screenings are needed.

### Can I get a cancer screening without insurance?

You can get free screenings at different locations by watching the media outlets. United Hospital Center offers a free women's screening, men's screening, and a skin screening one time a year. Watch [wvcancercenter.com](http://wvcancercenter.com) for offerings.

### Do I need to have symptoms to get screened?

No, screenings are for prevention, to detect a potential problem or disease in a person that does not yet have symptoms.

Early detection is key; you want to detect a condition at the earliest stage to treat it most effectively.

### What happens after a cancer screening?

- After a cancer screening, you will receive your results.
- Depending on the results you may need additional testing.
- The doctor performing the tests will let you know the next steps in the process.
- If testing shows normal results, then you are finished until the next screening is needed.
- Important to always let your primary care know if something is bothering you, looks different, or just does not feel right.
- Early detection is key for the best outcome.




**Call to speak to Peggy Johnson, RN, BSN, CBCN, clinical navigator for breast and gynecological cancers, (681) 342-1810 or visit [wvcancercenter.com](http://wvcancercenter.com).**

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Aliyah Elder tips the ball over the net in Lincoln's volleyball match Oct. 11 where they tied against Notre Dame.

## A week with huge wins on the gridiron



### The Bottom Line

By Bill Nestor  
Sports Editor

An epic heavyweight title bout took place in Morgantown last Thursday. The last punch landed came from the right leg of West Virginia University's Casey Legg.

Legg connected on a 22-yard field goal with 33 seconds left in the fourth quarter to send Baylor to the mat and lifted the Mountaineers to a 43-40 win.

The crowd of 45,293 were on the edge of their seats throughout this seesaw affair. The Golden Bears held a 24-17 halftime lead. West Virginia scored first in the second half to force a tie. The teams traded scores from then until midway through the final frame when Mountaineer running back Tony Mathis gave his squad a 40-37 lead.

Baylor utilized a four-play drive that culminated in a game tying field goal.

The Mounties provided a balanced offensive effort that kept Baylor off balance all night long. Daniels passed for 283 yards and was 24 of 37. Mathis rushed for a career-best 163 yards. Kaden Prather hauled in a game-high eight balls for 109 yards and a touchdown.

The victory was the first conference win for the 'Eers in three tries. Next up is a road trip to Lubbock, Texas for a date with Texas Tech. The Red Raiders are 1-2 in Big 12 play and have suffered back-to-back losses to, most recently, Oklahoma State and prior to that, Kansas State. Both of those lockups were on the road while their win over Texas was at home.

Texas Tech is a perfect 3-0 at home

See "Sports" on Pg 10.

## Oh, the many hats we wear



### From The World of Parks & Recreation

By Doug Comer

It seems that things never really slow down here at Parks and Recreation, and that is a good thing because it shows that our presence matters in the community. Whether it is improving the facilities and grounds, organizing programs and events for the kids, or lending a hand through community projects, we are always there to lend a hand.

The relationship with the Board of Education has been positive for the department because our fall enrichments have allowed for thousands of kids to either visit the facility or we come to them. In recent years, we have worked together during the summer with programs coordinated by the BOE and aided by our staff. It has grown through the years, and the future looks positive for the road ahead. Director Mike Book agrees on this bond between the two.

"With everything we do here at parks and recreation, we know it involves something that we could use the help of the Board of Education," Book said. "They help us advertise for our events, provide gyms for some of our winter leagues, and of course, sign off on the permission slips for field day events we host. And that is the tip of the iceberg for all the things we do together. For us, it has always been about the kids and finding ways to provide activities all year long."

Parks and Recreation also helps out with local fairs and contests where judges are needed. We have judged science and social studies fairs, as well as community contests. We know many of the kids at the schools, and when we see their work in their environment, we see how they act on their own turf.

"We have been lucky to have this relationship with the Parks and Recreation department as we have called on them to help with activities over the years and it has

See "Parks & Rec" on Pg 9.

## Mister Bee Potato Chips unveil new bag promoting New River Gorge region at Saturday's Bridge Day



The New River Gorge region, national park and preserve, and southern West Virginia are being featured on a new five-ounce chip bag that was unveiled Saturday by West Virginia's only potato chip manufacturer—Mister Bee Potato Chips based in Parkersburg, according to a West Virginia Press Association news release last week.

Leaders from Mister Bee, New River Gorge Regional Development Authority, West Virginia Hive, New River Gorge Convention and Visitors Bureau, and guests unveiled the new chip bag design at 10 a.m. at the Mister Bee/WV Hive tent on the southern end of the bridge.

Mary Anne Ketelsen, president of Mister Bee, said the new chip bags will be available soon in local retail outlets throughout southern West Virginia and the Mountain State.

"We encourage people to join us on Bridge Day and to enjoy the scenic

beauty of the New River Gorge region," said Ketelsen. She said 876 one-ounce bags of Mister Bee chips (representing the height of the bridge in feet above the scenic New River) were handed out free at Bridge Day. Asher Agency in Charleston (with offices in Fort Wayne and Indianapolis, Ind., and Washington, D.C.) designed the new chip bags.

Jina Belcher, executive director of the New River Gorge Regional Development Authority (NRGRDA), and Judy Moore, deputy director of NRGRDA and executive director of the West Virginia Hive, created the idea of the partnership with Mister Bee and the new chip bag.

"Thousands of visitors from across the nation and the Mountain State are visiting the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve and taking in the sites and experiences in southern West Virginia," said

See "Chips" on Pg 9.

## Harrison County EMS

HARRISON COUNTY



EMERGENCY SQUAD

## 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 the Shinnston News and Harrison County Journal Athletes of the Week award are Liberty's Kaleigh Ryan and Notre Dame's Conner Sandreth.

Mountaineer soccer player Kaleigh Ryan helped her team to an 8-1 win over Lewis County last Thursday in Weston. Ryan scored four goals to help Liberty gain its first victory of the season.

Fighting Irish soccer standout Conner Sandreth led his team to a pair of wins this past week. Sandreth scored a hat trick plus one in a 12-0 win over St. Mary's. The four-goal effort versus the Blue Devils took place at home last Thursday.

On Friday, Sandreth scored the winning goal against Parkersburg Catholic. He recorded both goals in the 2-0 win over the Crusaders in Parkersburg.

Congratulations to Liberty's Kaleigh Ryan and Notre Dame's Conner Sandreth for being named the Shinnston News and Harrison County Journal Athletes of the Week!

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# OBITUARIES

**Regina Lynn McCoy**



Regina Lynn McCoy, 54, of Shinnston, passed away unexpectedly on Oct. 5, 2022. She was born April 11, 1968, in Orange County, California to the late Mary Powers.

She is survived by her son Shane Zirkle and his fiancé Sara Detamore; fiancé Steve Helms; stepson Steve Helms II and fiancé Melinda Chrislip; sister-in-law's Judy Perry and Cindy Hannah; grandsons Benjamin Zirkle and Gage Helms; Aunt Jenny Weaver; sister Rini Blair; and several cousins.

Regina worked at Casey's of Shinnston for over twenty years and part-time at the laundry mat. She enjoyed gardening and taking care of her pets.

Friends were received at Harmer Funeral Home on Sunday, Oct. 9, 2022 from 11-1 p.m.

A service of Harmer Funeral Home, Shinnston.

**Julian Asher Pitman**



Family Patriarch, Julian Asher Pitman, 98, of Fairmont, passed away on Oct. 8, 2022. Julian, better known as Dad, Pawpaw, or Pawpaw Julian, was born on July 30, 1924, son of Walter and Ina (Michael) Pitman of Four States.

Julian attended Monongah High School. He served with Company B, 125th AAA Gun Battery during WWII, serving in Germany, France, and Belgium, including the Battle of the Bulge. Returning home, Julian married high school sweetheart Angelina (Nenie) Maset. He began working in the coal mines for Consol and then Bethlehem Steel at Idamay, Barrackville, and Barbour County Mine as Prep Plant Superintendent. After retirement he partnered with brother-

in-law Buck Blagg and Edgar Parks to form Superior Modular Homes and worked in construction until his final retirement. There was nothing Dad couldn't build or repair. His special interest was auto repair and restoration. He was very proud

of the 1930 Model A he restored and maintained.

Julian is pre-deceased by his parents, Walter and Ina Pitman; wife Angelina after 63 years of marriage; son Rodney in 2018; brother Virgil Pitman (KIA, WW II, Germany); sisters Dorothy Pitman Kocan, Velma Pitman Hartley, and Lexie Pitman Parks.

Left to honor his memory is sister and brother-in-law Joan and A.E. "Buck" Blagg; daughter-in-law Sharon Davis Pitman; sons Julian A. "Dusty" (Darlene) and Van (Kathy). Pawpaw is survived by grandchildren Krista Bryant (Calvin), Becky Hamilton (Scott), Angela Pitman, James Pitman (Ashley); John Pitman (Sandra); Jared Pitman and Tessla McGraw (Andrew). Pawpaw Julian is survived by great grandchildren Jake, Emily and Cole Pitman; Graham Bryant; Morgan and Shelby Hamilton and Grayson Asher McGraw; in addition to numerous nieces and nephews. Special appreciation for their on-going friendship with Dad as he became older goes to long-time friend Arnold & Jean Efaw and nephew Monty Burdoff. The family also appreciates the support provided by WVU UHC Hospice Staff, especially Trish and Tessa.

As Dad served in WWII, his brother Virgil, brother-in-law Louie Maset, and cousin Dallas Hawkins were all killed-in-action during WWII. We have great appreciation for our military! Therefore, in lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Julian's memory to Wreaths Across America, an organization that ensures deceased veterans are honored by placing wreaths at their gravesites at Christmas. Donations may be sent locally to: Rotary Club of Grafton, c/o Sharon Bolyard, 524 Gawthrop Road, Grafton, WV 26354. On the memo line

please make note that the donation is for Wreaths in Memory of Pitman.

There was no public viewing. A graveside service with Military Honors will be provided by Pastor Tim Shuttlesworth at the convenience of the family.

A Service of Harmer Funeral Home, Shinnston.

**Charlotte Jean Harney**



Charlotte Jean Harney, 77, of Fairmont, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2022, at Pierpont Center at Fairmont. She was born Nov. 11,

1944, in Shinnston, a daughter to the late Glenn Elwood and Dorothea Martin Gross.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Millard Harney Jr.

A graveside service was held Friday, Oct. 14, 2022 at 11 a.m. at Shinnston Memorial Cemetery.

A Service of Harmer Funeral Home, Shinnston.

**Kenneth Edward Betts**



Kenneth Edward Betts, 65, of Sutton, passed away on Friday, Oct. 7, 2022, at Braxton Memorial Hospital. He was born in Barnesville, OH, a son of the late Earl Edward and Jessie Beatrice Wehr Betts.

Surviving are his wife Vickie V. James of Sutton; his children: Brent Betts and his wife Hannah of Ohio; Amy Betts Payne of North Carolina; step-children: Adam James and Ryan James both of Sutton; his grandchildren: Ella, Hadley and Kainen Betts of Barnesville, OH; Madison and Aiden Payne, NC; and Brettley Armstong, NC; step-grandchildren: Shawver, Savin, and Sailer James of Sutton; brothers: Richard Betts and Robert Betts; sisters: Evajean Betts Sampson and Cheryl Betts Pierce, all of Ohio.

In his spare time, Kenny was an avid rabbit hunter and loved his beagle dogs. He also enjoyed spending time with his longtime friend, Doug "two-dogs" Dennison.

In keeping with his wishes, cremation services were provided and no public services will be held at this time.

The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Betts family.

**Edward Paul "E.P." Martin Jr.**



Edward Paul "E.P." Martin Jr., 56, of Lumberport, passed away on Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022, at Ruby Memorial Hospital. He was born in Cleveland, OH on May 27, 1966, a son of Judy Luke Martin of Bridgeport and the late Edward Paul Martin Sr.

E.P. is survived by his loving and devoted fiancé, Celestine Cutlip, with whom he made his home.

Also surviving are his sons Charles Paul Martin of Fairmont and Kyle Adam Martin of Wallace; his brothers Tim Martin of Bridgeport and Clifford Martin of Odell's Knob. As well as several aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by his loving aunt, Martha "Aunt Martiny" Martin.

E.P. was a self-proclaimed "jack-of-all-trades, master of none." He loved being outdoors where he could be found mushroom hunting, fishing, or sitting around a campfire enjoying a Budweiser. The most important things to E.P. were his family and friends. He also was a devoted son who would call Judy every morning and evening. He will be missed by all that knew him.

In keeping with his wishes, cremation services were provided by Perine Funeral Home. There will be no public services at this time.

The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Martin family.

## Out Of The Past

Memorable Photographs from around Harrison County.



Cousins Theda (Lyon) Tichenor and Jo Ann Jones in the 1950s. Photo courtesy of Bobby Bice.

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## “Talent” From Pg 1.

round series. The first installment will take place at The Soapbox in Shinnston at 413 Pike St. on Friday at 7 p.m. It will feature Harrison County musicians Benson, Allen Beverly, Austin Glaspell, and Silas Matheny. There will be a \$10 entry fee at the door.

“I am going to do this perpetually, ideally,” Benson said in regard to how many installments he plans to have.

“I want to do it regionally though,” Benson added. “It’ll be different with every region, and the long-term goal is to have the Songs & Stories brand come into Marion County or come into (Monongalia) County and Taylor County, and then all of a sudden, you’ve got groups of musicians that are playing together.”

Overall, Benson plans to grow Songs & Stories as a foundation for local musicians to showcase their talents and to spread the original music scene throughout the Mountain State.

“The biggest thing I want to share is that there are fantastic musicians right here in our midst, and it’s kind of unnecessary for people to spend five or \$600 to drive halfway across the country to listen to their favorite singer when they could pay 10 bucks to go down the street and hear somebody that could potentially be that same artist in five years,” Benson said. “[Songs & Stories will be] a lot more intimate setting where you’re sitting in a room with 25 people, and you hear a song that really hits you. That’s a different feeling than being in a crowd of 2,000 people.”

## Featured Musicians

### A.M. Benson

*“It’s kind of a universal language”*

Benson, who goes by A.M. Benson when performing, will be among the first set of performers for the first installment of Songs & Stories.

“I would consider myself—if I’m narrowing it down to a genre, it’s going to be more country/Americana,” Benson said, describing his music. “It’s a little bit of folk but...country and Americana are the best way to categorize it overall.”

He also said, “I’m really into the storyteller side of songwriting. A lot of my influences are folk musicians [like] Townes Van Zandt, and it’s very lyrically based. They’re a little bit more intricate musicians, though.”

The stories that Benson is passionate about telling through his music are usually about everyday life.

“Everybody struggles with different things to different degrees, and something that has always been there for people in general is music. It’s kind of a universal language,” Benson added.

Although he said, “I cannot write a happy song to save my life,” his songs are also about triumphs and overcoming aspects of life, alongside sadness.

He said that music is a way

for people to relate to one another, as well.

“You hear a song, and you go, ‘OK, I’m not the only one that feels that way,’ or, ‘I’m not the only one that was sad when my best friend got hurt or when I lost my grandmother,’” Benson said. “It makes them relate to the artist in a way that the artist is conveying a little bit of honesty, and the listener can hear that.”

Benson will be featured with three other local artists at The Soapbox on Friday at 7 p.m.

### Allen Beverly

*“There’s a grain of truth to every song”*

Singer and songwriter Allen Beverly is another featured artist for the first installment of Songs & Stories.

Beverly grew up on his family farm in Sardis, and he still resides there today. He is also a Lincoln High graduate, so he has a strong connection to Shinnston.

Music was a passion of Beverly’s long before he could talk.

“I’ve always kind of sang, I guess. Even when I couldn’t use words, Nana and my momma always said. It was just an instinct,” Beverly said. “I was always around music. My grandma on my momma’s side was the queen of country music in Cleveland, Ohio back in 1968, and that’s something the family clinged to and everything.”

He added, “She and my great grandfather and a few others in the family cut a couple of records in Nashville, out in Vegas, and a couple of different places, so I was raised up around that.”

Before getting into country music himself, he sang metal, rock, punk, and whatever else he could get his hands on. He said, “[I] somehow went full circle back to a semi-country sound.”

“I basically just write about neat stories that I can tell,” Beverly said. “I like to tell a story with every song I do...there’s a grain of truth to every song.”

He also said, “I try to move people in some way, shape, or form. I try to be relatable because I am relatable. I’m just some guy that grew up in the middle of nowhere with nothing to do but play around with sticks and stones, and every so often, pick on my guitar.”

Beverly said that everyone told him to take his music seriously, and within the last couple years, he has settled down into focusing on his music and taking it seriously like everyone advised.

In regard to Songs & Stories, Beverly said he is a big advocate for the local music scene, and he believes people should support it more.

“I think it’s [Songs & Stories] a great opportunity for people to actually sit and listen to what the songwriter has to say,” he added. “A lot of these folks have some stories that y’all need to hear.”

“We want to be real people playing real music. It’s what

I feel like songwriters truly are,” Beverly said.

He also just released a four-song album called the “Volga Sessions.” He said, “It’s just me and an acoustic guitar.” To listen, it is on music streaming platforms like Spotify, Apple Music, and Amazon Music.

Catch Beverly alongside Benson at The Soapbox on Friday at 7 p.m.

### Silas Matheny

*“It’s coming from your heart”*

Lost Creek native Silas Matheny draws inspiration from his roots and where he was raised for his music.

“There’s a big field behind our house, and we always drove old cars and fixed them up,” Matheny said. He also shoots competition bow and enjoys bow hunting, all of which serve as inspiration in his songwriting process.

He focuses on a type of music called roots music.

“It’s just a mix of old country and blues. When people think of country they think of a banjo, fiddle, and a guitar, but with roots music, it kind of mixes that Americana vibe with the bluesy rock guitar, and you kind of just have a really nice fusion that flows well amongst all people,” Matheny said. “It’s not just country people on this side and rock people on this side.”

The style of his music is “like a blues-bluegrass style,” as well.

“My style is roots overall, but roots can be anything,” Matheny said. “But if I had to pick a main thing, it would be, like I talked about, that Americana, blues, rock just all mixed together that forms a really nice, flowing piece of music...it can speak to anybody.” He said everybody can relate to it somehow.

He said he likes to categorize himself as a multi-instrumentalist because he said he is usually able to fill in for anyone in any genre with just about any instrument. He plays guitar, fiddle, banjo, drums, harmonica, and piano.

In regard to Songs & Stories, Matheny said, “It’s a lot about grasping the younger generation because if they like something, they’ll post it everywhere, they’ll talk about it, they’ll get other people listening to it. I think that if it grasps the attention of the younger generation, it’ll really be something big because even though you’re always telling a story, and it’s coming from your heart when you’re on stage playing roots music or blues or bluegrass or anything like that, it’s not speaking the words and explaining it to people.”

He also explained a little bit about how Songs & Stories will be, “Short little segments explaining what your song’s about, how it came to you, and how it should connect to other people. I think that’ll really hit people right in their hearts, and it’ll just take off.”

Matheny’s overall goal as a musician is to find a way to make a living from his

music.

“I don’t expect to play the arenas like Alan Jackson or somebody like that, but I could definitely see myself being like John R. Miller where he can at least make a living off his music, and he can do the thing he loves to make a living off of it,” Matheny added.

He has released a number of songs on all streaming platforms. His latest new release is called “1813” and it is available on Spotify, Apple Music, and YouTube.

“1813” is a West Virginia inspired song and emphasizes many Mountain State motifs that can be relatable for any West Virginian, as well as pull at the heartstrings.

Matheny will be sharing his West Virginia melodies alongside Benson and Beverly on Friday at The Soapbox at 7 p.m.

### Austin Glaspell

*“You just gotta throw your soul into it”*

Austin Glaspell is a Lost Creek native who has had a passion for singing ever since he was little.

“I’ve always considered myself a singer [even] before I’m a guitar player, and I always loved to sing growing up,” he said. “I consider myself a rock and roll, blues, folk, country guy. You can put all those in one category—just Americana music.”

Glaspell’s motivation comes from his best friend, Jesse Johnson, who he grew up with and taught him how to play guitar and sing harmony. After three years of them playing music together, Glaspell said Johnson passed away from kidney cancer.

“He’s literally the driving force of why I keep doing this and my songwriting too,” Glaspell added. “There’s a force behind it, and when I’m really pouring it out in my music at a show or something, that’s the kind of stuff that’s on my mind—those people in my life that have affected my life, and I

just pour it out.”

In regard to Songs & Stories, Glaspell said he is excited about having it in the area.

“What I’m most excited about is just to have different music venues and different styles of music and original music by local artists,” he said. “The world seems to forget that there are local musicians out there with original music, so [Songs & Stories] gives everybody an opportunity to hear that side instead of just cover bands.”

Glaspell never forgets the soul in his music. “I sing and play straight from the soul,” he said. “You just gotta throw your soul into it and your genre will be whatever genre you’re meant to be. You just gotta be yourself.”

He said that being himself and letting his soul shine through in his music is what it is all about.

“Just being myself and letting the blues come out and rock and roll, country, and everything that we’ve all grown up on around here, and letting that be a part of who I am and seeing where it goes,” Glaspell said.

When writing his songs, he said inspirations come in spur of the moment. “When it comes, I make sure that I have pen and paper and my guitar around, and I’m just picking around and letting it flow,” Glaspell said.

In his songs, he likes to tell stories about what is going on in his own life, and he also enjoys writing folk stories about different pastimes, as well as old America and current things going on around him.

Glaspell’s new song “Feeling Better” is a rock and roll slow jam, and he said, “It’s about a love that brings you back to yourself, and it’s nothing toxic. A lot of the things we go through in life are toxic...and it’s about love that’s not toxic. It’s love that’s good for you.”

Also catch Glaspell sharing his tunes straight from the soul alongside Benson, Beverly, and Matheny on Friday at The Soapbox at 7 p.m.

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“Grapevine” From Pg 4.

Kennedy and loving mother of Henry, Marguerite, Annabelle, and Abigail Kennedy.

Gina Marie (McNemar) Hasty



Gina Marie (McNemar) Hasty is a 25-year-old Clarksburg native, who now resides in Preston County with her newlywed husband Mike and their son Christian. Gina is the daughter of Melissa McNemar and David McNemar, and has two siblings, Hannah Jo and Brent McNemar. Gina is a 2015 graduate of Liberty High School and United Technical Center.

Gina grew up not only attending but participating in the West Virginia Italian Heritage Festival throughout the years. Gina first served as a princess on the Minor Court in 2003 and then again on the Senior Court of Regina Maria the 40th in 2018 under Queen Miranda Lang.

Gina’s Italian heritage stems from her mother’s side of the family. Gina’s second great grandparents, Salvatore “Sam” Perri Jr and Rosa (Laratta) Perri both immigrated from Italy in the early 1900s from the San Giovanni in Fiore area of the Calabria Region of Italy, making Gina fourth generation Italian American.

Since graduating high school, Gina worked as a medical assistant at the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center in urology oncology and left there in 2018 to pursue a career in law enforcement. Gina graduated from the State Police Academy in 2019 and worked as a law enforcement officer until March of 2022. In 2021 Gina was named Preston County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year by those in her community

Gina also started a Shop with a Cop Program for

her department in 2021 and was able to raise \$3,500 for the program. They were able to take 13 kids from around Preston County on a \$200 shopping spree for Christmas and celebrate with a Christmas party afterward. The funds left over from the program were used to help others in her community in various ways such as helping a local family that experienced a devastating house fire in February of 2022.

Gina has made it her mission to live her life to the fullest while fighting for the things she cares about and helping others while doing so. Gina hopes that her passion will inspire others to do the same. A quote from a notable woman in history that has always resonated with her is “Fight for the things that you care about but do it in a way that will lead others to join you”- Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Trish Moore



Over the years Trish has been active in the community where she has volunteered her time with a few organizations that are near and dear to her heart. Early on she volunteered with the Shinnston Emergency Squad and helped with the American Cancer Society Relay for life, as well as at her church where she sang in the choir. She also helps friends, neighbors, and family any time that they need her.

In 2015 she started fostering with Pet Helpers Inc. where she has fostered over 70 kitties until they found their Furever homes. During that time, she helped with fundraisers and more recently helped establish one of the most successful fundraisers on the Pet Helpers Fundraiser Raffle page on Facebook.

Over the years she has assisted with many events from feeding the community on Thanksgiving and food

drives to feed those in need to help with the community garden.

She is also an adult leader with her son’s Cub Scout Pack, Pack 59 Shinnston, and has been a volunteer since 2018. Last year she assisted in establishing a Girls Cub Scout Pack 159 which has been very successful in Shinnston and has done several volunteer projects for the community.

Volunteering has been a very special part of her life and has been very fulfilling and she hopes to continue down this path for years to come.

Trish lives in Shinnston, where her husband owns and operates a small family business. She lives with her husband Eddie and son Landon.

Julie Pratt



Julie Pratt is a native of Steubenville, Ohio, and the daughter of Rosemary Mascio. After earning her bachelor’s degree from Saint Mary’s College and her law degree from the Cleveland State School of Law, she enjoyed a diverse professional career that enabled her to travel throughout the United States, Canada and Costa Rica. She practiced law in Ohio before joining an international consulting firm where she worked in procurement and as a business consultant.

She currently owns and operates Pratt Mascio Self Storage in Bridgeport. Julie is active in her community and is a past president and the current president-elect for the Kiwanis Club of Clarksburg. She also serves on the board of the Harrison County Chamber of Commerce and participates on the Chamber’s Ambassador’s Council.

She is a “Glammy” to her grandsons Brock and Victor and resides in Bridgeport with her husband Jeff.

Leslie Pruitt



Leslie is a lifelong resident of Harrison County where she started her long-time career as a court reporter right out of high school at age 19. She was employed by the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia and worked at the Harrison County Courthouse for 36 1/2 years. She retired in 2021 from this position and still works for other reporters and helps them out when needed.

Leslie loves traveling to other counties and working for judges. Being proud of her Italian Heritage, she tries to observe all the Italian customs that have been taught to her over the years, whether it’s preparing the seven fishes on Christmas Eve, making Pita Piatas and frittis and until Covid, having the traditional Sunday pasta dinners at her home. That quickly changed to to-go orders!

Leslie served as Regina Maria the VI of the Italian Festival and participated in pasta cook-offs. She even won for my Pasta Fagioli. Leslie’s mother, Rosalyn Queen, was one of the original creators of the WV Italian Heritage Festival. Her father, Fray Queen, was a magistrate serving Harrison County for over 25 years until he retired.

Leslie is a member of the Immaculate Conception Church and the Clarksburg League for Service and has volunteered with several programs and charities especially those including veterans.

Leslie is married to Dixon G. Pruitt, who is retired from the Army and currently a lieutenant for the Harrison County Sheriff’s Department; they enjoy hiking sections of the Appalachian Trail, camping in their Shasta trailer, riding their Harley, and volunteering and supporting as many small towns and

communities as possible. Leslie is very proud of her long work history, her Italian heritage and especially her family. She is honored to be nominated by the PWA for their Italian Women of Distinction Award.

Amy Romano



Amy grew up in Connecticut and worked in Boston, the Washington, D.C. metro area, and the greater New York City area before settling in West Virginia. Amy attended Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford, Connecticut, where she was on the Dean’s List and recipient of the Joseph P. Kennedy Scholarship for excellence in academics. Along with Amy’s many academic accomplishments, she also lettered in three sports and was co-captain of the women’s varsity ice hockey team. She attended Rutgers in New Jersey, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in economics with a minor in psychology.

Amy stays active with the community: Community Emergency Response Team, director, trainer; Emergency Services Council for the City of Bridgeport, board member; emergency medical responder, nationally certified; Local Emergency Planning Committee board member; and Greater Federation of Women’s Clubs Juniors, to name a few.

She has worked for WVU Medicine since January 2022 as a physician liaison covering the entire state plus portions of four surrounding states. At present, she is also the manager of operations at the Law Office of Michael J. Romano, her husband of 22 years. They have a daughter, Emma, a sophomore at the University of Arizona and a son, Michael, a sophomore at Bridgeport High School.

“Parks & Rec” From Pg 6.

been a big help for our schools,” said a county administrator. “They come and judge the fairs, bring staff for field days, and of course, the enrichment programs. They have hardly ever said no and are very good at what they do.”

To Book, this comes as second nature because

his years of experience and knowledge of his craft is the battery that keeps this engine going. In over 40 years of service, he has seen it all, and that experience has helped him either recycle old activities or conjure up something new related to today’s world. Overall, he is

the answer man for sure, and the county has all the trust in what he does.

“I know that I have said this before, but we have come a long way from working from the trunk of the car to where we are today

with the recreation kids that were in our summer programs are now parents with kids, and guess what, they have participated in one of our programs too. They remember the fun they had and when they

come and pick up their kids, they see some of the stuff we did in the past, as well as some of the new things adapted to today’s world,” Book said.

As you can see, the years of service has definitely made

Parks and Recreation something other than kicking a ball to a kid, tossing a Frisbee, or skipping rope. We keep them active, we educate them, and most importantly, we will always help out when needed.

“Chips” From Pg 6.

Belcher. “NRGRDA, the West Virginia Hive, and New River Gorge Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) cannot act rapidly enough to respond to the tourism, outdoor recreation, community development, and business growth. Judy and I were made aware of Mister Bee’s interest in reaching more customers in our region, so we proposed a new chip bag that would celebrate the state’s only potato chip company, as well as the new national park and emergence of the New River

Gorge region.” Ketelsen said the idea resonated and the company is indebted to NRGRDA, West Virginia Hive, CVB, and Bridge Day planners for this opportunity. “The power of collaboration and dreaming and executing of big ideas are key reasons Mister Bee Potato Chips continues to grow so rapidly,” she said. Mister Bee Potato Chips was started in 1951 and is one of the most popular snacks in the Mountain State. It was

voted “Best West Virginia-Made Food Product” in 2021 by the readers of West Virginia Living magazine. The woman-owned small business has been fully modernized and has expanded its market research and grown from 20 to 80 employees in the past two years.

“This success story is a prime example of how the entrepreneurial ecosystem we have built in southern West Virginia can add value to long-standing businesses as well as new start-ups and early-stage businesses seeking to grow or pivot,” Moore said.

Super Crossword

Answers

Grid of crossword puzzle answers with words like REPS, UTERI, HAMME, HEAT, S, EDIT, TALON, ALOE, AGLOW, BULLMARKET, LATE, IRLINA, COUCH, WELSH, RARE, BIT, RATKANGAROO, SKEPTICS, STEEN, UMA, STN, ARI, TED, GLINT, BOSTON, POPS, SNAPS, RESAT, SORES, SCOTTISH, SYMPHONY, WINE, TOVAH, ESP, PIE, EGG, PREY, TIBETAN, AKS, RAUL, DRE, EMU, TAE, MAMIE, RETD, YORKSHIRE, PUDDING, ARAIL, RAISA, BASIE, FOXNET, WORK, DOONE, SNO, CIA, THE, IOS, ACTES, ARBITERS, SILKY, SMOOTH, BORDER, STATES, LIARS, ADAIR, HOME, TERRIER, MIX, SETON, IRON, ONTOP, SETI, HOSTS, PEST, ODETS, EDEN



“Hunt” From Pg 1.



Mannington Mayor Lora Michael meets with Shinnston News columnist Jim Hunt during a recent trip to the history-rich town.

century. From the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to 1917, Mannington’s population grew from around 700 to over 4,000 and it had its own trolley system, electricity, theaters, schools, fire department and other amenities. My dad, who grew up in Hundred, West Virginia always spoke of Mannington as being a thriving town in his youth and he remembered many times going to Mannington.

Mayor Michael told me of some of the plans for the town. Her face lights up when she talks about the recent award of a grant to remove some vacant and dilapidated houses. She has photos of each of the houses taped to her file cabinet and said she can’t wait for the day that she gets to pull each of the photos down as they are demolished. She said she spends a good bit of time each day calling state officials and others to put in a plug for her town. You can tell she has a passion for the town and seems to enjoy her job, even with the occasional setback.

Some things that I noticed on my visit were a beautiful mural that is painted on an old, red

brick building in the center of town. It covers the entire side of the building and may be one of the biggest murals in the state. It features a scene of an old oil derrick with a barn, set against the green countryside and a cloud-filled sky. Murals have become a great way to attract visitors and give the town an identity and focal point for a snapshot of history.

I always encourage cities and towns that to “go big” with attractions like murals. Since most murals are viewed at a distance, using the entire side of a building gets people’s attention and is memorable. In addition, with everyone having a camera on their phone, having a mural as a focal point is a great place for visitors to take pictures.

Another stunning feature of Mannington is the beautiful Mannington Public School, built in 1902. This red brick building is one of the most significant school buildings in the state and shows the investment that was made when Mannington was growing as an oil and natural gas producer. The building has a large clock tower and three impressive arches in the



The Mannington Public School, built in 1902, demonstrates investment in education as the town developed its oil and gas industry.

front. You can almost imagine schoolchildren in the early 1900s walking through those arches on their way to class.

If you like large Victorian houses, Mannington has several on almost every street. Many are kept in pristine condition and have wrought iron fences and well-kept shrubbery. One could spend a day in Mannington just admiring the buildings, having lunch in one of the many restaurants or enjoying the downtown park. The park was constructed on land that once housed the Wintergarden Hotel and Restaurant, which burned down in a devastating fire several years ago.

If you are looking for a pleasant drive and a beautiful small town, you cannot go wrong by putting Mannington on your bucket list. And don’t forget to stop by City Hall and say hi to Mayor Lora Michael, an Amazing small-town mayor!



A large mural in Mannington, featuring an oil derrick with a barn backdropped by a cloudy sky, serves as an attraction for visitors.

“Sports” From Pg 6.

where they have outscored their opponents 133-74.

The following week, West Virginia will host TCU in a homecoming tilt. The Horned Frogs are a perfect 6-0 and are riding high after a 43-40 double overtime win over Oklahoma State.

Currently, the Mountaineers are in the middle of the pack in the conference standings. TCU and Kansas State are the only remaining unbeaten, and they play each other this Saturday in a prime-time lockup. Let’s just imagine that the Horned Frogs upend the Wildcats, and WVU takes care of business in Texas because it would increase the value of that homecoming showdown with TCU.

The conference title is indeed up for grabs, and WVU has put themselves in position for a run at the crown. What else could Mountaineer Nation ask for?

Lincoln won their third game in a row last Friday, and they moved to 5-2 on the season.

The Cougars upended Elkins 42-13.

A quick start gave Head Coach Rob Hawkins and his team a 28-0 lead at the halftime break.

Quarterback Nick Kellar threw a touchdown pass and ran for another, and Levi Moore picked up a pair of rushing scores to propel Lincoln to the victory. Noah Sears intercepted a pass and went 31 yards for a defensive score. David Burdette finished the scoring when he found paydirt from five yards out.

This week the Cougars travel to Liberty followed by a home game with Philip Barbour. The regular season finale provides a visit to Wayne Jamison Field for a date with the Bridgeport Indians.

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

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LEGAL

(2020-S-00000099 - Harrison County - EIGG LAND LIMITED)

To: GRAYDON C SEITZ, CAROLINE BERLINER, HAMILTON P SMITH, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT COAL OUTSIDE DISTRICT MAP 9999 PARCEL 0666 3675

You will take notice that EIGG LAND LIMITED, the purchaser of the tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2020-S-00000099, .1838 INT 402 AC O&G LINN-API# 3607/DOM EX-API#324, located in COAL OUTSIDE DISTRICT, which was returned delinquent in the name of SMITH HAMILTON P, and for which the tax lien(s) thereon was sold by the sheriff of Harrison County at the sale for the delinquent taxes made on the 5th day of November, 2020, has requested that you be notified that a deed for such real estate will be made to him or her on or after December 6, 2022, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount you will have to pay on the last day, December 5, 2022, will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to December 5, 2022.	\$ 191.78
Amount of subsequent year's taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to December 5, 2022.	\$ 83.79
Amount paid for the Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest from January 1, 2021, following the sheriff's sale to December 5, 2022.	\$ 448.88
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to December 5, 2022.	\$ 466.10
Total Amount Payable to Sheriff - cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to <b>The Honorable Robert Matheny, Sheriff and Treasurer of Harrison County.</b>	\$ 1,190.55
Cost of Certification of Redemption - cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to <b>The Honorable John B. McCuskey, State Auditor.</b>	\$ 35.00

You may redeem any time before December 5, 2022, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

Return this letter and both certified funds to the WV State Auditor's Office, County Collection Division 1900 Kanawha Blvd East, Building 1, Room W-114 Charleston, West Virginia 25305. Questions please call 1-888-509-6568 option 2

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