

Volume 32 Edition 24 (USPS 494-420) • (304) 647-5724 • newsandjournal@yahoo.com • \$1

“One of the Sweetest and Most Dedicated People,” Shinnston Author Releases Second Book

By Kara Linaburg

Shinnston author Emily Shepherd, prepares to release her second book, “Worth The Wait,” after less than a year of releasing her debut western romance and the first book in the series, “Before It’s Too Late.” A self-published author at the age of 20, Shepherd’s readership ranges from ages 16 to adult, and Shepherd said she doesn’t plan on slowing down anytime soon when it comes to her writing.



Emily Shepherd, a self-published local author, pens family friendly, plot-driven romance

Shepherd said that “Worth The Wait” is about, “a marriage of convenience between a widower with five children and a spinster.” The story, “deals with grief and learning to love again,” as well as, “a stepchild, stepparent relationship,” which Shepherd said is “very personal” to her in her own life. She also said the story is about “forming a friendship before an actual marriage and I just really love that

plot.” “Millie (Emily) Shepherd is one of the sweetest and most dedicated people I’ve had the pleasure of meeting,” L. Taylor, editor of Shepherd’s work, said. “She loves her craft and is always determined to produce the best story she can possibly write.”

Shepherd describes her romance books as “closed door romance,” which she said means “fade to black.” “What happens in

the bedroom you never see,” Shepherd said. “I personally don’t like explicit content. I just don’t feel comfortable with it.”

Shepherd said while she didn’t do anything different when writing “Worth The Wait,” from her other book, this one is longer, there’s more romance, and there’s less suspense. “‘Before It’s Too Late’ is more like romantic suspense. This one isn’t that. It’s more focused on the

See “Shepherd” on Pg 6

Board of Education Honors Student Athletic and Aviation Achievement In Regular Meeting

By Stephen Smoot

The first regular June meeting of the Harrison County Board of Education opened with recognition of student excellence in sports and skills development.

First, the Board called up the coaches of the inaugural South Harrison Middle School baseball squad. The team won every game from the opener to the Central West Virginia Athletic Conference.

Jeff Richards coached for his 27th season leading youth baseball squads. He explained that “we had an awful lot of help and the grace of God.” He thanked the athletic director and principal, then turned to his assistant, Nathan Radcliffe.

“He started out at the same age as I did as a coach and I have been at this 52 years,” Richard said, then joked that the tenure might provide a glimpse into his age as well. “The young men we had on this team were simply amazing. The team had mostly seventh and eighth graders with only one representing the sixth grade. He explained that the mandated use of high school bats prevented many sixth graders from playing due to their size.

Richards told the board, “we appreciate the county’s support.”

Next the board honored Harrison County’s 2023 edition of the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe. This award

honors those who demonstrated excellence in knowledge of West Virginia history.

From Lincoln Middle School, Seth Nay earned the award. Other county winners include Eric Alvarez, Bridgeport Middle School Micah Brittain, Bridgeport Middle School Henry Smith, Bridgeport Middle School Leroy Song, Bridgeport Middle School Nathaniel Linger, South Harrison Middle School Owen Curtis, Ravenswood Middle School.

After history came aeronautics as Rafel Snell, aviation engineering teacher at Bridgeport High School, introduced the winners of the “Let’s Fly West Virginia” competition. The contest links participants to “the legacy of flight in West Virginia,” as Snell described. He took pains to explain that the contest featured more than pilots. It also emphasizes other aspects of aviation, such as mechanics, the various companies in the region that engage in aviation.

Participants had to create a fully functioning aircraft from “dollar store” materials. Aircraft had to take off from the ground on a set of wheels, fly, then land safely. They created videos to explain their process, as well as an after action production to explain “what went well and what didn’t go well.”

Snell explained that “I couldn’t do it without the support of the Board of Education.”

See “BOE” on Pg 6

WVU Cancer Institute’s Mobile Cancer Screening Program is Coming to Fairmont on June 17 at Windmill Park

In effort to promote early detection and prevention, WVU Cancer Institute’s Mobile Cancer Screening Program will be offering screening mammograms and lung cancer screening for eligible individuals June 17 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Windmill Park in Fairmont.

No West Virginia resident who meets screening criteria will be turned away due to inability to pay. Medicare, Medicaid, WVCCSP, and most private insurances will be accepted as payment.

Eligible individuals include:

Screening Mammogram: Women ages 40 and over who have not had a screening mammogram within the last year.

Lung Cancer Screening: Men and women ages 50 to 80, with a heavy smoking history, who currently smoke or who have quit smoking within the last 15 years.

Prospective patients must contact Whitney Robinson at 304-694-6283 to schedule an appointment. Patients must bring an order for screening, identification card, and insurance card (if applicable).

“We encourage all eligible members to take advantage of this opportunity,” said Whitney Robinson, a Family Nurse Practitioner and a WVU School of Nursing-trained Faith Community Nurse.

In addition to lung and breast cancer screenings, attendees are also invited to receive free blood pressure and blood sugar screenings. No appointments are necessary for these screenings and there are no eligibility requirements.

“Early detection is key to successful cancer treatment, and we want to do everything we can to support our members and community in maintaining their health and wellness,” Robinson said.

Faith Community Nursing efforts are being supported by a gift from the Rusty and Kimberly Hutson Family Foundation. Their gift was awarded via the WVU Foundation, the nonprofit organization that receives and administers private donations on behalf of the University.

For more information about Faith Community Nursing, please contact Dr. Angel Smothers at angel.smothers@hsc.wvu.edu.

Governor Jim Justice Announces \$100,000 Grant For Harrison County “Community Corrections”

By Stephen Smoot

Last week, Governor Jim Justice announced that his office will provide \$5.4 million in support of 30 community corrections programs across the state. According to the Governor’s office, funds will be “utilized for the continued operation of a community corrections program in Harrison County.”

Across the state, the funding will go to support Day Report Centers that provide a key component in drug recovery while also holding non violent offenders accountable for their actions.

As the Bureau of Medical Services of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources provider manual states, Day Report Centers “are responsible for carrying out the dual purpose of imposing sanctions on and providing services to offenders. From this dual purpose stems the over-achieving responsibility of supervising the offender in the community.”

The program targets non violent offenders whose crimes or other contributing behaviors stem from drug abuse and/or addiction. Day Report Centers provide the twin benefits of lowering the cost of community corrections while also maintaining connections, when appropriate, between offenders and their families, jobs, and other support systems.

Often, Day Report Centers get confused with the drug court program. Some think the two are the same program. Drug court programs offer extremely intensive programs that Judge Charlie Carl of the 22nd Circuit recently said were much more difficult on individuals than the alternative prison sentence.

“The Adult Drug Court program,” according to the West Virginia Judiciary website, “seeks to achieve a reduction in recidivism and substance abuse among offenders and to increase the likelihood of successful rehabilitation through early, continuous, and intense treatment, mandatory periodic drug testing, community supervision, appropriate sanctions and incentives, and other rehabilitation services, all of which are supervised

See “Grant” on Pg 6



BUILDING AMAZING CITIES

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

Summer Vacations

Many years ago, when I was 10 or 11, my parents arranged for my older sister and me to go to Wellsburg, West Virginia to spend a week with my dad’s older sister, Aunt Mattie and Uncle Lee. It was our “vacation” and we looked forward to it every year. They lived along the Ohio River in a little house, hardly big enough for them, but they made room for us. We would go down to the river and take our fishing poles, but most of the time, Uncle Lee would tell us stories about his youth. Aunt Mattie would spend the day cooking and cleaning, and, in the evening, we would drive in Uncle Lee’s Ford Falcon to the local Dairy Queen for an ice cream cone. It was some of the best memories in my youth.

As we got older, the summer trips to Wellsburg ended and we would go to band camps or be working at the park throughout the summer. I realized that visiting relatives was a fleeting thing, but well remembered. As my grandchildren came along, I wanted them to have those special memories and we opened our home to Avery and Emery, the two grandchildren from South Carolina. Avery was the first to spend time with us in the summer and I can still remember her excitement when her parents dropped her off the first time. She jumped out of the car with her little “Hello Kitty” suitcase and a backpack filled with stuffed animals. She gave her mom and dad a quick hug and was ready for her week in West Virginia. We took a daytrip to the West Virginia Game Farm, just outside of Buckhannon, and Avery had a little notebook that she was writing down the highlights of her visit.

We thought when Avery’s sister, Emery, came along that she would just accompany Avery for the week, but she had other ideas. She wanted to

See “Hunt” on Pg 3




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

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OPINION

Hydrogen Is Likely America's Future Fuel and West Virginia Is Leading the Way

By Stephen Smoot

One of the great underlying themes of progress in the last century, particularly after World War II, was that "California leads the way."

And indeed it did.

Until the turn of the century, the ferment of ideas in California came from all sides and all parties. The state served as a genuine melting pot of policy ideas and produced intelligent ways to move forward on a variety of fronts.

That said, those who are last shall be first and over the past decade, the Mountain State has pushed its way to the forefront of positive changes, including crafting the most open school choice legislation in the nation.

Now the state has positioned itself to lead in energy policy as well.

In response to the upcoming draconian and insensible Biden Administration regulations on heavy trucks, stakeholders on both sides of the state look to hydrogen as the fuel of the future in the Mountain State.

Electric vehicles, highly touted and promoted by the Biden Administration will not work in West Virginia, or much of the rest of the United States. Grant County based Potomac Valley Transit Authority executive director Doug Pixler explained that electric vehicles are completely unsuitable for the climate and terrain of West Virginia.

He also explained to a recent Region 8 meeting that "this is not necessarily something that we want to do," but the federal government forced their hand.

Bruce Minor, who sits on the board of PVTA and also volunteers as a first responder, agreed, saying in a recent town council meeting that "hydrogen is the future."

Hydrogen allows many pathways to the same destination. One creates hydrogen fuel first by running an electric current through water in such a way as to strip the hydrogen atoms from the water molecule. From here it functions the same as gasoline. It gets stored in large tanks and can be pumped into a car in the same efficient way as gasoline.

The difference comes in the fact that a hydrogen engine fuses hydrogen back with oxygen for power with a byproduct of pure water. As an added benefit, the engine requires pure air to function. The filters that perform this task actually clean the air in the space around the car as they capture any pollutants.

Even better, as Pixler points out, the components for hydrogen vehicles all currently come from the United States, creating good American jobs. EV components come from Red China, known to use prisoners and slaves in its manufacturing sector.

PVTA has applied for a federal grant to design a "green" hydrogen facility. Its plan features a bank of solar panels constructed near Petersburg that will power the electrolysis process. They plan to make the fuel available to school systems and other local government authorities, including emergency response.

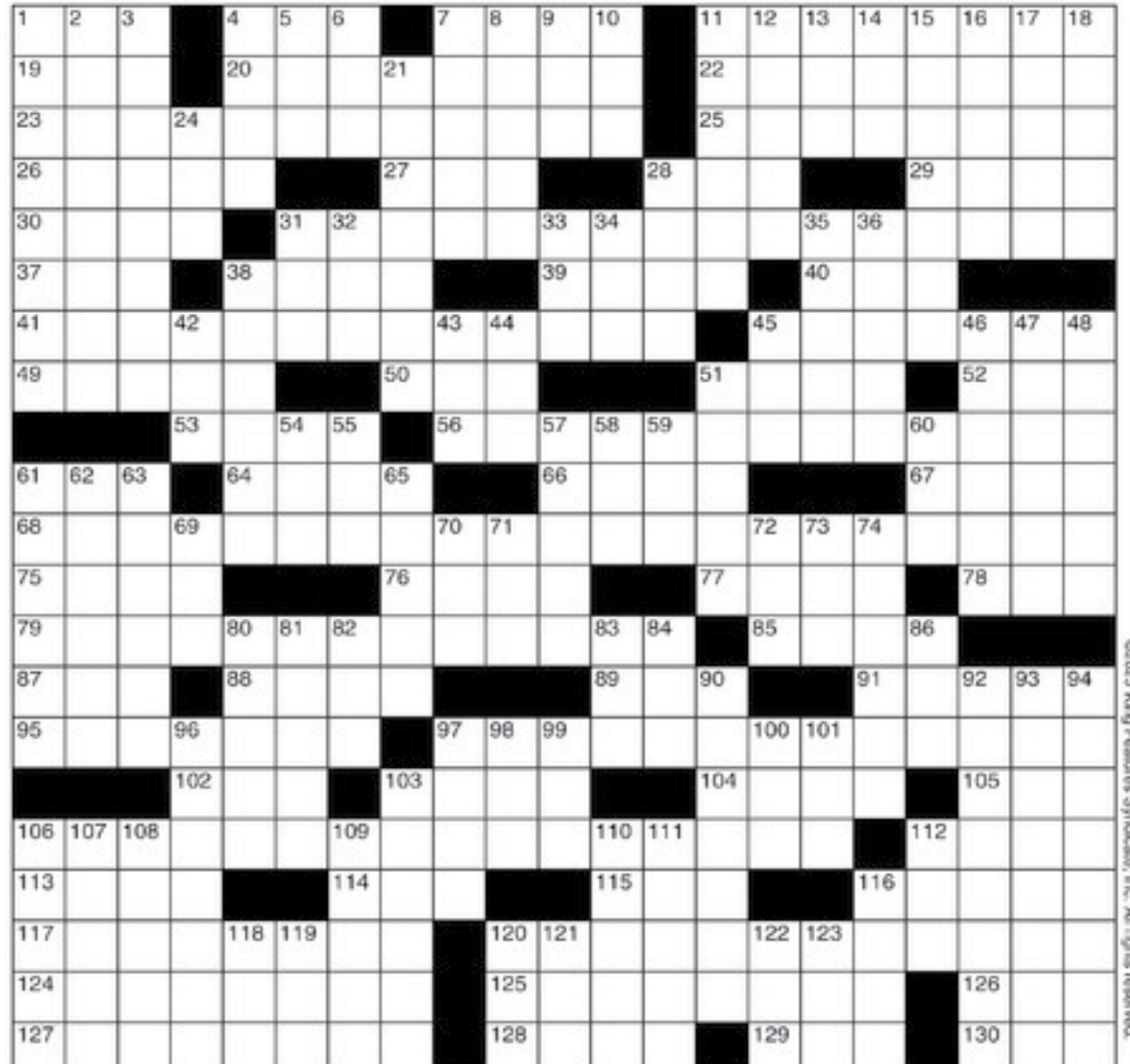
In the central and western sections of the state, researchers seek the most efficient ways to use coal and natural gas to produce the fuel. This can help to ensure that these sectors remain vital and resilient against the threat of federal overreach. It may be possible to install hydrogen production in or very near power plants that use coal or gas.

Working on building a hydrogen fuel production capacity falls right in line with the "all of the above" approach touted by the state's leadership and congressional delegation. Anything that works, can turn a profit, and provides good paying jobs to West Virginians remains on the table.

And it's nice to know that in this and many other areas in 2023, "West Virginia leads the way."

Super Crossword 'TWOULD BE NICE

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Bluff City Law" network
- 4 Mandible site
- 7 Talks lovingly with dots
- 11 One painting with dots
- 19 Long-popular ISP
- 20 Mythical horses
- 22 Indy 500, e.g.
- 23 Outdoor food party for 11- and 12-year-olds?
- 25 Some very valuable violins
- 26 Old Texas siege site
- 27 Saddlery tool
- 28 Meyers of "Kate & Allie"
- 29 Not adorned
- 30 Type
- 31 Identical sibling near some falling rocks?
- 37 Caesar's 106
- 38 Neighbor of Vietnam
- 39 River through Orsk
- 40 "Norma —"
- 41 "Happy Days" star with gleaming eyes?
- 45 Ingredient in Nutella
- 49 A noble gas
- 50 Wedding page word
- 51 Top-notch
- 52 Genetic stuff
- 53 Major exhibition
- 56 Perform gastric bypasses?
- 61 Coastal inlet
- 64 Roof overhang
- 66 Musical sign
- 67 "Say again?"
- 68 One working to promote high-quality serge and denim?
- 75 Fuzzy picture
- 76 Tilted type: Abbr.
- 77 Imitate a lion
- 78 Susan of "L.A. Law"
- 79 Contest to see who has the cleverest taunts?
- 85 Have too much of, for short
- 87 Lance of the O.J. trial
- 88 Paris hub
- 89 Negatives
- 91 "Wonder Woman" star Gal
- 95 CBer's lingo system
- 97 Time of day for muscle spasms?
- 102 That, in Lima
- 103 Any day now
- 104 "I goofed!"
- 105 K-12 org.
- 106 Expert at recognizing the finest strong string?
- 112 Lacking spice
- 113 "— it grand?"
- 114 Tofu source
- 115 Call to squad cars, for short
- 116 Lamp dweller
- 117 Arbitrator
- 120 Super-itchy wool cloth?
- 124 Coveted part for an actor
- 125 Big Apple animal attraction
- 126 — Lanka
- 127 It provides product plugs to websites
- 128 Skin malady
- 129 Passports et al.
- 130 IRS form fig.
- DOWN**
- 1 "Solaris" actress
- 2 Amaze
- 3 Glade
- 4 Mother of Mars, in myth
- 5 Singer DiFranco
- 6 Golfer Michelle
- 7 Possess jointly with someone else
- 8 Big name in toothbrushes
- 9 Come- (temptations)
- 10 Old JFK flier
- 11 Of a pelvic bone
- 12 City northwest of Genoa
- 13 Ending for krypton
- 14 Yappy lap dog, in brief
- 15 Predicament
- 16 Oahu porch
- 17 Virtual b'day greeting, e.g.
- 18 Look at again
- 21 Certain dried berry
- 24 911 VIP
- 28 Banned apple spray
- 31 Body pic
- 32 "Amazing!"
- 33 Brynner on Broadway
- 34 Plural "is"
- 35 Brand of clog remover
- 36 Oregon's capital
- 38 Wildcats with ear tufts
- 42 Caviar eggs
- 43 Seine, for one
- 44 Royal Botanic Gardens site
- 45 Pan's cousin
- 46 Corsage flower
- 47 Get a whiff of
- 48 In conclusion
- 51 In regard to
- 54 Fathers
- 55 Eggs
- 57 Bacterium in the gut
- 58 Furry TV ET
- 59 Small cask
- 60 "So cute!"
- 61 Easter animal
- 62 Hurrier's cry
- 63 Share a border with
- 65 Give moral guidance
- 69 Part of MoMA
- 70 Ballplayer Mel
- 71 Not cooked
- 72 Hugs, in a love letter
- 73 Father
- 74 "Wild Thing" singers, with "The"
- 80 Not rigid
- 81 Triage physician, for short
- 82 Corrida cheer
- 83 Blasting stuff
- 84 Part of 130-Across: Abbr.
- 86 Slangy denial
- 90 Container for flats or heels
- 92 Stupidity
- 93 Things unlike all the others
- 94 Exchanged, as an older model
- 96 Franc division
- 97 Stage award
- 98 Go after romantically
- 99 Ending of some pasta names
- 100 Debtor's slip
- 101 "Says You!" airer
- 103 Noisy sleeper
- 106 Florida city
- 107 Use, as a tool
- 108 Pakistan's longest river
- 109 "— Mio"
- 110 Anglo- —
- 111 Back column
- 112 Kitten's cry
- 116 Old Pontiacs
- 118 Opp. of departure
- 119 "Mazel —!"
- 120 Pacers' org.
- 121 Foe of Frodo
- 122 Rambo's gun
- 123 Grassy turf



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.

June 15, 1876: Attorney and civil right activist T. G. Nutter was born in Maryland. The first Black delegate from Kanawha County, he helped establish Lakin State Hospital and other institutions for Blacks, and crafted an anti-lynching law.

June 15, 1880: Musician "Blind Alfred" Reed was born in Floyd County, Virginia, though he spent most of his life in West Virginia. He composed and recorded some of the most creative topical country songs on Victor Records between 1927 and 1929.

June 15, 1963: The Cass Scenic Railroad took its first passenger trip during the state's Centennial celebration.

June 16, 1842: Margaret Agnew Blennerhassett, wife of Harman Blennerhassett, died in poverty in New York City. She lived from 1800 to 1806 in a grand 16-room mansion she and her husband had constructed on an Ohio River island near present Parkersburg. She and her son, Harman Jr., were reburied on Blennerhassett Island in 1996.

June 17, 1813: General Thomas Maley Harris was born at present Harrisville. He rose to prominence after the Civil War, when he served on the military commission that tried conspirators who acted with John Wilkes Booth

to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln.

June 17, 1916: The West Virginia High School Athletic Association was organized at Charleston with 11 charter members. Its name was changed to the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission in 1955.

June 17, 1961: A Wayne County bridge was named in honor of TV newsman David Brinkley. The bridge's condition had become a news item during the 1960 presidential primary; state officials closed the bridge, repaired it, and invited Brinkley to return for the ceremony officially naming it the "Brinkley Bridge."

June 18, 1937: Jay Rockefeller was born in New York City. He served as West Virginia's 29th governor from 1977 to 1985 and in the U.S. Senate from 1985 to 2015.

June 18, 1944: It's Wheeling Steel aired its last program. A half-hour musical variety radio program that drew upon talented Wheeling Steel employees and families, the show ran eight years and was broadcast nationally.

June 19, 1905: Senator Rush Dew Holt was born in Weston. At 29, Holt was the youngest person ever elected to the U.S. Senate, earning him the nickname "Boy Senator." Since the Constitution sets 30 as the minimum age for senators, Holt had to wait until his birthday in June 1935 to take his seat, nearly six months into the 74th Congress.

June 19, 1909: Oak Park, an amusement park in Preston County, opened. The park was an easy ride from Morgantown and helped fill up trains on weekends and holidays. On one summer day in 1909, 14 trains brought more than 4,000 people to the park.

June 20, 1861: Francis Pierpont was

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N&J Briefs

FROM AROUND HARRISON COUNTY

The Shinnston News provides a calendar of events 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

The Women's Club of Shinnston on June 19th at the club house will present Wanda Ashcraft. She will be bringing a program on West Virginia. The club will also celebrate the anniversary of the Mountain State's founding with a cake.

The next regular meeting of the HCSSC Board of Directors, which will be an Annual Meeting, will be on Thursday, June 22, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the boardroom in person and on Zoom. Note that the time for the June Annual Meeting has been moved from 9:30 am to 9:00 am. Remaining board meeting dates scheduled for 2023 are: June 22, September 28, and October 26.

"History" From Pg 2.

unanimously elected governor of the unionist Reorganized Government of Virginia, which sat at Wheeling until West Virginia entered the Union two years later.

June 20, 1863: West Virginia became the 35th state. Arthur Boreman was the state's first Governor.

June 20, 1932: The West Virginia capitol was officially dedicated. Construction had begun in 1924.

June 20, 1963: On the 100th birthday of West Virginia, President John F. Kennedy made his last appearance in West Virginia. Speaking in Charleston in a pouring rain, he said, "The sun does not always shine in West Virginia, but the people always do."

June 20, 1970: The play Hatfields and McCoy's opened at Grandview State Park amphitheater. Written by Billy Edd Wheeler with music by Ewel Cornett, the show joined Honey in the Rock as a regular summer offering.

June 21, 1920: Wheeling Steel Corporation was organized when La Belle Iron Works, Whitaker-Glessner Company, and Wheeling Steel & Iron Works combined. In the 1920s, Wheeling Steel employed more than 17,000 workers and ranked as the nation's third-largest Steelmaker.

June 21, 1959: Musician Kathy Mattea was born in South Charleston but grew up in nearby Cross Lanes. She rose to country music stardom in the 1980s. Since 2021, she has hosted the Mountain Stage radio program.

"Hunt" From Pg 1.

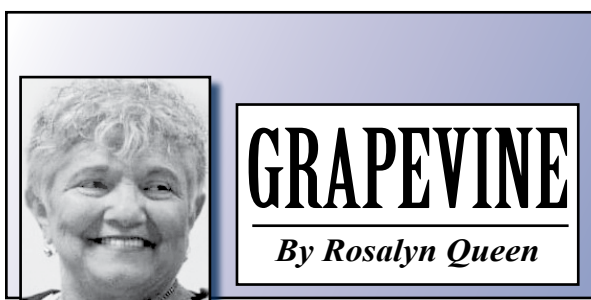
come by herself and that became our custom, one week for each of them in the Summer. Spending two weeks in the summer doesn't seem like much, but we soon learned that it was a major production keeping two small kids busy and still getting the grass cut and the chores done was not for the faint hearted. The visits were also a way to keep the kids in touch with their West Virginia cousins and other family members.

This year, Avery came to West Virginia first and Emery is coming over the 4th of July and staying a week. Avery is also celebrating her 12th birthday on her visit, and we are having a party with many of her West Virginia relatives. We realize that the visits may slow down, and as cheerleading and basketball camps occupy their time, the available weeks will get harder to schedule. But we intend

to enjoy this time while we have it and hope that these West Virginia visits become a tradition that they pass down to their children.

If you are just beginning the "grandparent" thing, I would encourage you to plan these trips and feel blessed when your children are comfortable enough to entrust their kids to you. As we get older, we sometimes feel disconnected from these young kids, glued to their iPads and iPhones, but I can assure you, you will never regret the conversations and experiences from these young minds. These kids know so much more than I ever did at their age and are dealing with issues that were never discussed as I grew up. I wonder what Aunt Maggie and Uncle Lee thought about their young visitors, but I hope they enjoyed it as much as my wife and me!

A. Tribute. To. My. Dad!!!



My dad was born in San Giovanni in Fiore, Calabria, Italy, in 1905. His parents were Giovanni Oliverio and Giovanna Iaquinta Oliverio. He was born in the Oliverio home located at Via Cuina. His father left Italy about 1907 and came to America and got a job working in the Monongha mine and was killed in the explosion. He left behind his wife and son who were still in Italy. Documents show that the owners of the mine sent a survivors check of about \$260.00 to my grandmother and a check for about \$140.00 for my father.

My grandmother later married Louigi Burnett, they had a daughter, Rose, and Louigi left them to seek a job in America. He sent for them to join him in about 1913. My grandmother left with her two children to join her husband in America. When coming through customs in Ellis Island she listed my father's name as Will Am Burnet, being afraid if his last name was different than hers they might not let him in. So he went through life as a Burnett instead of an Oliverio. My brother and sisters learned of this after dad passed and we were able to locate his grave and place a stone on it.

Upon coming to America they settled in West Virginia and dad joined his father working in the mines throughout the state. They travelled throughout the state and dad often told us the stories of trying to unionize the mines and being put out of the company houses and living in tents.

About 1923 he joined the Marine Corp which was one of the proudest times in his life. Records indicate that he even said he was older than he was to get into the Marines. He served in Nicaragua for several years before coming back home. Upon returning home he had different jobs and at one time worked for the CCC.

In 1932 he moved to East View which would remain his home until he passed. Records indicate that his father bought the home in 1932 which still remains with the family. In 1935 he married my mother. And they lived in a home in East View

owned by his sister. This is where my sister, Joan and I were born. In the early 1940s my grandfather died and dad and his family moved in the home place to take care of his mother.

Dad got a job at Rolland Glass and we were told when he retired that he was one of longest employed employees at

Rolland. He learned to plumb, to work cemen and all the trades to remodel our home. He could work n any car and we often referred to him as "a Jack of all Trades."

He also always had a garden and raised the best tomatoes and peppers. He had a hot house and he and grandma sold plants to all the neighbors.

As he got older he liked to watch the news. He continued to tinker with his cars and was so proud of his 1957 Ford convertible, which is still in the family.

Dad provided well for us and perhaps we were poor but never knew it. He always attributed Mom with being the force behind a well maintained home and four successful kids.

He took us on vacations and most Sundays he took us on picnics or to visit our relatives in Morgantown. He looks fed good basic Italian food and he loved to dance especially with me. I remember the polkas he taught me and waltzing me around the floor to Mack the Knife.

He was a faithful man and always took us to mass every Sunday.

He was a great father and one of the most happy and proud moments for me was when we had taken him to Charleston for Black Lung tests and the nurse said to home. "You are from Clarksburg, do you attend the Italian Festival?" And he looked at me and pointed his finger at me and said "She is the Festival." Thanks dad, I wish you were here.

Happy Fathers Day. To my sons, Mike and Marty, my sons in law, Andy and Dixon, my grandson, Marty and the father of my great granddaughter, Payton, Ryan. Happy Fathers Day to all you fathers.

Stay happy, stay healthy and until next week "Now You Have Heard It Through The Grapevine."

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Hitting, Throwing, and Running Take the Stage



The Bottom Line

By Bill Nestor
Sports Editor

Haller, Lambert, and EmaLee Brown all played a big part of the second game just as they had throughout their years in a Lincoln uniform. Brown was holding down right field early on in game two and it was a reminder to softball fans statewide of just how special this trio of players is. It's not very often that a school is represented by three players in this showcase event. It's a tribute to the talent and work ethic that these three players have. Congratulations to Delaney Haller, Candace Lambert, and EmaLee Brown for owning such impressive high school careers.

The 27th annual Greater Clarksburg 10 K Run takes place this Saturday. The event is named after Cecil Jarvis. There are three races happening this weekend. The 10 K always brings in the top runners because of the purse. There is \$6,000 in cash prizes up for grabs Saturday.

There is also a two mile run and a Kid's K Run. There is something for everyone. If you are interested in participating or volunteering, you can go to the website gc10k.weebly.com. It's a fantastic event that highlights Clarksburg. This year, I am planning on winning first place. On second thought, I don't want to deprive someone else of the glory because that is the kind of guy I am.

In all seriousness, go out and support this event. A good time will be had by all.

Fairmont State's Elia Barozzi Presented NCAA ELITE 90 Award

ORLANDO, Fla. – Elia Barozzi of Fairmont State men's tennis was presented the NCAA ELITE 90 Award, which is given to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade point average participating at the finals site for each of the NCAA's 90 championships, the association revealed on Wednesday (May 10) before the start of the 2023 NCAA Division II Men's Tennis National Championships.

Barozzi, a sophomore from Rovereto, Italy, is a Business Administration student with a 4.00 grade point average. Barozzi was recently named to the College Sports Communicators Academic All-District team and has won Mountain East Conference All-Academic accolades. He has also garnered ITA Scholar-Athlete honors. On the court, Barozzi was voted to the All-MEC First Team both times during his Fairmont State career.

Barozzi becomes the first Fairmont State student-athlete and the 10th MEC student-athlete to be presented the prestigious award.

The Fairmont State men's tennis team begins competition in the NCAA Championships tomorrow (May 11) with an 8 a.m. match versus No. 1 Valdosta State.

Tee It Up By Gravitating to Grafton For Great Golf

This past week took us to Tygart Lake Golf Course. Located just outside of Grafton, this 18 hole venue has long been known as one of the best tracks in North Central West Virginia.

The bones have always been good here and the layout is conducive to a great round of golf. However, it's the attention to detail and several upgrades that have this course at the top of the game. New ownership and leadership have been the difference makers that have drawn the attention to Tygart Lake. The membership has grown to nearly triple digits and the amount of daily play has been through the roof.

The front nine allows an opportunity to get your feet wet with five straight forward scoring holes. Number 6 is a par 5 that plays under 600 yards from the blue tees. Number 7 has always been my favorite, a par 3 that is protected by water. It is so beautiful that it takes your focus away from the hole.

The backside picks up the pace on number 11, a lengthy par 4 with water down the right and in front of an elevated green. Number 12 is the number

one handicap hole that owns a new elevated tee area that doglegs right with water down the entire right side. Number 14 has received a facelift of epic proportions. New tee boxes lengthen the par 5, changing the risk versus reward factor to a new knee-knocking level. A brand new bridge has been added on this hole as well. Number 17 is the ultimate roll of the dice, par 5, it is lined with heavy trees on both sides. A driver could bring a scoring opportunity or a big number.

Tygart Lake Golf Course has plenty of teeth, providing a challenge to top golfers of all skill levels. Punishing rough, multiple water hazards, and strategically placed bunkers are mainstays here.

The staff is friendly and knowledgeable. They are quick to help in any way possible. I spent 15 minutes in the pro shop before hitting the links. The 19th hole is top shelf and provides a chance to recap a great day.

Tygart Lake Golf Course has upped the bar and it's a definite must play this season!

Shinnston Little league Closing Ceremonies

Dickie Allowat Award - best over 12 Paxton Edwards

Louis DelRio Award - 11yr old Sportsmanship Grant Robey

Ed Wheeler Award - 9 year old Sportsmanship Brody Hagan

Alex Greene Award - Most Improved Little League Career (given to a 12 year old who played all divisions consecutively, shown most improvement) Brantley Petrey

Miss little League:
Lilly Underwood



Safety Priorities a must with the days of summer ahead



From The World of Parks & Recreation

By Doug Comer

With June 21st just a short time away, the date officially kicks off the first day of summer. At that time, we say goodbye to cool mornings and hello to higher temps and humidity. Families take vacation time during this stint to do things around the house, travel and mainly spend their days outside. While the vitamin D the sun delivers can be helpful in many ways, there are definitely some opportunities for things to happen as well.

To prepare for the season and being outdoors, I wanted to pass along some ideas to help prepare you for the dog days of summer.

As we approach the summer solstice, the days will be getting longer and many people take advantage of doing outdoor activities, but do you have the proper bag of utilities to keep you safe during this time? Here are a few things that are a must in order to ensure your safety.

First and foremost, everyone should apply some form of sunscreen before heading outdoors.

With a minimum of SPF 30, one should lather or spray sunscreen as it is one of the best summer safety tips to ensure you stay healthy now and in the future. The protection against UVA rays and sunburns without protection could lead to skin cancer and for best protection apply an ample amount of sunscreen around 30 minutes before going outside and be sure to reapply every couple hours for added protection and water or sweat resistance are the best choices to use.

Also, wearing the right attire and accessories can help during this time as well. Do not confuse that what you wear to the beach can be worn on a nature hike because that is pretty much night and day. Be sure to wear more than what you think as well as the norm is to wear less clothing during the summer, but having more clothing is a good opt to have for better skin protection. And the lighter color clothes you wear actually work as a reflector of the sun and can keep you cool and safe. Wide brimmed hats are recommended as it can protect your face, ears and neck from the sun. And do not forget those sunglasses for eye protection.

It may sound a little over the top, but it is not a bad idea to have a first aid kit handy in your beach bag or fanny pack if hitting the trail. I am not talking about the doctor's bag, but something simple with all the necessities. Band-Aids and

antibiotic ointments for minor cuts or scrapes. Again, sunscreen for frequent application while in the sun as well as bug spray to fend off bug bites. Some post sun lotion like aloe Vera to help cool the body after a long day in the sun and of course, some form of cream to help with itching caused by bug bites or even poison ivy. Hydrocortisone cream is best recommended to ease itchiness and irritation from these.

Drink WATER! The sun and all the activities can dehydrate anyone and you should drink plenty of fluids regardless of how active you are. The key is do not wait till you're thirsty to drink, as that is an early sign that you probably need fluids, but have a continuous, steady amount of water during your activities even though you do not feel that you need them. This will protect you from heat exhaustion.

And speaking of that, be aware of the signs of having too much fun in the sun. Dizziness, muscle cramps, weakness, fatigue and nausea are all warnings of heat exhaustion and if detected it is best recommended to get indoors, drink water and blot your body with a cool, wet towel. The issue is that your body temperature rose high too quickly and the goal is to bring that back down.

I hope that everyone has a safe and fun summer and if you follow some of these guidelines, you should be ready for anything to happen.

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Summer SAFETY TIPS

Recommended by
Mary-Ann Phillips, MD,
Pediatric Associates

With warm weather and longer days upon us, it is critical to prioritize safety while maximizing fun. Here are some essential tips to help protect you and your loved ones from summertime nuisances.

POISONOUS PLANTS



We sometimes forget how much our child is at risk for exposure to poisonous plants, such as poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac. When these plants come in contact with skin, the sap oil (urushiol) can cause an allergic reaction.

If your child is exposed, you should:

- Immediately rinse skin with rubbing alcohol, poison plant wash, degreasing soap (such as dishwashing soap) or detergent, and lots of water. Rinse frequently so wash solutions do not dry on the skin and further spread the urushiol.
- Scrub under nails with a brush.
- Apply wet compresses, calamine lotion, or hydrocortisone cream to the skin to reduce itching and blistering. Oatmeal baths may relieve itching.
- An antihistamine may help relieve itching. NOTE: Drowsiness may occur.
- In severe cases, seek professional medical attention.
- Call 911 or go to a hospital emergency room if you have a severe allergic reaction, such as swelling or difficulty breathing, or have had a severe reaction in the past.



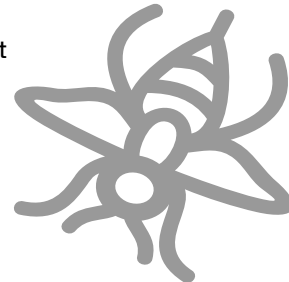
BEE STINGS



As children enjoy long summer days, they are at risk of being stung by flying insects such as bees, wasps, and hornets. While most stings cause only mild discomfort, some may result in severe allergic reactions that require immediate medical care.

If your child is stung, you should:

- Monitor your child to ensure they do not have an allergic reaction.
- Wash the site with soap and water.
- Remove the stinger using gauze wiped over the location of the sting.
- Apply ice to reduce swelling.
- Do not scratch the sting, as this may increase swelling, itching, and risk of infection.



MOSQUITO BITES



Some children have only a mild reaction to a bite or bites. Other children react more strongly, and a large area of swelling, soreness, and redness can occur.

If a mosquito bites your child, treatment is rather simple. You should:

- Wash the area with soap and water.
- Apply an ice pack for 10 minutes to reduce swelling and itching. Reapply the ice pack as needed.
- Apply a mixture of baking soda and water, which can help reduce the itch response.
- Use an over-the-counter anti-itch or antihistamine cream to help relieve itching. Follow the product label directions.



TICKS



Tick exposure can occur year-round, but ticks are most active during warmer months.

After your children return indoors, make sure to:

- Conduct a full body check upon returning from potentially tick-infested areas, including your backyard.
- Ticks may be carried into the house on clothing. Any ticks that are found should be removed. Tumble dry clothes in a dryer on high heat for 10 minutes to kill ticks on dry clothing after you come indoors. If the clothes are damp, additional time may be needed. If the clothes require washing first, hot water is recommended. Cold and medium-temperature water will not kill ticks.
- Ticks can ride into the home on clothing and pets, then attach to a person later, so carefully examine pets, coats, and daypacks.
- Have your child shower within two hours of coming indoors to reduce the risk of getting Lyme disease and reduce the risk of other tickborne diseases. Showering may help wash off unattached ticks, which is a good opportunity to do a tick check.



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“Shepherd” From pg 1

characters. There’s more plot.” One thing that stayed the same with both books, is she designed the covers herself as well as modeled for each of them. She said in “Worth The Wait,” she also “made the blouse,” that she is wearing in the cover’s image. However, she said once she finishes this series, she won’t be continuing the tradition of sewing something for the covers or designing them. “It’s just a lot.” As for the people always there to encourage her in this career, Shepherd said, “my parents are my biggest supporters and probably my bookstagram community. They’re really sup-

portive too.” Shepherd said that the community she’s formed on Instagram led to her meeting another West Virginia author, Hannah Lindor, and that she hopes to meet more author friends in the future. Shepherd said she has one more western book planned in this series before moving into a new direction, romantic comedy. But for now, she’s preparing for “Worth The Wait,” releasing June 19. Shepherd’s advice to new writers who want to start on their own novel is to, “keep going. Probably the hardest part is wanting to quit so just keep going.”

“Grant” From pg 1

by a judicial officer.” Day Report Centers partner with drug courts, but focus on clients’ mental health. Therapy and treating mental health, as well as addiction, serves as the core of Day Report programs, which are less intense than those required by drug court.. The state also embraced the day report concept because it helps to lessen the regional jail cost for county commissions. According to the West Virginia Daily News funding comes from a “community corrections grant provided by the West Virginia Division of Justice and Community Services, and a Justice Reinvestment Initiative grant, a program aimed

at driving down criminal costs using evidence-based, cost-benefit analysis.” In the past, the DHHR encouraged “providers that have the capability to render services via Telehealth to allow easier access to services for WV Medicaid Members.” As of July 1, however, telehealth services connected to the Day Report program will cease. Darren Taylor, executive director of the South Branch Day Report Center, recently informed a county commission in his region that virtual meetings have far less positive impact on clients’ lives and behavior than face to face visits.

“BOE” From pg 1

Tracy Miller, whom Snell called “a giant cheerleader for aviation in West Virginia,” praised Snell’s work. She shared that there is “a natural crisis for getting pilots and mechanics right now.” Fewer young people engaging in meaningful work plus a number of skilled employees reaching retirement age has opened tremendous opportunities in the field of aviation. After student recognitions came a lengthy presentation by the Verkada company. They specialize in environmental sensors and security infrastructure. Their representative stated that “the core of what we deliver is protecting assets and privacy.” The presentation explained Verkada’s vaping detection systems which can detect vapors and connect them with cameras and other equipment in real time. Principals and security officials can have alerts sent directly to their phones. The representative cited the fact that in May, several North Marion High School students vaping street purchased vapes had to go to the hospital. Street vape dealers can put anything from deadly drugs to dangerous chemicals in the devices. Before the board left for executive session, Jan Phillips shared with the board a Salem Elementary School project that she said “saved a life.” Phillips had brought in a malnourished and orphaned kitten and the school transformed it into a heartwarming,

but still educational, project. After administrative and unanimous parent approval, the cat found a home in a safe container provided to the school. Students not only learned feline biology, but even wrote a book about the cat. Grant funding paid for the cat and related project materials. Students wrote the book, chose the photographs and illustrations, and, as Phillips said, “learned through play.” She said “I wanted you to see something positive coming out of Harrison County.” Board members then entered executive session for the superintendent’s evaluation, which cannot be shared with the media under the law. After executive session, the board heard an update for United Technical Center. A team placed second in a recent competition, constructing a “knighting chair.” Although they did not win, Governor Jim Justice was impressed to the point that his office ordered two podiums from the team. Concerns were expressed about the completion program conditions, resulting in the proposal to move the ceremony to Robert C. Byrd High School next year. Ample parking and air conditioning in the gym should help to make attendees more comfortable. Finally, the board heard that enrollment had expanded to 385, “which is very good,” one member noted.

Former City of Clarksburg Employee Sentenced for Embezzling More Than \$85,000

Clarksburg, WV – On Friday, June 2, 2023, Suzette Wagner was sentenced in Harrison County Circuit Court following a guilty plea of embezzlement for stealing more than \$85,000 from her former employer, the City of Clarksburg. Harrison Chief Circuit Judge Christopher McCarthy sentenced Wagner to 1-10 years which will be served on home confinement. She was also ordered to pay restitution to the City of Clarksburg in the amount of \$85,348, due within five days of the sentencing. Additionally, over the next four years, she will have to pay restitution to the State Auditor’s Office in the amount of \$39,607 for the expenses and time spent investigating the case. Wagner worked for the city for 28 years and retired in 2019 as the Chief Tax and Fee Collector. Shortly after her retirement, an investigation began into missing funds. The WV State Auditor’s Public Integrity and Fraud Unit assisted Harrison County Sheriff’s Detectives on the case. Investigators found the embezzlement occurred from December 2017 through the end of 2019, when Wagner retired. “This case in an excellent example of the partnerships forged between our Public Integrity and Fraud Unit and investigative agencies throughout the state,” State Auditor JB McCuskey said. “The expertise of our PIF-U in analyzing complex financial crimes is a great asset, and compliment, to the work from our local police officers and Sheriff’s deputies. We have developed a mechanism to go after those who are stealing taxpayer dollars and to finally hold them accountable, hopefully sending the message that this will not be tolerated.” In court, Wagner said she would adjust accounts to cover the money she was stealing and used the money to pay bills. Harrison County Assistant Prosecutor Brad Pustolski prosecuted the case. Since 2018, the West Virginia State Auditor’s Public Integrity and Fraud Unit has secured 52 felony convictions, with more than \$2.2 million ordered in restitution.

Mountaineer Star Slugger Wetherholt Collects Post Season Honors

Morgantown, WV – West Virginia sophomore JJ Wetherholt has been tabbed as the NCBWA District 2 Player of the Year, becoming the fourth Mountaineer to earn the honor, joining Jedd Gyorko (2009 & 2010), Braden Zarbni-sky (2017), and Alek Manoah (2019). The latest in a long list of accolades for Wetherholt comes a day after being named a finalist for the Dick Howser Trophy and Bobby Bragan National Collegiate Slugger Award. He has also already been named Big

12 Player of the Year and a first-team All-American by Collegiate Baseball. The Mars, Pennsylvania native is just one of two players to hit 15 home runs and steal 35 bases this season as well as the first player since Adam Greenberg of North Carolina in 2002 to have 35 stolen bases and 40 extra-base hits. Wetherholt has also been named as one of four finalists for the Bobby Bragan National Collegiate Slugger Award (BBNCSA) presented by SR Bats, as announced by the

Bobby Bragan Youth Foundation. The BBNCSA is open to nominations from all Division I baseball programs in the country. The BBNCSA originally had 51 players nominated for the award at the beginning of the season and added eight players, including Wetherholt, to its mid-season watch list. The award is based on performance at the plate, academics, and personal integrity. “I think the BBNCSA Selection Committee had an extremely tough job this year given the depth and performance

of our best Watch List in the history of the Bobby Bragan National Collegiate Slugger Award presented by SR Bats,” said Tracy Taylor, Executive Director of the BBNCSA and the Bobby Bragan Youth Foundation. “You can’t go wrong with three upperclassmen that hit over .430 for the season and were the top three hitters in Division I plus a redshirt freshman who hit .386 with 25 homers. This year’s finalists include the Player’s of The Year from the SEC (Crews), the Big 12 (Wetherholt) and Conference USA

See “Slugger” on Pg 10

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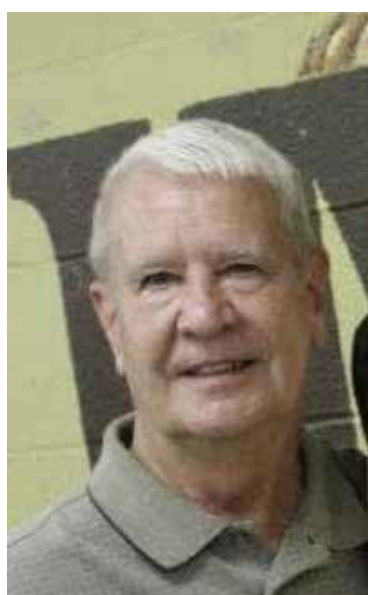



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OBITUARIES



James G. (Jim) Ice

James G. (Jim) Ice, 86, of Harmony Assisted Living, Bridgeport, formerly of Lumberport, passed away Sunday evening surrounded by his family. He was born October 20, 1936 in Wallace, a son of the late Herbert R. Ice and Charlotte Starkey Ice. On June 2, 2021, he lost his wife of 63 years, Sheila Irene Stire Ice.

Surviving are his children, James (Jamie) Ice and wife Maxine of Lumberport, Dawn Ovies and husband, Anthony of Mount Clare, Kris Wagner and Scott Swiger of Clarksburg; Grandchildren, Todd Haddix and wife Darby of Wallace, Adam Walker and wife Ally of Bridgeport, Derek Walker and wife Matrassa of Bridgeport, Kyle Wagner and wife Sarah of Simpsonville, KY, Dr. Kassie Kime and husband Dr. Matt Kime of Fairmont; Great-Grandchildren, Creed Haddix, Landen Walker, Hayden Walker, Camden Walker, Rowan Walker, Mayson Walker, Emory Haddix, Eva Kime, and Kate Kime; several nieces and nephews. Brother-in-law Edward Baker of Florida.

Also preceding him in death was his son, Cary Ice; brothers Herbert A. Ice and wife Jane, Elden (Hick) Ice and wife Betty; sisters Mildred Baker, Dean Duncan and husband William, Thelma Jean Tennant and husband Toy; His in-laws, Henry and Margaret Stire.

Jim retired in 2018 with his work as an electrician. He was a 55 year member of Union Local 596. He served as business agent for 6 years, from 1987 to 1993.

He was a member of Lumberport United Methodist Church, where he formerly served as Trustee and Sunday School Superintendent. Also, he was a member of St. John's Lodge #24, AF & AM. He loved his gardening, hunting, and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Friends will be received at the Harmer Funeral Home, 300 Pike St. Shinnston from 2-8 pm Tuesday. A funeral service will be at Lumberport United Methodist Church on Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 11:00 am with Rev. Sam Cale officiating. Body will lie in State from 10:00 to 11:00 am Interment will follow at Shinnston Memorial Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 306, Lumberport, WV 26386.

A service of Harmer Funeral Home, Shinnston.



Brenda Sue Hall

Brenda Sue Hall, 70, of Maplewood Healthcare Center, formerly of Wallace, passed away on Thursday, June 8, 2023 at United Hospital Center. She was born March 23, 1953 in Clarksburg, a daughter of the late Glen Roy and Hazel Madelyn Moore Hall.

She is survived by her brother-in-law, Thomas C. Exline of Lumberport; her nephew, Thomas Kelly Exline and his girlfriend, Susan Longwell of Lumberport; and her great-niece, Kaitlin M. Exline and her fiancé, Seth Stalnaker of Beverly.

In addition to her parents, Brenda was preceded in death by her sister, Sherry Exline and her niece, Nancy Exline-Webb.

The family would like to thank the staff of Heritage Nursing Home, Bridgeport Healthcare Center, and Maplewood Healthcare Center for their excellent care for Brenda over the past 23 years.

Friends will be received at Perine Funeral Home, 1348 S. Pike St. Shinnston, on Monday June 12, 2023 from 11:00 am until the time of the service at 1:00 pm. Pastor Tim Sandy will officiate the service. Interment will follow at Shinnston Memorial Cemetery. Online memories and condolences can be shared with the family at www.perinefunerals.com

The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Hall and Exline families.



Clyde Lewis Myer

Clyde Lewis Myer, 89, of Clarksburg, passed away on Tuesday, May 30, 2023, at WVU Hospitals Ruby Memorial in Morgantown. He was born in Salem, October 31, 1933, a son of the late Floyd E. and Clara Jenkins Myer.

Surviving are his wife, Mary Ann Haster Myer, whom he married, June 19, 1993; one daughter, Mignon Boring and her husband Alan, Lumberport; four grandchildren: Joe Bush and his wife Terri, Louisiana, Matt Boring, Shinnston, Letosha Lindley and her husband

Jeremy, Claysville, PA, and Melina Bush and her fiancé, Derrick McWhorter, Clarksburg; eleven great grandchildren; one brother, William Myer and his wife Ruth, Eustus, FL; and one sister Jackie; his dog, Sambo; and his three cats, Leo, Dulce, and Buckwheat.

Mr. Myer was a Veteran having served with the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. He was formerly employed at Tractor Supply in Buckhannon. He became self employed later in life, making jewelry and crafts, and selling them at flea markets. He loved to collect things and was a big jokester. Mary would often tell him that he should go to Hollywood because "the walk would do him good." He was a wonderful grandfather and often served his granddaughter breakfast in bed when she would spend the night. He was a faithful man and attended the Good Hope Prayer Chapel.

In keeping with his wishes, Mr. Myer was cremated. A graveside service will be held at the WV National Cemetery in Pruntytown, Monday, June 12, 2023, at 11am, where full military graveside rites will be accorded by the WV National Guard and the Harrison County Honor Guard. Condolences may be extended to the family at www.perinefunerals.com. The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Myer Family.



Thomas William Niven Sr.

Thomas William Niven Sr., 74, of Berkeley Springs, passed away on June 5, 2023 at War Memorial Hospital Inc. in Berkeley Springs, WV surrounded by his loving family. He was born on July 17, 1948 in Wheeling, WV to the late William L. Niven and Norma (Theby) Niven.

After high school Thomas proudly went to serve his country in Vietnam and was assigned to the 101st Airborne with the United States Army. After he finished serving his country, he worked in construction for several years and finished his career with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Thomas was a very kind, caring, and loving man. He was a loving, father, grandfather, son, and brother. Thomas married the love of his life Janice (Fluharty) Niven on September 4, 1993.

They built a beautiful life together in Berkeley Springs. Thomas enjoyed life, spending time with his family, going fishing, and taking care of his horses.

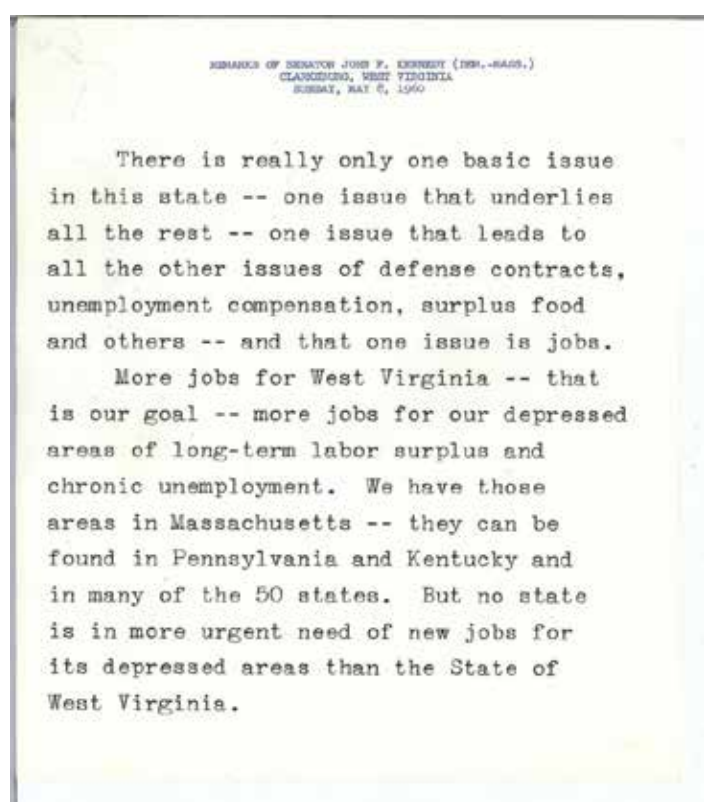
Left to cherish memories of Thomas are his wife Janice, his children; Theby (Niven) Gregory and her husband Darrin, Tammy Collins and husband John, "Tommy" Thomas William Niven Jr. and his significant other Christine Vaughn, and two granddaughters; Megan Collins and Kaylee Niven, two grandsons; Lance Collins and T.J. Niven, and one brother Robert "Bob" Niven.

In addition to his parents Thomas was preceded his in death by his sister-in-law Lavada Niven.

The family will receive friends at Dorsey Funeral Home at 701 S. Pike St., Shinnston, WV on Saturday June 10, 2023 from 10:00-11:00AM until the time of the funeral service at 11:00AM with Pastor Everett Powell officiating. Entombment will follow at Shinnston Memorial Cemetery, Shinnston. Military honors will be provided by the United States Army and Harrison County Honor Guard. Dorsey Funeral Home and Crematory will be handling the services and are honored to serve the Niven family. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.DorseyFuneralHomeWV.com.

Out of the Past

Memorable photographs from around Harrison County



From the May 8th primary campaign speech delivered by John F. Kennedy in Clarksburg. In this speech, he proposes the Area Redevelopment Act to create jobs and promote industry research and development. Image courtesy of the National Archives

**POST YOUR LEGALS
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Art as an antidote to the mindset of calculation and standardization

On Saturday morning, 27 May, Pope Francis met with participants in a conference sponsored by “La Civiltà Cattolica” with Georgetown University, on the theme, “The Global Aesthetics of the Catholic Imagination”. He defined art as “an antidote to the mindset of calculation and standardization” and “a challenge to our imagination, our way of seeing and understanding reality”. Among those present at the audience in the Clementine Hall were Martin Scorsese, his wife Helen and their daughter Francesca. The following is the English text of the Holy Father’s words.

Dear brothers and sisters, welcome!

I greet and thank Father Antonio Spadaro, the director of La Civiltà Cattolica, and Professor John DeGioia, the president of Georgetown University. I am happy to meet you in the course of this Conference that has assembled poets, writers, scriptwriters and directors from various parts of the world to discuss the topic of poetic imagination and Catholic inspiration. In these days you have reflected on the ways that faith challenges contemporary life and in this way seeks to respond to the thirst for meaning. “Meaning” cannot be reduced to a concept, no. It is a total meaning that encompasses poetry, symbol, feelings. True meaning does not come from a dictionary, for that merely tells us the meaning of words, which are instruments for communicating everything that is within us.

I have loved many poets and writers in my life, among whom I think especially of Dante, Dostoevsky and others still. I must also thank my students of the Colegio de la Inmaculada Concepción of Santa Fe (Argentina), with whom I shared my reading when I was a young teacher of literature. The words of those authors helped me to understand myself, the world and my people, but also to understand more profoundly the human heart, my personal life of faith, and my pastoral work, even now in my present ministry. Literature is like a thorn in the heart; it moves us to contemplation and sets us on a journey. Poetry is open, it takes you somewhere else. On the basis of this personal experience, I would like to share some considerations on the im-

portance of your service.

First, let me put it this way: You are eyes that see and dream. Not only see, but also dream. We human beings yearn for a new world that we will probably never see fully with our eyes, yet we desire it, we seek it, we dream of it. A Latin American writer once said that we have two eyes: one of flesh and the other of glass. With the eye of flesh, we see what is in front of us; with the eye of glass, we see our dreams. Woe to us if we ever stop dreaming, woe to us!

Artists are those who with their eyes both see and dream. They see in greater depth, they prophesy, they show us a different way of seeing and understanding what is before our eyes. Indeed, poetry does not speak about reality beginning with abstract principles, but by first listening to reality: work, love, death and all the little big things that fill our lives. In this sense, it helps us to “pluck the voice of God even from the voice of time”.¹ Yours is — to cite Paul Claudel — an “eye that hears”. Art is an antidote to the mindset of calculation and standardization; it is a challenge to our imagination, our way of seeing and understanding reality. The Gospel itself represents a challenge to art; it has a revolutionary “energy” that you are called to express, thanks to your talent, with a word that protests, appeals and cries out. Today the Church has need of your gifts, because she needs to protest, call out and shout.

Let me say something else: You are also the voice of the “restlessness” of the human spirit. Indeed, how often we are restless deep within our hearts. You know quite well that artistic inspiration is not only consoling but also disquieting, since it presents both the beautiful and the tragic realities of life. Art is the fertile terrain where the “polar oppositions” of reality² can be expressed with a language that must be creative, flexible and capable of serving as a vehicle for powerful messages and visions. For example, Dostoevsky in the Brothers Karamazov tells how a little child, the son of a maidservant, throws a rock and hits the foot of one of the dogs of the master of the estate. The master then sets a pack of dogs on the child, who runs and tries to save himself from their fury, but ends up by being torn to pieces un-

der the satisfied gaze of the master and the frantic eyes of the mother. That image has tremendous artistic and political force; it speaks to us of reality, past and present: of wars, conflicts within society, the selfishness within each of us, to quote just one poetic passage that challenges us.

I am referring not only to social criticism, which we see in that extract, but also to the deep struggles of the soul, the complexity of decision-making, the contradictions of our human existence. There are things in life which at times we can barely grasp, or find adequate words to express. This is your own fertile terrain, your proper field of activity. It is often the place too where we encounter God, in an experience which is always “superabundant”: we cannot force it, instead we sense it and it moves us on; the experience of God is always superabundant, like a continuously overflowing basin. That is the challenge I would like to present to you today: to go beyond set bounds, to be creative without downplaying your own spiritual restlessness and that of humanity. I fear any domestication process, for it takes away creativity, it takes away poetry. Always embrace, poetically, the anxious yearnings present in the human heart, lest they grow cold and fade away. Doing so enables the Spirit to act, to create harmony within the tensions and contradictions of life, to nurture our passion for goodness and to foster the growth of beauty in all its forms, that beauty which finds privileged expression in the arts.

This, then, is your task as poets, storytellers, filmmakers and artists: to give life, flesh and verbal expression to all that humanity experiences, feels, dreams and endures, thus creating harmony and beauty. This “evangelical” task also helps us come to a deeper understanding of God, as the great poet of humanity. Will they criticize you? Fine, bear the burden of criticism, but also strive to learn something from it. Yet never stop being original and creative. Never lose the wonder of being alive.

So, as eyes that dream, as the voice of human disquiet, you have a great responsibility. What is that? It is the third thing that I would like to tell you: You are among those who shape our imagi-

nation. This is vital. Your work has an impact on the spiritual imagination of the people of our time, especially regarding the figure of Christ. In our day, as I have had occasion to say — “we need the genius of new language, powerful stories and images, writers, poets and artists capable of proclaiming to the world the message of the Gospel, of allowing us to see Jesus”.³

Your work helps us to see Jesus, to heal our imagination of everything that disfigures his face or, worse, attempts to domesticate it. To domesticate the face of Christ, in the sense of trying to define it and enclose it within our preconceptions, is to destroy his image. Yet the Lord always surprises us: Christ is always greater; he is always a mystery that in some way escapes us whenever we try to fit him into a frame and hang him on a wall. He always surprises us; and when we do not sense that the Lord surprises us, something is wrong: our hearts are diminished and closed.

This, then, is the challenge facing the Catholic imagination in our time. It is a challenge entrusted to you: not to “explain” the mystery of Christ, which is ultimately unfathomable, but to enable us to touch him, to feel his closeness, to let us see him as alive and to open our eyes to the beauty of his promises. Because his promises appeal to our imagination: they help us to imagine in a new way our lives, our history and the future of humanity. And here I return to another of Dostoevsky’s masterpieces, short but with all these things inside: the Notes from the Underground. Therein is all the greatness of humanity and all the sorrows of humanity, all the sufferings, together. That is the way.

Dear friends, I thank you for your service. Continue to dream, to be restless, to conjure up words and visions that can help us interpret the mystery of human life and guide our societies towards beauty and universal fraternity. Keep helping us to open wide our imagination so that it can transcend our narrow perspectives and be open to the holy mystery of God. Persevere, then, tirelessly and with creativity and courage. I bless you and I pray for you, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. Thank you

Fairmont State Town & Gown Players Present ‘Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat’

Tickets are on sale now for the Fairmont State University Town & Gown Players production of Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (June 16-18, 21-25) at the Wallman Hall Theatre on the campus of Fairmont State University.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat runs June 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, and 24 at 7:30 pm and June 18 & 25 at 2:00 pm. All performances take place in the Wallman Hall Theater.

Directed by Troy Snyder, with choreography by Kim Bell and music direction by Elizabeth Wotring-Nelson, this musical dreamscape of comedy and adventure is a story of sibling rivalry, betrayal, courage, and redemption. The story follows Joseph, the

favorite son blessed with prophetic dreams, who is gifted a beautiful multi-colored coat, sparking the jealousy of his siblings and a remarkable journey.

This family-friendly musical is suitable for ages five and above. Music by composer Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice blends pop, country, and rock into an uplifting production filled with unforgettable songs.

“We’re really excited about our upcoming production,” says Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat Director Troy Snyder. “Our team has worked tirelessly over the past few months to put together this show. We have over fifty talented cast members, which makes it one of the biggest shows the Town and Gown Players have

ever put on. We’re looking forward to finally being able to share it with the community.”

Fairmont State celebrates 62 years of Town and Gown Players summer theatre for the NCWV community. Each Town and Gown Players production features a cast, crew, and artistic team comprised of community members, students, and professionals who commit their time, talent and steadfast dedication to each performance.

Leading the cast are Johnathan Richards as Joseph and Kiersten White as The Narrator. These actors are joined by Scott Moore (Jacob), Geoff Coyle (Pharaoh), David Kirk (Reuben), Hannah Stalaker (Simeon), Robert Satterfield (Levi), Dani DeVito (Naphtali), Shannon Yost (Isaac), Jason Englestad (Asher), Wesley Benson (Dan), McKenzie Fittro (Zebulon), Dominic Secreto (Gad), Jack Santee (Benjamin), Jamyson Posey (Judah), Miki DeMary-Andrew, Catherine Gray, Ashley Morgan Fink, Hayley Harvey, Devon Neptune, Briana Pudsell, Rebecca Walters, Mathew O’Neill, Ashley Morgan Fink, Bryce Weaver, Colton Daft, Craig Walker, Parker Biller, Parker Bombard, Brazz Evans IV, John Spellman, Emma Bell, Halle

Cercone, Izzy Fittro, Grace Glasscock, Evie Holt-Whaley, Shaila King, Journey Maher, Riley Moore, Salem Pollastrini, Ezra Secreto, and Aijah Watkins.

The young performers in the show are Lennox Conrad, Joanna Dugan, Savannah Farcin, Carmen Fluharty, Cylas Hawkins, Summerlee Hewitt, Mia Kopischke, Rocco Kopischke, Chloe Lichliter, Grace Messinger, Eva Moore, Hallie Moore, Finn Santee, Camele Stevens, and Gavin Zicafoose.

Joseph And the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat is produced by Leigh Anne Riley. The artistic team includes previously mentioned Troy Snyder, Elizabeth Wotring-Nelson, and Kim Bell, as well as Jason Noland and Ashley Doyle-Sine.

Get your tickets now to experience this exciting and powerful live show at Fairmont State University. Joseph And the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat will be performed in the Wallman Hall Theatre on the campus of Fairmont State on June 16-18 and 21-25. Sunday, June 18 and 25 are matinee showings. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online at www.fairmontstate.edu/boxoffice or in person at the Fairmont State Box Office in Wallman Hall.

NASA Opens Applications for Artifact Program to Museums, Schools, More

Eligible schools, universities, museums, libraries, and planetariums interested in receiving historic NASA objects for their STEM programs have until Friday, June 30, to apply for the 60th screening of the NASA Artifacts Module.

Artifacts may also be associated with achievements or improvements in technology; our understanding of the universe; and important or well-known personalities.

The agency has thousands of items available ranging from decommissioned programs, science instruments, small hardware flown in space, and other major agency activities for loan through that represent the history behind the science and technology of NASA.

“NASA’s Artifacts program offers an opportunity to encourage the next generation of science, technology, engineering, and math students – the Artemis Generation – and many other space enthusiasts, with these priceless artifacts to share the agency’s awe-inspiring accomplishments,” said Lauren Katz, exhibits and artifacts program manager at NASA. “We have a simple process online now for eligible institutions to secure their chance to participate in this unparalleled event. We hope many apply!”

Recognizing the important role it has played in our nation’s history, NASA makes available artifacts for STEM educational outreach activities and displays for the benefit of all. Since 2009, NASA has loaned more than 13,000 artifacts from its extensive collection to organizations across all 50 U.S. states.

Following their application, the agency anticipates notifying recipients in July. Called custodians, applicants will be required to pay associated packaging, handling, and shipping of any artifact.



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Treasurer Moore Announces More Than 5,000 Students Now Awarded Hope Scholarship for Upcoming School Year

More Applications Slated to be Approved by July 1

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – State Treasurer Riley Moore, chairman of the Hope Scholarship Board, today announced his Office has approved the Hope Scholarship for more than 5,000 West Virginia students for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year, with several hundred more students potentially being awarded in the coming weeks.

“There has been a tremendous interest in the Hope Scholarship this year and our Office has been working diligently to ensure every eligible West Virginia family that wants to take advantage of this program to educate their children can do so,” Treasurer Moore said.

As of Monday morning, June 5, the Office had approved 5,099 Hope Scholarship applications for the 2023-2024 school year that begins this fall. There were 6,321 applications received by the May 15 deadline and 1,029 are still being processed in various stages of submission, review or on hold awaiting further documentation. All applications are set to be reviewed by July 1.

So far, the Office has only deemed 179 of the submitted applications as ineligible for the

program, while 14 families decided to decline the award after being approved.

“If current trends hold, we could approach nearly 6,000 students receiving the Hope Scholarship this fall – remarkable growth for the second year of this program,” Treasurer Moore said. “That tells me West Virginia families have a strong desire for school choice and educational freedom options for their children.”

The Hope Scholarship Program is an education savings account available for kindergarten through 12th grade students. It is designed to allow parents and families to use the state portion of their child’s education funding to tailor an individualized learning experience through the approved Hope Scholarship Program Schools and Education Service Providers.

The scholarship amount varies each school year; for the 2023-2024 year, it will be \$4,488.82. The first portion of Hope Scholarship funds will be distributed to approved students through the program’s online portal by Aug. 15, with remaining funds distributed by Jan. 15, 2024.

Natalie Tennant Bio for Clarksburg Progressive Women’s Association

The progressive Women’s Association of Harrison County has announced that Natalie Tennant will be delivering the Keynote Message for the Women of Distinction Award Luncheon to be held on Friday, June 16 at noon. The luncheon will be held at the Uptown Event Center. The PWA will be honoring ten women whose contributions have made a difference in our community. Emphasis will be put on the volunteer efforts of these successful women.

A special celebration of America will be held. Special recognition will be given to WV birthday to Juneteenth and to July Fourth. The menu and decorations will carry out this theme.

Serving and promoting West Virginia has been a passion for Natalie Tennant since she was a young girl growing up on a

Marion County farm.

As a leader in high school and college and then as the first female WVU Mountaineer Mascot in 1990, Natalie always saw the potential in her fellow classmates and the people of West Virginia and wanted to help them make a difference.

She had that opportunity to tell the stories of West Virginia as a television reporter and anchor at various TV stations across the state for more than a decade.

Natalie served as West Virginia’s 29th Secretary of State from 2009 to 2017. Throughout her administration, she was a leader in promoting open and engaging government and business-friendly initiatives.

Natalie is known as a national leader in voting rights and brought more election advancement to West Virginia than any

other Secretary of State.

This past fall, Natalie was a Harvard Kennedy School Institute of Politics Resident Fellow where she mentored students in public service, community involvement and policy development.

In March, Natalie hosted a group of Harvard graduate students in West Virginia as part of their Future of Coal Regions Study Group.

She is also a voting rights advisor for the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School.

As a breast cancer warrior herself, Natalie encourages everyone to schedule a mammogram and advocate for yourself when it comes to your health.

The event is open to the public but reservations must be made by calling 304 624 6881. The major sponsor of the event is Davis Funeral Home.

Miller, Capito Introduce Bill to Block Implementation of EPA’s Power Plant Proposals

The ‘Protect Our Power Plants Act’ would defend West Virginia’s coal- and gas-fired plants from EPA’s latest harmful, illegal iteration of the Clean Power Plan

Washington, D.C. – Today, Congresswoman Carol Miller (R-WV) and Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) are introducing legislation to prevent the EPA from implementing its recently announced proposal that would force the closure of coal and gas-fired power plants.

The Protect Our Power Plants (POPP) Act outlines the illegalities of the EPA’s latest proposal, which attempts to severely restrict power generation at new and existing facilities, and states, “the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may not finalize, implement, or enforce” the proposed rule.

“The Environment Protection Agency has overstepped their role and is waging war on power plants across the United States. The Biden administration and Washington Democrats continue to shut down domestic energy production in the name of their Green New Deal agenda while the United States should be focused on maintaining its energy dominance. West Virginia will not stand for this spineless, and frankly, ridiculous rule.

Senator Capito and I are focused on promoting American energy policies that will ensure West Virginia remains an energy dominant state for years to come. The Protect Our Power Plants Act is a needed check on Washington Democrats’ radical environmental policies and promotes American energy production,” said Congresswoman Miller.

“With its Clean Power Plan 2.0, the Biden administration has made it quite clear they intend to ignore the Supreme Court’s ruling in West Virginia v. EPA, put the people who help power our nation out of work, and increase energy costs for millions of Americans. In the face of this illegal overreach, Congresswoman Miller and I are standing up for workers and families in energy-producing communities across the country, including those in West Virginia. The Protect Our Power Plants Act would maintain America’s status as a leading global energy producer and prevent the EPA’s current proposal from inflicting further damage on our state,” said Senator Capito.

Harrison County Students Named to Glenville State University Honor Rolls

GLENVILLE, WV – The names of Harrison County students who attained the Glenville State University President’s and Provost’s Honor Rolls for the Spring 2023 semester have been announced.

Sheila Mardmomen and Josie Reep, both of Bridgeport, Patrick Fisher and Kiersten Kniceley-King, both of Clarksburg, and Jasmin Brown and Sara Lowe, both of Salem, have been named to the GSU President’s Honor Roll. To be named to the President’s Honor Roll, students must have a 4.0 grade point average and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester hours.

Hayden Moore of Bridgeport, Gracie Tennant of Clarksburg, Sunni Moore of Lumberport, Abigail McAllister of Salem, and Jacob Short of Wallace have been named to the GSU Provost’s Honor Roll. To be named to the Provost’s Honor Roll, students must have grade point averages between 3.5 and 3.9 and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester hours.

West Virginia University Announces Order of Vandalia Honorees

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — Five Mountaineers will be honored Saturday (June 10) for their loyalty and service to West Virginia University as they are inducted into the Order of Vandalia.

The ceremony will also honor the memories of five Vandalianians who have died in the past year — J. William Douglas, Class of 2015; Elmo Hurst, Class of 1994; Edna Bennett Pierce, Class of 2012; Peter White, Class of 2001 and Mary Kathryn Wiedebusch, Class of 2007.

The 2023 inductees are Dana Brooks, Robert DiClerico, Pam Maphis Larrick, Nora MacDonald and J. Wayne Richards.

Dana Brooks retired as dean of the former College of Physical Activity and Sport Sciences in 2019 after serving the University for more than four decades. During that time, he also worked for 32 years as program administrator for the National Youth Sports Program on campus, positively impacting the lives of more than 8,000 children and families in the Mountain State.

Robert DiClerico is the former director of undergraduate studies for the Department of Political Science in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences and was recognized with 14 teaching awards during his tenure, including the CASE West Virginia Teacher of the Year and the Eberly Family Professor for Outstanding Teaching awards. He also served as the University representative for the Rhodes and Truman Scholarship foundations during his 30 years on campus, guiding seven University recipients through the process.

Pam Maphis Larrick spent her career as an advertising and marketing executive in New York City serving as CEO and chair of two global agencies. She co-founded the IPG Women’s Leadership Network in 2008, has served on the WVU Foundation Board of Directors, was honored with the Perley Isaac Reed Achievement Award from the Reed College of Media and was inducted as a member of the WVU Alumni Association Academy of Distinguished Alumni.

Nora MacDonald is a professor emerita in the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design School of Design and Community Development. During her career, she chaired the United Nations 1999 International Year of Older Persons Clothing Initiative, helped to develop the Disegno Italia program and served several times as curriculum coordinator for the Fashion, Dress and Merchandising Program.

J. Wayne Richards earned his bachelor’s degree in mining engineering from WVU before embarking on a career in the oilfield services sector. He spent 25 years in senior operational, sales and marketing positions with Schlumberger and currently serves as president and CEO of GR Energy Services. He is also a current member of the WVU Foundation Board of Directors and an advisory board member for the Energy Workforce and Technology Council.

The Order of Vandalia dates back to 1960 when WVU President Elvis J. Stahr outlined his idea for a special honor to be bestowed on the University’s most loyal servants. Inductees through the years have included U.S. Sens. Robert C. Byrd and Jay Rockefeller, Carolyn Eberly Blaney, Joseph Gluck, John T. Chambers, Earl L. Core and Milan Puskar.

Salem Athletics Wraps Spring Season with 3.20 Cumulative GPA

SALEM, West Virginia - With all the success on the field for Tigers athletics on the field this year, the Salem student-athletes have also been hard at work in the classroom. Across all sports, the Tigers earned a 3.20 overall cumulative GPA for the spring 2023 semester, and 11 of Salem athletics teams earned a team GPA of over a 3.0 for the semester. Those teams are listed here:

Baseball: 3.24
Men's Soccer: 3.16
Men's Swimming: 3.27
Men's Tennis: 3.24
Men's Water Polo: 3.24
Women's Basketball: 3.48
Women's Soccer: 3.13
Softball: 3.35
Women's Swimming: 3.47
Women's Tennis: 3.45
Women's Water Polo: 3.20

The Salem University Athletic Department is extremely proud of the academic success of our student-athletes, and would like to congratulate them on all the hard work they put in to make Salem University Athletics possible on the court, on the field, in the pool, and most importantly, in the classroom.

W.Va. State Senator Charles Trump announces plan to file for Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia

Charleston, W.Va. — Charles S. Trump IV of Morgan County, chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the West Virginia Senate, has announced that he intends to be a candidate in 2024 for the open seat on the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia.

"Like many others, I was surprised by the announcement by Justice John Hutchison that he will not be seeking re-election in 2024," Trump said. "I was not contemplating a candidacy against Justice Hutchison, but his decision not to run next year has caused many to encourage me to consider running for the open seat, and I intend to do so.

Trump has been a practicing attorney in West Virginia for 38 years. He served one term as Prosecuting Attorney for Morgan County (1989-1992), after which he was elected to the WV House of Delegates, where he served for fourteen years (1993-2006), including four years as the Minority Whip followed by eight years as the Minority Leader. In 2014, Trump was elected to the West Virginia Senate, where he has served as the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee for the last nine sessions.

"I love this State and its people. The law has been the focus of my entire professional life, and I think I could make a contribution to the important work of the Supreme Court of Appeals," Trump said.

"Slugger" From pg 6

(Schanuel) and Condon was the SEC Freshman Of the Year."

Wetherholt put up the greatest offensive season in WVU history as he hit a nation-leading .449 with 16 home runs, 24 doubles, two triples, 60 RBI, 67 runs scored, and 36 stolen bases. He was also named the Big 12 Player of the Year, a Collegiate Baseball first-team All-American and a finalist for the Dick Howser Trophy.

Off the field, he has 3.87 GPA while majoring in finance which led to him being named a first-team Academic All-American by College Sports Communicators, just the fourth Academic All-American in Mountaineer baseball history.

Wetherholt is also one of the most vocal leaders on the Mountaineers, serving as a consummate teammate, always looking to give credit, and offering words of encouragement to others.

McCabe Earns Hat Trick of Career All-American Honors

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. – Junior Ceili McCabe of the West Virginia University track and field team earned All-American honors for the third consecutive year in the women's 3,000-meter steeplechase final at the 2023 NCAA Division I Outdoor Track and Field National Championships.

"Tonight was a very special run for Ceili," coach Sean Cleary said. "The two that beat her ran incredible races, but for Ceili, she was nearly perfect."

McCabe secured her second-consecutive third place finish in the 3,000-meter steeplechase finals with a time of 9:41.32. Saturday's effort is good enough for her season best. The 2023 National Championships were hosted by the University of Texas at Mike A. Myers Stadium in Austin, Texas.

"While we were hoping for more until a few weeks ago, with a number of setbacks over the last 11 days, we are incredibly thrilled with this race," Cleary added. "Sometimes runners need to readjust their goals at the last minute and refocus on a new level of excellence; Ceili did that tonight."

Saturday marked the Vancouver, British

Columbia, Canada, native's second consecutive year with three All-American honors. She also has secured seven total All-American medals in her West Virginia career. The only other Mountaineers to earn All-American honors three times in the same year for at least one year are Marie-Louise Asselin, Clara Grandt and Keri Bland.

McCabe earned fourth overall in the semifinals with a time of 9:48.53. Her personal best in the event came when she took third for the first time in the 2022 outdoor championships, crossing the finish line at 9:31.14.

Her first All-American this year came at the 2022 NCAA Women's Cross Country National Championships. She completed the race in 20:03.2. At the 2023 NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships, she took sixth in the 3,000-meter race with a time of 9:16.05.

"Ceili has been to five NCAA Track and Field Championships between indoors and outdoors and earned All-American honors in each of those five," Cleary said. "We should all be very proud of this young lady."

Terry Deremer Named Wilson ITA Division II Men's Tennis National Coach of the Year

TEMPE, Ariz. – Terry Deremer was voted the 2023 Wilson Intercollegiate Tennis Association Division II Men's Tennis National Coach of the Year, the association announced on June 6.

"I am honored for the recognition," said Deremer. "It is very special, and I am incredibly proud of what our players and staff have been able to build here at Fairmont State. It is a special place."

The Mountain East Conference Coach of the Year led the Fairmont State men's tennis team to a historic season which culminated in a trip to the NCAA National Tournament. Deremer's squad won a program-best 18 dual victories during the 2023 season.

The Fairmont State Athletics Hall of Famer helped his team improve by 10 wins from the 2022 season. The Falcons captured the Mountain East Conference Tournament Championship after a thrilling 4-3 win over top-seeded Charleston under

Deremer's direction.

The Falcons achieved their highest ITA National Team ranking in program history and were slotted No. 32 in the final ITA rankings of 2023. Five of Deremer's players earned All-MEC honors this season including All-MEC First Team honoree Elia Barozzi and All-MEC Second

Team players Mohamed El Helaly, Alexandre Pages, Seena Saadevandi and Kan Watanabe. Barozzi was selected as the NCAA ELITE 90 winner at the national championship site and was later named a College Sports Communicators Academic All-American. Deremer becomes the first coach in MEC history to earn the recognition from the ITA.

He is the first Fairmont State head coach to receive a national coach of the year award since 2017.

West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine President Nemitz presented with Presidential Challenge Coin for efforts on substance use disorder education

Lewisburg, W.Va. — There is an important reason West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine President James Nemitz received a Presidential Challenge Coin for his efforts on substance use disorder education, said Dr. Rahul Gupta, Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

"It's really critical that the students of the future .. that are going to be doctors, nurses, social workers, therapists ... they understand the importance of addiction. ... If we do that, we save lives," Gupta said.

West Virginia lost more than 1,400 to drug overdoses last year and the number of deaths in America was over 100,000, according to Dr. Gupta.

With nearly 800 medical students – the most medical students in the state — and a focus on primary care and rural medicine, Gupta said WVSOM is working with real communities, real people, and on how to solve problems. He explained that substance use disorder is a worldwide problem, and WVSOM is preparing students to work in communities in West Virginia, across the country and around the world.

Dr. Gupta discussed President Biden's commitment to saving lives and beating the opioid crisis, including the surge against illicit fentanyl

the President announced in the State of the Union. Gupta also discussed the Administration's National Drug Control Strategy and the many steps the Administration has already taken to expand access to care for substance use disorder, reduce the supply of illicit drugs like fentanyl, and get states across the country the resources they need to respond to the crisis.

Pointing out that addiction leads to criminal convictions, Dr. Gupta noted many states, though not West Virginia, are issuing pardons for marijuana convictions. Addiction and the related criminal burden, Gupta said, negatively impacts the person, the family, the community, the state and the nation.

Saturday's roundtable session also included 16 students currently attending WVSOM. At the conclusion of the session, the students had the opportunity to interact with Gupta, Nemitz, and all other roundtable-participants.

Among the medical students was Sierra Wright of Parkersburg, who said she enjoyed the program and was glad to learn about all of the substance use disorder programs in West Virginia and the national commitment to fight the problem.

Other students in attendance included Teresa Lonce from Maryland and Jackie Buttafuoco, originally from the Chicago area.

Women's Club Raises Funds, Memorializes Members Who Recently Passed

The Woman's Club of Shinnston met Monday, May 15th for a covered dish dinner. Co-President Mary Ann Ferris greeted everyone and Secretary Wanda F. Ashcraft led devotions with a Mother's Day theme. The Pledge to the Flag was said in unison. The group then enjoyed a meal including home-made lasagna, chicken, broccoli casserole, potato salad, macaroni salad, slaw and apple pie.

During a short business meeting, Co-President Debra Herndon reported that \$699.50 had been raised at the recent rummage sale to aid in operation and maintenance of the club house. Herndon asked members to bring in unwanted items for the next rummage sale in August. Mary Ann Ferris reported on club donations and was happy to report that there were 10 applications

for a small scholarship the club would be awarding. Wanda Ashcraft, as Club Historian, reported that she had arranged and documented the Club's yearbooks and was in the process of getting all living past presidents to document their histories. The Club is 101 years old.

Ferris then led a memorial service for Club members who have passed since 2019. The Club had not had a memorial service recently, partially due to pandemic restrictions. Remembered were former members: Virgini Minor, Zelma O'Connor, Melba Jo Harmer, Rosetta Moore, Jean Currey, Josep Brooks, Lucille Anderson, Jeannie Kalaycioglu and Barbara Rogers. Ferris read a poem by Lois Hurst Beatty and then led the group in a responsive reading. The ceremony concluded with the group singing Amazing

Grace.

Attending not previously mentioned were Donna Mick, Sulayne Brooks, Connie Leuliette, Carrie Mancino, Debby Starkey and Viviane Spagnuolo.

The Woman's Club of Shinnston is currently seeking new members and gathering the \$25 annual dues for the current year. Interested women or men who would like to join are invited to experience one of the next two meetings. On June 19th at the club house, Wanda Ashcraft will be bringing a program on West Virginia and West Virginia's Birthday will be celebrated with a cake.

On July 17th, Bobby Bice III will bring a program on local history. Questions can be directed to Debra Herndon at 304-677-6650