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Memorial Museum reopens in Shinnston



Museum days are Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., but Herndon said that visitors can call ahead of time to come alternate days.

By Kara Linaburg

The Bice-Ferguson Memorial Museum on 400 Pike St. in Shinnston has opened back up for the season through October, according to Debra Herndon, who is in charge of the museum.

“The Bice-Ferguson Memorial Museum was a gift to the greater Shinnston area from people who understood that a community’s culture is defined by those who came before,” Herndon said. “Those who founded and settled the area, everyday heroes who came to the forefront during the great tornado, our local veterans, and struggles of everyday life are preserved at the museum for the current generation and those to come. As the museum collects more family stories and artifacts, it will continue to bless and



Visitors can touch some of the displays such as this typewriter. Some artifacts remain untouched behind glass, but Herndon willingly shares information and allows people an up close look.

educate.”

Artifacts at the museum include antique phones, a switchboard, typewriter, and World War II uniforms. One wall in the museum is covered in newspaper clippings and photos showing the devastation of the Shinnston tornado. A TV sits in the corner playing clips from Shinnston in the 1930s.

Herndon explains to guests how the



Debra Herndon said that many children now have never used an actual telephone and are fascinated by the buttons and cranks of the antique phones on display at the Bice-Ferguson Memorial Museum.

switchboard works as well as other artifacts, and said that kids who visit are often amazed because they’ve never seen a telephone before other than their cell phone or have ever got to touch the buttons of a typewriter. “Many don’t know how they work,” she said.

Herndon said that visitors to the museum vary from day to day. Sometimes she gets no one, while other times she gets a group. Visiting the Bice-Ferguson is free to those who wish to come and see for themselves, and Herndon said that the museum will be open through October on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. “People can also call or text me 304-677-6650 to arrange alternate hours,” she said.

Movie company coming to Shinnston

Abandoned properties turned over to city land bank

By Kara Linaburg

At the May 9 City Council meeting, Mayor Rodney Strait announced that a local movie company is coming to Shinnston to make movies in the area. “What they need from us,” Strait said, “is filming locations, hotel rooms, coffee, food, and mostly support. But we’ll make \$150 for extras per person. But it sounds like a pretty good company coming in here to support.”

“And we were listed,” Julia Curry said. “Our city was probably the second listed next to Morgantown. Imagine



A grass clippings ordinance was read for the first time by City Manager Chad Edwards, right, at the May 9 City Council meeting. He said there will be enforcement and that grass clippings can be not just a nuisance to drivers but a hazard to motorcyclists. Executive Assistant Tori Drainer is at left.

that. So we’re on the charts for getting stuff done.”

“We talked to them and they’re very interested in coming here and to Clarksburg and Fairmont,” Strait said. “They made a movie in Fairmont for the Lifetime channel.”

The Council voted to approve buying various lots and parcels of land in Shinnston that are connected with properties that need to be demolished or developed.

“This will be turned over to the land bank,” Strait said, “to have a discussion of what to do about these properties, whether to tear them down or sell them or whatever.” Shinnston City Council approved board members for the land bank, also known as a land reuse agency, in an effort to alleviate the problem of abandoned and dilapidated properties in the city, in January.

The approval to buy them carried. The list of properties are as follows:

- 1 LOT 122 PLEASANT HILL
- 2 LOTS 121 PLEASANT HILL

3 LOTS 117-118-119 PLEASANT HILL INCL PAR 106-107

2 LOTS HOWARD PLACE INC PAR 110

1 LOT MARY M MONROE PLAT CHARLES STREET


1 LOT (.59 AC) HOOD ADD

1 TRACT PT ABANDONED SWIGER AVE.

A first reading of the high grass and grass clippings ordinance was done, and it will be added to the existing ordinance that no person should allow grass clippings on roads. City Manager Chad Edwards said, “Mainly what this is about is grass clippings. It specifically says that no person shall place on any of the roads, streets, alleys, or sidewalks of the city in the substance of obstruction material of grass clippings or thing of any kind that may cause personal injuries or injuries to property that may cause or endanger life or limb or person property.”

Edwards said there will be enforcement. He said

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**BUILDING
AMAZING CITIES**

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

Cooper’s Rock State Park



Just a short drive from Harrison County is one of the most iconic spots in West Virginia that has attracted tens of thousands of visitors over the years. The Cooper’s Rock State Park sits just off Interstate 68 in Preston County and offers one of the most photographed views in the state. The park gets its name from a legend about a fugitive who hid from the law near what is now the overlook. A cooper by trade, he made barrels at his mountain hideout and remained in hiding for many years. Much of Coopers Rock was originally developed by projects of the Civilian Conservation Corps from 1936-1942. Many of these structures, including large rustic picnic shelters, are still in use today and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

I first visited Coopers Rock as a freshman at West Virginia University and enjoyed the hiking trails and the unique rock formations. Over the years, it has been a place of enjoyment and solace and I loved introducing it to my family and friends. When WVU had a nationally televised football game, I would often see that the producers had sent

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OPINION

Keep legal ads for public notice in your local newspaper

Your county commissions, city and town councils are hearing state plans to allow West Virginia government officials to put legal ads for public notice on a state government website instead of in your local newspapers.

A free enhancement of public notice in newspapers

Local officials are being told they will save money; however, the overall financial impact of such a plan could be negative for your counties.

More importantly, we must determine the real cost of reducing public notice by legal advertising to local residents and your community?

Each publication of your newspaper carries many legal ads for public notice, but most aren't from your local government.

However, if you local officials vote to support this plan, they are also voting to remove all other local and state legal ads for public notice from your community newspaper and your local community.

Examples of actual legal ads running in West Virginia newspapers include:

- Requests for air quality permits
Public notices for group homes
Public comment periods
Notices of intent to sell real estate
Notices of trustees sale
Notices of tobacco litigation
Advertisements for bids on local work
Notices to creditors
Family court notices
Requests for proposals
Board of zoning appeals
Landfill public notices
Lien sales
Financial statements
Levy estimates
Sanitary board actions
Bid acceptances on oil and gas resources
Delinquent real estate listings

If you're not sure what each of these public notices would do in your community, you're starting to see the problem.

In your community newspaper, you can quickly look at a page full of legal ads that impact your community.

The process on a government website will be much longer and more cumbersome ... that is assuming local residents actually have adequate internet service and downloading capabilities. You will need to find each legal ad on the website, guess what the title means, decide if it impacts you, follow the links to load that legal on your computer, and then go back to the start of the listing of the legal ads and start over.

Locally elected officials should keep your legal advertisements for public notice in your community newspaper.

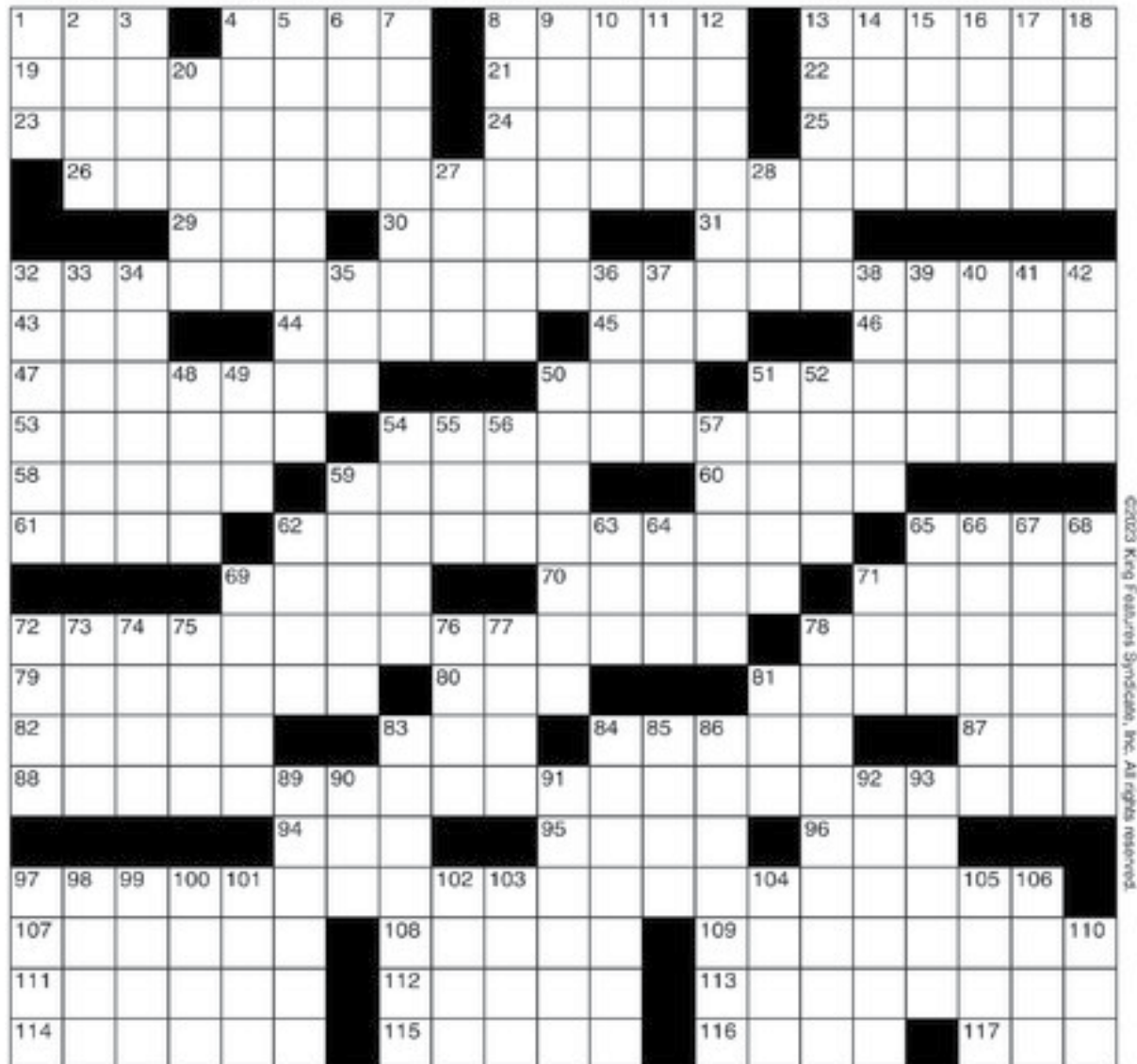
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FIND THE SUPER CROSSWORD ANSWERS ON PAGE 6!

THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

CHARLESTON, WV – The following events happened on these dates in West Virginia history. To read more, go to e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia at www.wvencyclopedia.org.

May 18, 2012: Ice Mountain in Hampshire County was named a National Natural Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior at a ceremony to mark the 50th anniversary of the program.

May 19, 1920: Ten people were killed in a shootout sometimes referred to as the Matewan Massacre. Baldwin-Felts detectives came to Matewan to evict striking miners and their families, but Police Chief Sid Hatfield tried to stop the evictions as being unauthorized by law.

May 20, 1949: Nick Joe Rahall II was born in Beckley. When Rahall first entered Congress in 1977, he was its youngest member.

May 21, 1853: William M. O. Dawson was born in Bloomington, Maryland, just across the Potomac River from what is now the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. In 1905, he became the 12th governor of West Virginia.

May 22, 1947: Supreme Court Justice Margaret "Peggy" Workman was born in Charleston. In the election of November 1988, she became the first woman on the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals and the first woman to be elected to statewide office in West Virginia.

May 23, 1862: In what became known as the Battle of Lewisburg, Union troops repelled a

Confederate advance, killing 38 and wounding 66, while losing only 13 men.

May 23, 1941: Rod Thorn was born in Princeton. Declared by the Legislature a state "natural resource," Thorn attended West Virginia University, where he was an All-American guard. Thorn had a distinguished NBA career as a player and executive, which included drafting Michael Jordan.

May 24, 1896: Confederate General John Echols died in Staunton, Virginia. Echols served in the Kanawha Valley in 1862 and commanded Confederate forces at their defeat at the Battle of Droop Mountain in November 1863.

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“Hunt” From Pg 1.

a camera crew to Coopers Rock to play during the broadcast. It is also a popular stop for the “leaf peepers” in the fall, as the colorful view equals any throughout the country.

My most recent visit to Coopers Rock was to attend a memorial service for my cousin, Shirley Ann Wilson. Shirley was born in Hundred, West Virginia and was the daughter of Bud and Wanda Tracy. She grew up in Weirton, West Virginia and after graduating from college, she moved to Queens in New York City to work for American Airlines at LaGuardia Airport. She met her husband, Roger Wilson in Jackson Heights, NY

and they fell in love and were married for 67 years. During her lifetime, she visited all 50 states and 53 countries but never lost her love for West Virginia.

At the memorial service, I got to catch up with many of my cousins and reminisce about Shirley and her incredible life. There was also a lot of discussion about the unique role that the state of West Virginia has had on the lives of many of the descendants, many who have never lived in the state. It is amazing that hard working families in the hills of West Virginia have had children who grew up and relocated throughout the world

to find fortune and fame. Even my own two granddaughters, who were born in South Carolina, love West Virginia and visit us each summer.

So, it was fitting that as part of the memorial service, Shirley’s ashes were scattered at Coopers Rock State Park. Her family knew of her love of the state but were not sure why she chose Coopers Rock for her final resting place. As her family members walked to the overlook, they looked at the glorious view and the question was answered. She began life as a West Virginian and will forever be a part of “Almost Heaven”.

Manchin rallies senators around bipartisan permitting reform bill

Washington, DC – Today, the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing to examine opportunities for Congress to reform the permitting process for energy and mineral projects. During the hearing, Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), Chairman of the Committee, discussed how permitting reform is necessary for energy reliability through the use of all types of energy, and the bipartisan recognition that permitting reform is vital to ensuring America’s energy security.

During the hearing, Chairman Manchin commented on the recent permitting reform legislation introduced by Members on both sides of the aisle and the need to come together on a piece of bipartisan legislation.

“As the Chairman of this Committee, I’m committed to continuing to convene my colleagues for open dialogue and negotiations. At this point we have the legislation I filed that received bipartisan support, the House and Senate Republican proposals, and Senator Carper’s forthcoming proposal on the table. Now, just as we did with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, we all need to sit down and negotiate in good faith—putting politics aside—to craft the Bipartisan Permitting Reform Bill,” said chairman Manchin.

Later in the hearing, Chairman Manchin continued, “I would like for all of you and everyone in the room here, if you will when you leave this room, support bipartisan permitting reform. Not my bill, not Senator Barrasso’s bill, not Senator Capito’s bill, not Senator Carper’s bill, whoever is putting bills up — we need a little bit of all four of them to make this work. We can get together much quicker if we’re all in this, and I think we are. We want this done and everybody wants it done.”

Chairman Manchin stressed that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee bears great responsibility over reforms to America’s energy and mineral permitting process.

“It’s the agencies under our jurisdiction doing most of the permitting for these projects. Over 80% of NEPA [National Environmental Policy Act] Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) for energy and minerals projects are completed by agencies under this committee’s jurisdiction—and that’s almost half of the EISs done across the entire federal government. They take 4.5 years on average, and often several years beyond that. Members of this Committee have a wide range of views regarding

what the future of American energy should look like, but no matter what you want to build, it takes too long,” said Chairman Manchin.

Chairman Manchin also noted how his legislation, the Building American Energy Security Act of 2023 that was supported by 47 bipartisan Senators as an amendment to the 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), would reform America’s energy and mineral permitting process.

“This is why the bill I introduced, and 47 bipartisan Senators voted for last year, would set enforceable timelines for agencies to complete reviews, limit the length of these reviews, and require agencies to coordinate on one government-wide, simultaneous review instead of multiple uncoordinated reviews. It would accelerate the court process for energy projects by requiring courts to set these cases for expedited review and shortening deadlines to bring lawsuits from 6 years to less than 6 months. This will provide certainty that if agencies approve a project, it won’t then get delayed by endless litigation,” said Chairman Manchin.

During the hearing, Chairman Manchin highlighted the Mountain Valley Pipeline and high-voltage transmission as examples of how the United States’ current permitting processes is delaying vital energy infrastructure projects that would strengthen our energy and national security.

“The Mountain Valley Pipeline has been undergoing permitting and litigation for more than 8 years—that includes 8 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews and 9 court cases in the Fourth Circuit. And siting, permitting, litigation, and decision-making on how to pay for long-distance, high voltage transmission lines tie up these projects for over a decade, if they ever get built. These challenges threaten the reliability of our grid. Some reforms will help all sectors — such as setting and enforcing deadlines, expediting litigation, and more. Some will require sector-specific fixes. But no energy sector is immune to permitting roadblocks. Despite every administration and Congress in recent memory—and every sector of the energy industry—identifying permitting reform as a vital need, the problem is getting worse, not better,” said Chairman Manchin.

Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) commented on the work Chairman Manchin and Senator Wyden have done to encourage the private sector taking steps to pursue a technology neutral approach to the future of energy through historic bipartisan investments that enhance our energy security. Following these comments, Senator Manchin noted:

“The whole purpose of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) is energy security. This Administration has been unable to use the word energy security, all they use is climate, and I have corrected them, and I will continue to correct them. It is energy security. We can invest in the technology of the future that we’re all going to need and mature that, but we’re not going to eliminate something before we have something to replace it with. And if you think we’re doing something wrong by having

fossil and clean technology, go look at Europe, look at what happened. We’re not going to repeat that mistake,” said Chairman Manchin.

Chairman Manchin questioned all four witnesses about how recent pieces of legislation, including the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, have driven new investments to the United States.

“Have you all seen an uptick, in the last year or two since we’ve passed pieces of monumental legislation — the bipartisan infrastructure law, the IRA —have you seen more investments, more activity, more desire to do more in America than ever before or have you not?” asked Chairman Manchin.

“Mr. Chairman, uptick would be an understatement. There is an absolute surge of activity. In just the last nine months: private sector capital, \$150 billion of announced investment in clean energy; 47 domestic manufacturing facilities between September and April. We can’t put the report out monthly anymore, we have to update it weekly. So, there is incredibly opportunity, but I have to say as you pointed out, it’s going to get harder, not easier, unless we open up the space,” said Mr. Jason Grumet, CEO of the American Clean Power Association.

“We have seen a rush, a gold rush as a matter of fact in some battery materials investments and mines in the United States. However, the permitting juggernaut is proving to be extremely difficult. I believe we learned just yesterday really only two mines have been approved, the rest have been some exploration work,” said Mr. Rich Nolan, President and CEO of the National Mining Association.

“I would say yes, we are talking a lot at the national level about the opportunity coming our way and trying to ramp up training and workforce readiness and looking at that talent pipeline that’s going to be needed. But I will say we’ve heard promises before from the federal government and workers, the best way that we can show them that this is different is to get the shovels in the ground and get the projects moving. Make it a reality,” said Ms. Elizabeth Shuler, President of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO).

“Mr. Chairman the desire is there, certainly in Wyoming. We are an all of the above state. We are eager, ready, willing, able to get to work producing some of the cleanest energy whether it be natural gas, coal, wind, etc.,” said Mr. Paul Ulrich, Vice President of Jonah Energy and a member of the Wyoming Energy Authority Board of Directors.

Chairman Manchin commented on the Administration’s and Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) delay in permitting Class IV wells and carbon capture utilization and sequestration technologies.

“If the EPA does not give us permits for Class VI wells, which they have not, that means they’re trying to strangle you by a thousand cuts. They’re trying to go one way without the other. They know it’s a balanced approach. So don’t tell me you’re going to invest in carbon capture sequestration when we can’t get a permit to sequester the carbon we capture. These are the games that are being played. I know it, they know I know it, and we’re not going to let them get away with it. And we will shut everything down until they start playing exactly how the [IRA] was written and the intent. So, I want all of you to know that very clearly so if you can talk to the Administration, tell them we’re all on the same side — we want energy security, we want fossil cleaner than anywhere else in the world, and we want to develop the new technology for the future,” said Chairman Manchin.

The hearing featured witnesses from the American Clean Power Association, National Mining Association, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) and Jonah Energy.

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Cougars claim Sectional crown



The Bottom Line

By Bill Nestor
Sports Editor

Lincoln's softball team has been on top for a long time and this year they are attempting to become the Class AA Champions. Cougar Head Coach, Yancey Weaver, has been busy building one of the most consistent softball programs in the Mountain State. This past week they took the first step in the three-step process.

Lincoln claimed the sectional title with an 8-0 run shortened win over Robert C. Byrd in Shinnston. The recipe for success didn't change from the one that led this team to a 20-win regular season. Dominant pitching, impressive defense, and an explosive offense. The Cougars are a fundamentally solid squad that plays its best in the biggest games. In three games (a pair of victories over the Flying Eagles that were sandwiched around a win over Philip Barbour), Lincoln outscored its opponents 16-1. Weaver and company left no doubt as to which team is the hottest to start second season play.

The opening sectional triumph was a 5-0 win over Robert C. Byrd. Delaney Haller proved two of the three above mentioned attributes. Haller tossed a shut out that includes 14 strike outs. Delaney also scored and drove in the game winning run as she led off the match-up with a solo home run. The Cougars would plate two more runs in the first inning and two more in the second frame to conclude the contest's scoring. Emily Robey was the games only multi-hit performer, finishing 3 of 4 with an RBI. Alexis Williams had a home run, drove in three runs, and scored a run to aid in the

win.

This past Monday, the Cougars started the week off on a good note by knocking off Philip Barbour 3-1 in Shinnston. Lincoln broke a scoreless tie in the bottom of the fourth inning. Robey singled and was driven in by Cadence Lambert. The Colts would manage to tie the affair at 1-1. The bottom of the sixth inning was the difference maker for the host. The Cougars put the pressure on Philip Barbour by putting a pair on with Lambert at the dish. She delivered a two-run single for the game winning runs.

Just two days later, Lincoln would host the Flying Eagles that were fresh off of a win over Philip Barbour but were operating on zero rest. The Cougars would strike first in the bottom of the first. Haller would earn a free pass and would advance on a bunt from Ema Lee Brown. Haller would score on a ground out from Karriss Drain. It would be all of the run production that Haller would need. Haller would go on to throw a no-hitter while striking out 12 Robert C. Byrd batters.

Lincoln came up with seven insurance runs in the fourth inning when six straight Cougar batters would reach base leading to an offensive explosion of epic proportions to all but seal the victory.

Lambert was 2 for 3 with a double to pace the attack. She also had three runs batted in and scored a run. Lexi Owens was the games only other multi-hit performer, going 2 for 2 in the affair. Robey claimed a triple with an RBI and a run scored as well.

Haller's dominance in the circle is the key for continued success. Earlier she eclipsed the 800 mark for strike outs in her career. Here is to many more for Haller as the Cougars continue their journey for a title.

That will do for now. Until next time.....take care and God bless.

Harrison County EMS



Athletes of the Week

It's that time once again to acknowledge the efforts of Harrison County's student-athletes. Each week 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 & Harrison County Journal Athletes of the Week Award are Lincoln's Delaney Haller and Robert C. Byrd's Rylan Rock. Both players led their respective teams to sectional final wins.

Cougar softball player, Delaney Haller, threw a no-hitter in the victory over Robert C. Byrd. Haller struck out 12 Flying Eagle batters in the process.

Flying Eagle baseball standout, Rylan Rock, went six innings to claim the win over Philip Barbour this past week. Rock gave up no earned runs while scattering five hits and striking out three Colts. He was also 1 for 2 at the plate with an RBI.

Congratulations to Lincoln's Delaney Haller and Robert C. Byrd's Rylan Rock for being named the Shinnston News & Harrison County Journal Athletes of the Week.

WVU tapped to transform neuroscience research

MORGANTOWN, WV. — West Virginia University will help elevate neuroscience throughout the Mountain State by ramping up academic scientific research, making strategic faculty and staff hires, and adding state-of-the-art infrastructure to address the field's most perplexing challenges, according to a news release.

The National Science Foundation-funded project will also benefit students by providing them with opportunities in neuroscience and data research and will contribute overall to the science education of K-12 schools in West Virginia.

Randy Nelson, chair and professor of the WVU Department of Neuroscience, part of the Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute, is leading the University's efforts for the proposed West Virginia Network for Functional Neuroscience and Transcriptomics, a collaboration of neuroscientists and bioinformaticists working to position the state as an epicenter for neuroscience research. Joining Nelson on the project are WVU researchers Eric Horstlick, of the Department of Biology; Aric Agmon, Morgan Bridi, Michelle Bridi, Martin Hruska, Charles Anderson, all of Neuroscience; and Michael Hu, of Microbiology, Immunology & Cell Biology.

The WV-NFNT will aim to expand and diversify the neuroscience and data science workforce in the state through implementing education and development activities for students, especially those who are rural, first-generation college students, and from other underrepresented groups.

"A significant portion of the research component of this project will be conducted by an undergraduate workforce," Nelson said. "Immersive teaching of K-12 educators, formalized training and mentorship of under-

graduates in both neuroscience and data science research, coupled with access to internships, will contribute to the goal of placing West Virginians in competitive post-graduate programs or employment in STEM industries. Broadening participation will be supported at the K-12 level through the equity focus of CodeWV and other programs such as summer brain and data sciences camps."

CodeWV, housed at WVU, helps bring computer science to every K-12 student in West Virginia schools. WV-NFNT will partner with CodeWV to expand offerings by working with research faculty to identify the content and skills students need for data science and bioinformatics fields. The focus will be data literacy in early grades, and data science introduction in advanced courses.

Among the top research goals, according to Nelson, is studying synaptic and circuit plasticity, which involve changes in neurons and the connections between them as the result of developmental or environmental changes. This work will provide the foundational knowledge of how the brain typically develops and ages; thus, subsequent research could provide insights into brain function that is atypical, such as in autism, Alzheimer's disease or schizophrenia.

The underlying flexibility in neuronal structure and function to cope with changing environments, broadly known as neuronal plasticity, is the basis for how organisms can adapt and survive when confronted by change, Nelson explained.

"Under different conditions, developmental stages, stimuli or environmental exposure, brain plasticity can be influenced," he said. "Neural plasticity can be achieved through adding or remov-

ing nerve cells (neurons) or by remodeling existing neurons at different spatial, molecular or physiological scales."

For example, connections between neurons might be strengthened during memory formation or neurons might be recruited or deleted from a circuit that helps process sounds.

"Despite the importance of plasticity, the mechanisms underlying how these changes are made in the brain remain unspecified," Nelson said the grant will provide the tools and personnel to examine these changes at a microstructural and single-cell genetic level.

The project was awarded a highly competitive, five-year \$20 million grant from the NSF's Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, which is facilitated by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission's Division of Science, Technology & Research. WVU will receive \$9.3 million as part of the project, which includes Marshall University, West Virginia State University, Shepherd University and WVHEPC heading up the initiative.

"WVU, in collaboration with its colleagues," Nelson said, "will play a central role in developing and deploying new technologies such as stimulated emission depletion microscopy and single-cell or spatial transcriptomics — gene transcription — to understand the plasticity of synapses, glia, neurons and circuits in animal models."

A new STED microscope will be placed in the Biology Department to examine ultrastructural changes in the brain. New equipment will also be obtained for conducting spatial transcriptomics analyses. Spatial transcriptomics is a relatively new molecular profiling method that allows neuroscientists to assess all the

gene activity in a tissue sample and map where the activity is occurring. WVU also operates Imaging and Genomics Core facilities, which will expand under the initiative.

WV-NFNT hopes to capitalize from the strength of the WVU Center for Foundational Neuroscience Research and Education and the RNI. The WVU Neuroscience Department launched in 2018, and the neuroscience program includes more than 100 undergraduate majors, 20-plus doctoral students and a new master's program beginning later this year.

University leaders said they believe the project helps bolster the University's standing as an R1 institution and strengthen its collaborative efforts, not just across campus but beyond.

"One of the most important ways we can change the trajectory of our state is to fund initiatives that educate our future workforce and provide hands-on training and research opportunities," said Dr. Clay B. Marsh, WVU Health Sciences chancellor and executive dean. "The collaborative nature of this project not only raises the profile of WVU but also that of our partner institutions, and we are grateful to the National Science Foundation and the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission for recognizing the importance of education and scientific research in the field of neuroscience."

"It's great to see the continued growth in fundamental neuroscience at WVU," said Sheena Murphy, associate vice president for research development at the WVU Research Office. "This is a cross-disciplinary effort engaging researchers from both Health Sciences and the Eberly College. It's also exciting to see that there are so many assistant professors who are key to this collaboration."

UHC School of Radiologic Technology Graduation



Front Row from left: Madison Westfall, Skyler Zinchook, Lea Barker, Kayla Knabenshue, Hannah Shreve, Madison Ware

Back Row from left: Raeanna Burris, Autumn Hutzell, Morgan Koon, Jordan Bobbins, Jordan Heckert, Lyndsey Heckert

Bridgeport, WV—United Hospital Center School of Radiologic Technology recently held a Commencement and Reception for the 2023 graduates. Diplomas were presented to 12 students from Program Director, Tavia DeFazio; Clinical Coordinator, Jane Bray; and Clinical Preceptors, Lisa Knight and Abby Kovalck; at 5 pm on Saturday, May 13, at the Bridgeport High School Auditorium.

Rosemary Trupo, former Program Director at United Hospital Center, served as guest speaker for the Radiologic Technology commencement, while Jordan Bobbins delivered the class address. Special presentations included Radiography Clinical Excellence Award presented to graduate Jordan Bobbins; Radiography Academic Excellence Award presented to graduate Kayla Knabenshue; and the Laurie D'Anselmi Technologist of the Year award to Mary Emileigh Boggs, Staff Technologist at United Hospital Center.

Graduates of the School of Radiologic Technology include Lea Barker, daughter of Brooks and Kristen Barker of Fairmont; Jordan Bobbins, son of Donald and Jennifer Bobbins of Shinnston; Raeanna Burris, daughter of Ryan Bosley of Bridgeport and Leigh Ann Burris of Clarksburg and granddaughter of Norma Burris of Clarksburg; Jordan Heckert, daughter of Mike and Melanie Heckert of Clarksburg; Lyndsey Heckert, daughter of Mike and Melanie Heckert of Clarksburg; Autumn Hutzell, daughter of Greg and Joanie Hutzell of Belington; Kayla Knabenshue, daughter of John and Rebecca Knabenshue of Buckhannon; Morgan Koon, daughter of Holly McIntire and Mark Koon of Enterprise; Hannah Shreve, daughter of Don and Leslie Shreve of Salem; Madison Ware, daughter of Angy Helmick of Williamstown, WV and Darrell Ware of Buckhannon; Madison Westfall, daughter of Christopher Westfall of Jane Lew; and Skyler Zinchook, daughter of Amber Lewis of Philippi and T.J. Zinchook of Hazelton.

Hutzell and Westfall will attend UHC Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program; Bobbins will attend the WVUH Magnetic Resonance Imaging Program; Shreve will attend the WVUH Nuclear Medicine Technology Program; L. Heckert will attend the WVUH Medical Sonography Program; Burris will attend the Nuclear Medicine Technology Program at CCAC in Pittsburgh, while J. Heckert and Barker will further their education in the WVUH Cardiac Sonography Program. Knabenshue, Koon, Ware, and Zinchook have accepted employment as staff radiographers at United Hospital Center.

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HOUSE Call

LYMPHEDEMA Q&A



with **GINNY VINCENT,**

MOTR/L, MLD/CDT, Occupational Therapist,
Certified Lymphedema Therapist,
at United Rehab

Lymphedema is a condition that results in swelling of the leg or arm. It occurs due to blockage in the lymphatic system, which is part of the immune system. Urgent medical attention is recommended.

If you have recently undergone breast cancer treatment, have scars from burns, radiation, injuries, or surgery, you may be experiencing lymphedema. If you experience discomfort, tingling, swelling, limited movement, heaviness of the arm or leg, or pain due to poor circulation, this is another indication of a positive lymphedema diagnosis.

How does lymphedema begin?

Removing lymph nodes is an important part of breast cancer treatment. This allows doctors to determine whether cancer has spread from its primary site. Without these nodes, women are at increased risk for lymphedema – the build-up of lymphatic fluid in the tissue.

Trauma that causes scarring can damage parts of the lymphatic system. This increases the risk of developing secondary lymphedema.

Signs and symptoms include:

- Full sensation in the limb(s)
- Tight skin
- Decreased hand, wrist, or ankle flexibility
- Difficult fitting into clothing.

If left untreated, lymphedema can lead to serious infections.

What are some treatment options to consider?

To treat lymphedema, therapists move accumulated fluid out of the affected areas. This process is called complex decongestive therapy (CDT). It is based on compression bandaging, exercise, and manual lymph drainage – a form of massage that consists of rhythmic strokes that stimulate lymphatic vessels to contract and encourage lymph flow. Skin care is also an important part of CDT.



If the skin isn't maintained, lesions can develop, allowing bacteria to enter an immune-compromised system. This produces additional lymph system destruction. However, CDT treatment helps maintain skin. The swelling usually decreases in 4 to 14 treatments over two to four weeks. To further reduce swelling in the arms, patients wear compression garments.



Can lymphedema be prevented?

With proper care, lymphedema can be prevented with the following care.

INFECTION

- Keep your arms clean. Wash often if you perspire, but always dry your skin well, so moisture does not remain in skin folds or between fingers.
- Protect your fingers, hands, and arms from punctures. Use your unaffected arm if you have blood drawn, your blood pressure taken, or need injections.
- Trim your fingernails carefully. Do not cut or tear the cuticles.
- Use an electric shaver under your arms. The skin is less likely to become injured.

MUSCLE STRAIN/CONSTRICTION

- Use your affected arm as normally as possible, but avoid heavy lifting and vigorous pushing, pulling, or scrubbing.
- Ask your doctor, nurse, or physical therapist about the best exercise program.
- Avoid anything that constrains your hands or arms, such as tight sleeves or cuffs, watchbands, or jewelry.
- Make sure your bra fits properly so the straps do not dig into your shoulders. With proper education and care, you can recognize lymphedema's symptoms and seek treatment early.

SUN/HEAT

- Always wear protective clothing with sunscreen that includes an SPF of 15 or preferably higher. If possible, stay out of the sun from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Avoid hot baths, saunas, and dishwasher.
- Wear oven mitts when cooking or baking.

With proper education and care, you can recognize the symptoms of lymphedema and seek treatment early. For more information, contact United Rehab at 681-342-3790.

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Capito, colleagues call on DEA to remove barriers to lifesaving opioid use disorder treatment

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Last week, U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) joined a bipartisan group of senators – led by U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) – in calling on the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to take further action to remove barriers to buprenorphine, a lifesaving drug used to treat opioid use disorder.

Specifically, the senators are urging the DEA to initiate a multi-agency evaluation of buprenorphine with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) to eliminate access gaps to the prescription drug to reduce overdose and death from opioid use disorder.

“According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 106,000 Americans died from a drug overdose in the past year alone. Now more than ever, it is critical that the best treatments are made widely available and barriers to interventions are broken down,” the senators said.

The push from the senators comes as prescribers and patients across the country continue to report difficulty filling buprenorphine prescriptions, despite recent passage of the Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment (MAT) Act in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 that increased the number of medical professionals authorized to prescribe

buprenorphine. “We recognize that the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the DEA Diversion Control Division jointly published a Suspicious Orders Q&A on January 20, 2023, which explains that the agency does not place quantitative thresholds or limits on the amounts of controlled substances that a pharmacy can order. However, more is needed,” the senators continued. “Without formal guidance from the DEA, the absence of quantitative thresholds has created chilling effects on access to buprenorphine due to the perceived risks of crossing an undefined threshold by the DEA.”

The senators concluded, “The opioid epidemic remains one of the greatest public health crises our nation has ever faced. We must ensure the necessary resources and policies are in place so that every American who needs it can find treatment and lifesaving care.”

Senators Capito and Heinrich were joined in sending the letter by U.S. Senators Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.), Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Angus King (I-Maine), Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), Tim Kaine (D-Va.), Ed Markey (D-Mass.), Ben Ray Lujan (D-N.M.), Bob Menendez (D-N.J.), Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), and Cory Booker (D-N.J.).

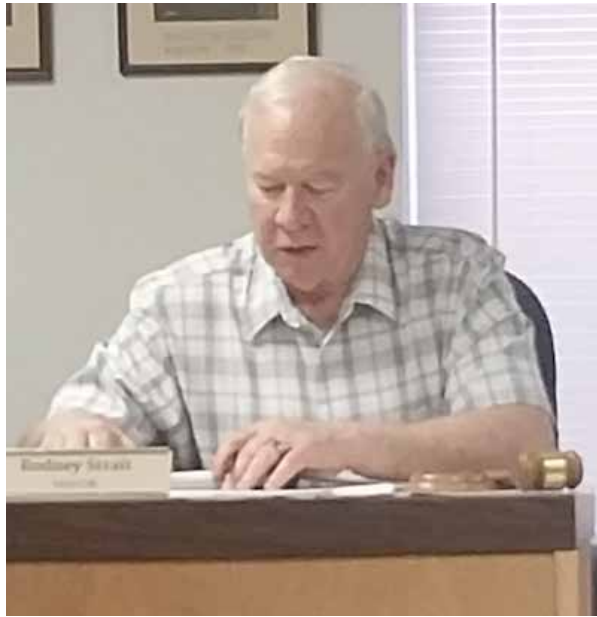
“City Council” From pg 1

that the danger grass clippings can cause to motorcyclists alone are one of the reasons this ordinance is important for the city.

The Miley Legal Group stated on their website about grass clippings, “If you’re mowing in your yard, don’t throw grass clippings out on the roadway. If a cyclist is coming by the road on the curb and there are grass clippings, there’s a good chance that the motorcycle will wreck and the bike will go off from under the rider.”

Council member Pat Kolvack attended the mayors association meeting for Strait and said, “any business that is under two years old, the chamber (of commerce), they’re offering a \$10,000 contribution for the winner of a contest.” He said that they will have to submit a video. Amanda Sayers, council member and owner of Home Style LLC, said that she would be trying to get the word out there.

“We lost one officer last month,” Chad Edwards, city manager said of an officer who is no longer on staff. “We are currently at



Mayor Rodney Strait announced that a movie making company will be coming to the area. He said that it sounds like a good company to support.

six.” Edwards also said that two city workers are also no longer employed with the city.

Bike racks are coming to Ferguson park with the total cost being \$221 and signs for the bathrooms are at the park. According to Tori Drainer, executive assistant, the signs “are there and on.”

The 2023 paving schedule was discussed, and City Manager Chad Edwards said they have yet to obtain the price, “but we have an idea of what we want to prioritize.” Eleven areas to be paved are on the list, according

he wanted Robinson Court to be prioritized because it is no longer “patchable,” and people are continually using the drive-thru from the Chinese restaurant.

Also in city business: • The fire hydrants have all been painted and color coded. The next step is to hydro test them.

• Sidewalks have all been completed.

• The Textmygov app is up and running.

• The pool is painted and being prepped for opening May 27.

• The first Wind Down Wednesday is June 7.

After looking at the list, Strait said that

Make your Memorial Day barbecue a success

Summer unofficially starts with the arrival of Memorial Day at the end of May. Although it is a holiday designed to honor American military personnel who have died in various wars, it also serves double-duty as a chance to gather with friends and loved ones and enjoy the return of the warm-weather entertaining season.

Barbecues are the centerpieces of Memorial Day celebrations. It may have been awhile since the grill was fired up, so anyone can use a little refresher course in barbecue etiquette. Here are some tips for making the most of Memorial Day parties.

Ready the grill

If your grill has lain dormant for several months, it’s wise to inspect and thoroughly clean it in advance of Memorial Day. Insects like spiders may have built homes inside, and grease and grime may be lingering from last year. Ensure the grill is in top form before cooking for guests.

Keep food safety in mind

A study from the U.S. Department of Agriculture found more than half of study participants don’t try to wash their hands when preparing food. Wash hands thoroughly to ensure guests do not get sick at the barbecue. Keep food refrigerated until it is ready to be cooked or served. Use a food thermometer to cook to the required internal temperature to make sure bacteria is destroyed. Do not use the same utensils that touched raw meat to remove cooked food from the grill.



Arrange for shade

It can get quite warm outdoors even in May for many areas of the country. Therefore, prepare a spot where guests can escape the sun. If you don’t have enough table umbrellas, consider light netting or canopies for shade. Shift them as needed as the sun moves across the sky.

Develop a signature rub

Set your food apart with unique flavors. Create a summer food rub using the herbs and spices you prefer. Make a big batch to use throughout the grilling season.

Don’t leave food sitting

The USDA’s Food Safety Inspection Service advises that food should not be left out for more than two hours, or one hour if the temperature is

above 90 F. Keep buffet-style food covered so that insects do not land on the items and run the risk of contamination. Promptly move leftovers indoors if you plan on keeping them.

Offer a variety of beverages

It’s important to stay hydrated when the weather is warm. Stock the cooler with plenty of water, juices, iced teas, and the like. If you plan to serve alcoholic beverages, keep them separate from the non-alcoholic items so that children do not have access.

Make it a pot luck

If you will be hosting, reduce some of the work by having the main foods available and ask guests to bring the sides and beverages. This will defray the costs and relieve some of the pressure.

Super Crossword

Answers

A crossword puzzle grid with the following words filled in: CAP, CRED, DUALS, LAUDED, URETHANE, ABRAM, ARTERY, BONEUPON, RATIO, MANAGE, WHATISTHENICKNAMEFOR, MEDYANG, IER, AFOODCONNORISSEURWHOIS, MAC, IDEST, HES, HOMME, ACTUATE, SIR, BRENNAN, NEARBY, KNOWNFORBAKING, DUNNE, RAISA, ZEIT, APES, HISPOTATOTEAR, COTE, SPEND, SAMBA, INACREAMYSAUCE, PURISM, BOTHERS, OAT, CUBANOS, ELIOT, ASS, BBGUN, ERE, TOPPEDWITHBREADCRUMBS, WAR, LORNTAN, THESCALLOPINGGOURMET, HALTER, IDONT, SCREENER, ITSELF, FORGE, THESTILT, SHAWLS, TREYS, ASST, DEE

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OBITUARIES



Carol Ann (Groves) Norris

Carol Ann (Groves) Norris, 73, of Clarksburg, WV, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on May 8, 2023 after a courageous battle with cancer.

She was born on March 8, 1950, a daughter of the late Glenn and Carol Jean (Burton) Groves, who raised her to love racing. She spent the majority of her childhood at the race track watching her father's race car and continued to watch Nascar races up to the very end of her life.

Carol graduated from Roosevelt Wilson High School in 1968 and went on to work at Hope Gas in her 20s. However, after she married Larry Norris on May 29, 1976, Carol began her true life's work on the one thing she wanted more than any other: a big family.

Having grown up an only child, it was Carol's dream to have a large family around her. After becoming a mother, she dedicated her life to raising her daughters, who, thanks to her steady care, affection, and attention, grew up to marry and each have three children of their own.

For her daughters, their husbands and all of her grandchildren, Carol made a home that was often the first stop after school, and always where holidays and birthdays were celebrated. Her home was where the table was always filled – whether it was daily dinner or a holiday feast. She offered an ear to listen, and words of comfort and encouragement. She was front and center at hundreds of games, events, performances, school functions, cheer competitions and dances, never missing the achievements of any grandchild, making them each feel as if they were the only child in the world. She gave her time and energy and resources to make sure each member of her family had what they needed, whenever they needed it.

For over a quarter of a century, Carol has been the matriarch of her family, a family that has grown and flourished, actively contributing to their family, church and community. As her own family grew, Carol continued to honor her mother and father by keeping their memories alive through family traditions, which her children and grandchildren will now pass on to future generations.

Building a thriving family was both Carol's dream and her life's work, and in achieving these goals, her life has been an incredible success. The path from only child to the matriarch of a family of 10 wasn't always clear or easy, but Carol traveled it with love and dignity, and she leaves behind a

legacy that will be cherished. Just as it has in the past 73 years, the positive impact of Carol Ann Norris' life will be felt in her home, her church, and throughout her hometown of Clarksburg for generations. Carol was a 40 year member of Duff Street United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her husband, Larry Robert Norris; two daughters, Tiffani (Rob) Murphy and Kari (Brian) Smith; six grandchildren, Emily, Timothy and Lilyanna Murphy and Ashlyn, Ethan and Chloe Smith; a cousin, Alecia (Pat) Ford; and sister and brothers-in-law, Mary Ann & Mark Ribas and Carolyn & Bill Norris.

She was preceded in death by her parents, aunt Patty Sirk, and cousins Kenna Jean Sirk and Geri Hanby

Interment was in the Greenlawn Memorial Cemetery.

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



James Coleman Pumphrey, Jr.

James Coleman Pumphrey, Jr., 76, of Shinnston, passed away on Monday, May 8, 2023, at the River Oaks Healthcare Center in Clarksburg. He was born August 4, 1946, a son of the late James Coleman Pumphrey, Sr. and the late Ruby Jean Grimes Pumphrey. He is also preceded in death by his wife, Caroline Sue Farmer Pumphrey, two brothers, Peter and Larry Pumphrey, and two sisters, Eulah Rhoades and Beulah Sigley.

Surviving are his siblings: Paul Pumphrey and his wife Karen, Owings, Charlie Pumphrey, Shinnston, Dora Yeager, Marshville, Juanita Pumphrey, Shinnston, Bonnie Quinn, Quiet Dell, and Mary Owens, of AZ; children that he raised, Matt and Julie Pumphrey, and several nieces and nephews.

James was a very kind and caring man who liked helping people. He enjoyed tinkering with things, eating, fishing, and camping. He was a Baptist by faith.

Interment was in the Pumphrey Cemetery in Orlando, WV. Condolences may be extended to the family at www.perinefunerals.com. The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Pumphrey Family.

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Out of the Past

Memorable photographs from around Harrison County



Charter bus in front of the old St. Mary's Clinic in Clarksburg. Photo courtesy of Bobby Bice.

Backyard big, even in small spaces



A small backyard is utilized to its full potential.

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Backyarding is the practice of taking everyday activities – think entertaining, eating, working, and working out to name a few – into the green space around us. Even those living in an urban setting with a smaller yard – or no yard at all – can enjoy the benefits of backyarding, according to the TurfMutt Foundation, which advocates for the care and use of yards, parks, and community green spaces.

“Thanks to smaller yards, community parks, and neighborhood green space, backyarding big even in small spaces is possible,” says Kris Kiser, president & CEO of the TurfMutt Foundation. “It takes a little planning and

adopting what we like to call a ‘master backyarder’ mindset.” This is terrific news since a recent survey conducted for the TurfMutt Foundation by The Harris Poll indicates that backyarding is increasingly important to Americans. More than three-quarters of Americans who have a yard (76%) say the family yard space is one of the most important parts of their home, according to the poll. Additionally, nearly a quarter of Americans who have a yard (24%) say they spend more time in their yards now than before 2020.

The TurfMutt Foundation offers this advice for getting outside and enjoying green space when you have a small yard...or

no yard at all.

Plant with purpose. Plan carefully and creatively to utilize every square inch of living landscape real estate in support of your lifestyle. Need a place for your pet to do her business? Plant a small patch of grass. Long to take work outside? Set up a table in an under-utilized side yard (complete with a living landscape backdrop, of course) that can double as an outdoor dining area. Love nature? Plant a butterfly bush. **Use plants to create privacy.** Rather than putting up a fence in a small yard, consider a “living wall” of trees or shrubs. It will make your outdoor space feel bigger and offer support to backyard wildlife and insects. Win, win! **Go vertical.** Don’t

forget to incorporate vertical space into your planting plans. You can hang flower baskets on your fence or railing. A trellis laced with living vines is a gorgeous focal point. Green walls are all the rage and utilize blank wall space to create a living landscape feature. **Utilize balconies & patios.** Even if you don’t have grass or any soil to plant in, you can utilize containers to plant flowers, herbs, and even fruit and vegetables. There are also many planters available that attach to balcony railings. **Remember right plant, right place.** Selecting the right plants for your lifestyle and climate is key to mastering a small backyard space. Consult the US Plant Hardiness Zone Map for help selecting the best plants for your microclimate. This will not only ensure you end up with plants that will thrive with minimal upkeep, they will also be best for supporting local pollinators. **Enjoy community green space.** Take your kids to the park for a study session. Walk the dog through the community green space at the end of your road. Plan a doggie playdate at the local dog park. These are all wonderful places to get a dose of Vitamin N(ature).

For more information, sign up for Mutt Mail, a monthly e-newsletter with backyarding tips and all the news from the TurfMutt Foundation. To learn more about creating the yard of your dreams, visit TurfMutt.com. Look for Mulligan the TurfMutt on the CBS Lucky Dog television show. Here is a link (<https://www.turfmutt.com/information/>) to the International Backyarding Fact Book, to learn why spending time in our yards and community parks is good for us... and the planet.

This story was provided by the TurfMutt Foundation.

WVU launches training curriculum to support child development for families impacted by substance use disorder

MORGANTOWN, WV – West Virginia University is now offering an international training curriculum to support West Virginia families in recovery and their children who have experienced prenatal exposure, according to a news release.

The Brazelton Touchpoints Center Learning Network has certified the Center for Excellence in Disabilities (CED) as the new training site with faculty from the WVU Rockefeller Neuroscience Department of Behavioral Medicine and Psychiatry and the WVU School of Nursing.

Brazelton Touchpoints is an evidence-based approach to building strengths-based, collaborative family-provider partnerships in service of strong, healthy family-child relationships from before birth throughout early childhood. The Brazelton Touchpoints Center has collaborated with the IMPACT WV program at the CED to make training opportunities like this one available to the state’s community of family-facing providers.

The Touchpoints training recognizes the process of disorganization and regression that occurs during predictable times throughout a child’s development — called “touchpoints.” Knowledge of these touchpoints and strategies for dealing with them can help reduce negative interactions that might otherwise throw the child’s development off course. The Touchpoints approach views these times as important opportunities to connect and work alongside the family to support caregivers’ emotional availability and sensitive responsiveness to their child.

Sue Workman, BS, CCRP, Touchpoints certified facilitator and site coordinator stated, “I am honored to be one of 70 Training Site Members across the country and around the world building capacity with the first and only Touchpoints Training Site located in West Virginia. Working as the Program Manager for IMPACT WV, our mission is to increase communication across providers, comprehensive services directed to families and coordination of services. Training and mentoring providers on the Touchpoints approach alongside Amanda and Tina supports the mission by propelling healthy family and children development in our rural communities.”

Collaboration with West Virginia families is essential. Families statewide are experiencing high instances of substance use disorder, with the state ranking first for overdose deaths as reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). According to the US Department of Health and Human Services’ (DHHR) annual Child Maltreatment report, West Virginia also had the second-highest rate of child abuse and neglect in the country.

Amanda Newhouse, LICSW and assistant professor in the WVU Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute’s Department of Behavioral Medicine and Psychiatry stated, “I absolutely love working with families and utilizing this highly effective approach! I am honored to be able to share and expand this knowledge across WV. When a family is struggling with a substance use disorder (SUD) it can be a trying time for the entire family system. It can cause stress and disorganization, especially when bringing a new life into the world. Being emotionally available for another individual while managing your own emotions is a task for any parent. The Brazelton Touchpoints is a strengths-based approach that weaves in the understanding of a child’s developmental framework to understand, support and improve the relational framework in the parent child dyad and with the provider as well. This approach supports these families to live happy, healthy lives!”

“The Touchpoints approach requires providers to explore their cultural upbringing and consider how their perspectives may influence relationships with others,” said Dr. Tina Antill Keener, Assistant Professor with the WVU School of Nursing. “When working with parents with SUD, this reflective practice is critical to combat stigma through understanding the assumptions we bring to the interactions so we can provide compassionate care. Touchpoints offers a way to join the family system and discover their culture and better understand their needs, deviating from the traditional model of seeking what is wrong and giving standard prescriptive advice.”

IMPACT WV is working with communities to create opportunities and address the needs of children diagnosed with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) or who were exposed to substances in utero. To learn more, please visit <https://wvimpact.org/>.

DIXON PRUITT

Announcing Pre-Candidacy for

HARRISON COUNTY SHERIFF

After nearly four decades of dedicated public service to our nation, the state of WV and to the citizens of Harrison County, I am ready to lead the Harrison County Sheriff's Department into becoming a role model other agencies would want to follow in 2024.

On April 1, 2023, I officially retired as a Lieutenant with the Harrison County Sheriff's Department after 16 years of dedicated service; starting my career as a Deputy and working my way up through the ranks of Lieutenant. I am particularly proud of my work while assigned to the Detective Division as a Sergeant.

During my tenure, I was honored to lead two 30+ year old cold case homicide investigations, where we were able to bring closure and obtain convictions for both.

Prior to joining the Sheriff's Department, I served as a Lieutenant, Firefighter/EMT with the City of Clarksburg as well as an Inspector and Arson Investigator with the WV State Fire Marshal's Office. I am also a retired U.S. Army Combat Veteran.

I believe the number one problem facing Harrison County families are drug abuse and drug related crimes that all too often end in deadly drug overdoses of our young adults.

A priority will be to work closely with the Harrison County Commission to develop a well-trained, well-equipped drug enforcement unit within the Sheriff's Department Law Enforcement Division. I will work diligently with local, state and federal agencies to build a cohesive, transparent and team environment for the betterment of Harrison County.

My unique career in public service has prepared me to be the next Sheriff of Harrison County. It would be my privilege to lead the dedicated and professional staff in the Law Enforcement Division as well as the Tax Department and Courthouse Security. I have been and will continue to be actively involved in the community and the issues facing Harrison County.

“My retirement from the Harrison County Sheriff's Department is not an end but a necessary step in the continuation of my dedication to the citizens of Harrison County.”

Paid for by the committee to elect Dixon G. Pruitt for Harrison County Sheriff