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State of West Virginia Runs Pilot Project to Remove Dilapidated Properties and to Spur Local Development

By Stephen Smoot

In the past year the State of West Virginia, in conjunction with local governments and regional planning councils, has taken on the problem of dilapidated properties. Local governments around West Virginia have struggled for years with properties that look terrible, inhibit development, and attract crime.

In the decades after the Civil War, the Second Industrial Revolution crashed like a wave over the newly created State of West Virginia. As many communities surged with growth, they constructed stately homes, industrial buildings, and business fronts.

A hundred years later, by the mid 80s, the tide of manufacturing and other job creating sectors receded. Commercial buildings went vacant. Big, beautiful Victorian, Craftsman, and other beautiful homes were carved mercilessly into rentals, many of which went to complete seed in a generation.

Then, over a decade ago, economic growth and development returned to many areas in the state. Once again, jobs and wealth flowed in.

Yet many communities have found dilapidated properties a

barrier to growth. Piedmont, in Mineral County, for instance, sits at a remarkably scenic point where George's Creek enters the North Branch of the Potomac River, nestled between high ridges that cradle the town and its neighbors in Maryland. It sports a beautiful locale, rows of Victorian mansions waiting to be transformed into bed and breakfasts, and sits between the resorts of Deep Creek Lake and the less developed, but still popular Jennings Randolph Lake.

Piedmont also sports rich history in which to invest, especially as the home of black jazz pioneer Don Redman and famed Harvard professor Henry Louis "Skip" Gates Jr.

Like many West Virginia towns, it suffered from the laws concerning tax sales. When properties went up for bid, individuals or property holding businesses, often out of state, would purchase properties for pennies on the dollar of value. Then they would simply hold them, refusing to either demolish or improve the land and structures.

Piedmont found its community overwhelmed by abandoned and crumbling buildings. These structures provide a haven for criminals, homeless drug addicts,

and others who frighten families and senior citizens, often living only a few feet away.

Then the State Legislature and State Auditor's office stepped in. Earlier this month, J. B. McCluskey, West Virginia State Auditor, told The Review that "for the past three years . . . we have made reformation of our tax sale process one of the primary objectives of my office."

He added that properties have started to make their way back into the "neighbors' hands, the city's hands, the county's hands, or the economic development/land bank's hands." In other words, getting properties from out of state entities and into the possession of people ready, willing, and able to develop.

State law and policy had made it easy for out of state investors to acquire properties, but did not hold them accountable for use. "To be fair, we were part of the problem," McCluskey admitted. He added that the former policy "was promoting out of state land buyers who didn't have community interests at heart," and "didn't care that they were destroying communities."

The new sale structure ensures that properties purchased in tax sales end up with buyers who will improve the land in some

See "Properties" on Pg 6

West Virginia DHHR announces emergency energy assistance program for low income residents

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) has announced applications for the Emergency Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) will be accepted beginning Monday, June 26, 2023, through June 30, 2023, or until funds are exhausted.

The federally funded program assists eligible state residents in paying home energy bills.

Residents whose primary energy source is either gas or electricity must provide their shut-off notice when applying for Emergency LIEAP. Those using other primary energy sources or bulk fuel may qualify for assistance if their energy fuel is at a low level during the application period.

Households that received direct payment of regular LIEAP benefits must verify that the payment was used for home energy by submitting a current receipt with the Emergency LIEAP application. Failure to submit verification of payment may result in a denial of the application.

Eligibility for LIEAP benefits is based on income, household size and whether the household is responsible for paying its home energy bill. The income limit for fiscal year 2023 is 60% of the state median income. In these situations where an energy emergency exists, applicants must be seen by a DHHR worker.

To qualify, households must meet all program guidelines and be in an emergency that will disrupt the primary home energy source if not met.

The maximum allowable gross income levels for Emergency LIEAP FY 2023 are listed below:

*For each additional person, add \$590. Households whose income exceeds the maximum amount are not eligible; however, some types of income may be excluded for LIEAP. Social Security and Veterans income will be excluded for the current LIEAP application period.

To apply, residents must go to their local DHHR office.

Senator Capito, State EDA Official Share Concerns About Possible Changes to Federal Economic Development Policies

By Stephen Smoot

Twenty years ago, Congress and the administration of President George W. Bush implemented an economic development act to set guidance and priorities for federal funding of qualified projects. This summer, as the United States Senate starts discussion of the reauthorization of the act, US Senator Shelley Moore Capito invited Mike Graney, executive director of the Department of Economic Development, to share the Mountain State's experience with these programs and obstacles to further success.

Part of the discussion also centered on "opportunity zones," a program from President Donald Trump to spur investment in economically distressed communities.

"Mr. Graney and the rest of his team will work with all government levels to bring economic opportunity to our state," Capito explained, the added "they have achieved some recent successes and I hope he will talk about that."

One of the key issues lies in the fact that many of the economic development programs under the act remain vital, but operate under expired authorization. Capito related that "I must stress that reauthorization legislation will not be successful if it departs from the EDA's traditional missions."

Capito called upon Graney to discuss the state's experience with programs such as the Assistance to Coal Community programs. He responded by saying that 44 of West Virginia's 55 counties qualify for the program that, among other things, helps decommissioned coal related industrial facilities retool for other purposes.

He used the recent commitment by NuCor to construct a facility in Mason County as an

example, also noting its broad based impact. Graney explained that "what's unique about West Virginians is that we'll travel a long ways for a good job." Some applicants to the plant hail from an hour and a half away or more.

The project relied on assistance from the US Economic Development Administration for infrastructure assistance. Graney said that "having the US EDA support the sewer there is just critically important to make that happen."

Capito then turned to Chris Fetzer, executive director of the Northern Arizona Council of Governments, asking about his state's experience with the coal community development program. Fetzer expressed concerns over the difficulty of dealing with facilities closing "on an accelerated schedule."

The Senator posed questions about obstacles faced by state and local development entities in taking advantage of EDA projects. Graney related that he would like to see a change in policy to allow 20 year loan and development projects to have the early exit payment pro rated to time spent on site. Currently, even if the business leaves after 19 years, it must pay the full cost back.

He also explained that US EDA places restrictions on using funds for "preliminary work." This includes infrastructure, archaeological studies, and other "lip of the cup" work that can be easily done if funded. "If we had the flexibility to use EDA funds for that type of work, that would be very helpful," and would "get projects moving more quickly."

Capito also raised the question of the impact of US EDA investment priorities that "change from administration to administration." She

See "Capito" on Pg 6



**BUILDING
AMAZING CITIES**

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

Two Fine Men

This past week was a tough one for many people in Clarksburg, especially in the North View neighborhood. Sam Brunetti and Tony Alvino passed away. I knew them both from my high school days at Notre Dame High School, over fifty years ago. They both had personalities that endeared them to all who knew them.

Sam Brunetti was a well-known music teacher who spent his career helping students learn to appreciate music and playing instruments. Sam was a big guy like me and every time he saw me, he would smile and call me "Earthquake". I had no idea why he picked that nickname for me, but he had no problem shouting it out in a grocery store or at a concert. It's funny what you remember about people. I last saw Sam at The Bridge in Bridgeport. He was with his brother Duke and sure enough, as soon as he spotted me, he yelled, "Earthquake". The workout room all looked to see who he was yelling at, and we both laughed.

It is so difficult when a teacher passes away. They impact so many people in their lives and many students owe their careers to them. Sam was no exception and I've heard from so many, how he provided instruments to those kids who couldn't afford and many other kind gestures. I knew Sam's dad, who went by "Smitty" of Smitty's Pizza, a family business in the North View section of Clarksburg. I'm going to miss Sam Brunetti.

Tony Alvino was also from North View and if anyone symbolized North View, it was Tony. He also went to Notre Dame and was a great guy that just seemed to enjoy life. He had the nickname of "Vegas" from his career as a blackjack dealer in Las Vegas. I would usually see him when he visited Clarksburg and attended the Italian

See "Hunt" on Pg 3

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Kids Need to Learn History At Home, Too

By Stephen Smoot

Recently, as the nation gears up to celebrate freedom and independence,, my wife endured a difficult encounter with a pair of customers.

An older man and a young child, likely no more than eight or nine, approached the counter at the local convenience store in which my wife works. It's important to the story to understand that her mother's family came from "bad old days" Brooklyn, her father's from the "bad old days" Bronx. Regardless of where they came from or the circumstances in which they lived, all carried fierce pride as Puerto Ricans, New Yorkers, and also as Americans.

When she rang up their order, it totaled \$9.11, at which point the youngster squealed "Uh oh, look out for the planes!"

My wife's family includes individuals who were in the Twin Towers on that horrific day. She and her family knew the fear and anguish as they saw the flames. They knew both the relief of hearing that some had escaped, but knew the despair of hearing that some of their family did not.

She leaned forward and firmly explained that a lot of families lost loved ones, that first responders rushed into the inferno and many did not survive, that every American needed to respect their memory and that jokes about that day of loss are far from appropriate.

Then the grandfather shrugged his shoulders and said "it happens."

To be clear, she was not upset at the child. It is not his fault that his family raised him to feel irreverence at the worst day for the United States in most American lifetimes.

Younger generations losing respect for the sacrifices of those who came before is not inevitable. Generation X was reared on stories from their grandparents who shared their lives during the Great Depression, World War II, and the Korean War. They created a fiercely patriotic generation that stood up to fight in Iraq twice and Afghanistan for 20 years.

That generation also went to public schools that saw educating patriotic American citizens with a reverence for the sacrifices made by servicemen as a primary duty.

Today, the ideal of the Grand Old Flag has become tattered and careworn. Too many children learn the falsehood that their country is morally equivalent to truly evil regimes, such as the Soviet Union and Red China. Too many hear that heroes, such as George Washington, who have inspired the downtrodden around the world, are evil and not worthy of remembrance. They do not want discussion. They want to erase their memory from the public square entirely.

This is not necessarily true of schools and teachers in our area, but it happens far too often in far too many places.

Parents carry the primary responsibility to teach values. Regardless of whether or not their children learn these values at school, it's vital for parents to reinforce them in the family environment. A short conversation while driving down the road, a day trip to a battlefield, or even just modeling these values in daily life can make a strong impact on children and counter the negative messages flourishing in much of the national media and popular culture currently.

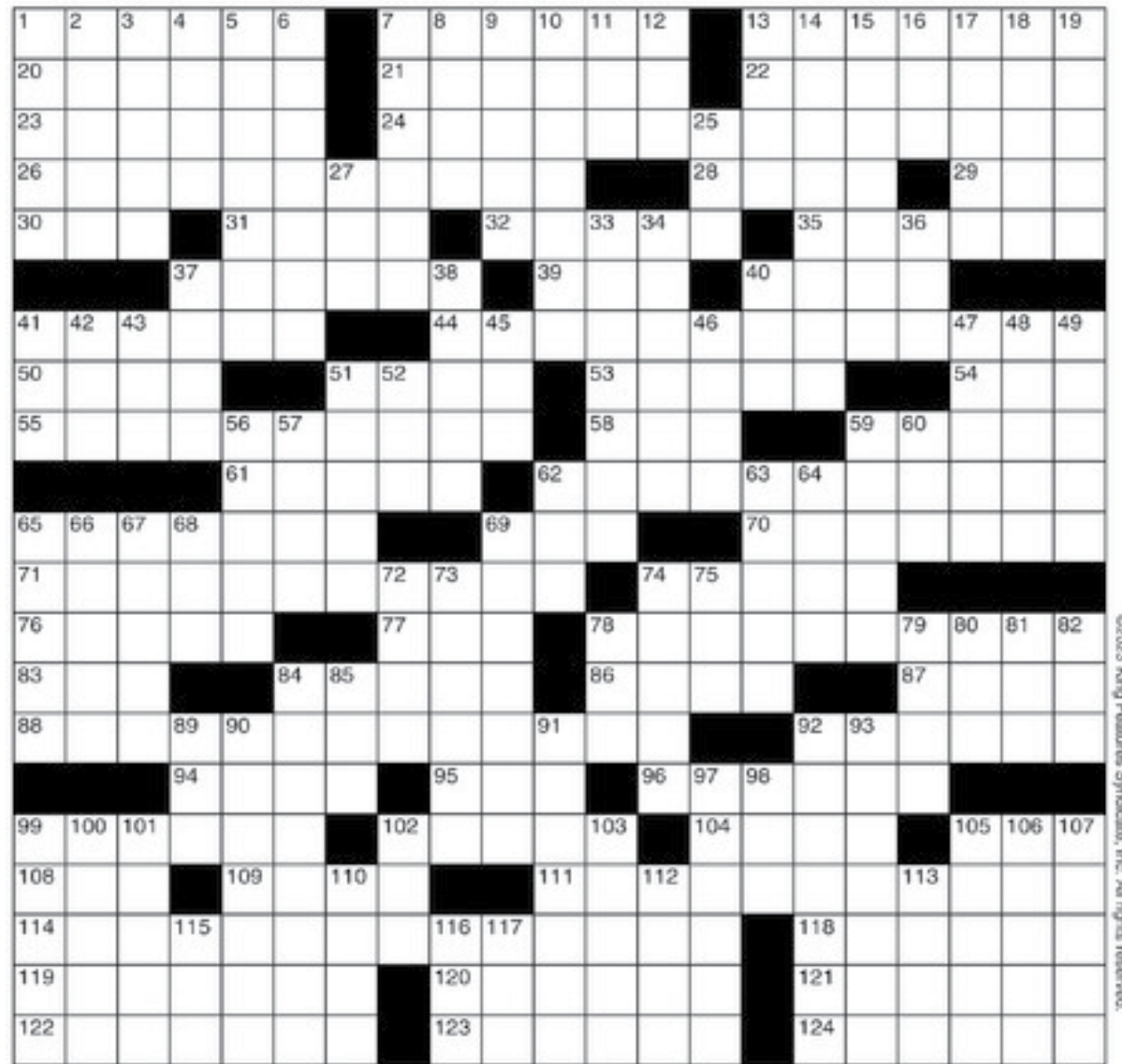
Patriotism is not slavish devotion to a government. It is a love of the nation and its people and the fervent desire to see America succeed while respecting the sacrifices of the past.

Also, it requires thoughtful evaluation of American people and events in the context of their place and time, not comparing their ideals and behavior to what is accepted or even just fashionable in 2023.

MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU

Super Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Dryer's partner
 - 7 Neither-here-nor-there states
 - 13 Not straying off topic
 - 20 Get in the way of
 - 21 "You may relax, soldier"
 - 22 One looking something over
 - 23 "The Delta Force" actor Chuck
 - 24 Question after a chat interruption
 - 26 Latched on firmly
 - 28 Space balls
 - 29 San Luis —, California
 - 30 Mount, as a jewel
 - 31 "Diane" star Turner
 - 32 "Carrie" star Spacek
 - 35 Mutineers
 - 37 2012 Robert Pattinson film based on a Maupassant novel
 - 39 Chou En- —
 - 40 Fictional "Warrior Princess"
 - 41 Lax in duty
 - 44 British remake of "That '70s Show"
 - 50 Say for sure
 - 51 Trepidation
 - 53 Fathered, as a horse
 - 54 Start of many rapper names
 - 55 Realities that are tough to face
 - 58 "E-e-ew!"
 - 59 Vodka brand, informally
 - 61 Reply to "You are not!"
 - 62 Fulfill, as standards
 - 65 Wiseacre
 - 69 River to the Rhine
 - 70 Hint at
 - 71 "That's impossible!"
 - 74 Reagan adviser Edwin
 - 76 Flooring units
 - 77 "... bug — feature?"
 - 78 Identity before turning over a new leaf
 - 83 City in Oklahoma
 - 84 Trig function
 - 86 Away from the wind, nautically
 - 87 Non-iron club
 - 88 Revealing interference with the contents, as a package
 - 92 Key related to D major
 - 94 Saharan
 - 95 Oct.-Dec. link
 - 96 Creek, e.g.
 - 99 Garbage collectors
 - 102 Very easy thing
 - 104 "Back in Black" band
 - 105 Italian monk's title
 - 108 Runner Sebastian
 - 109 Really eager
 - 111 With 114-Across, source of the phrase formed by the ends of eight answers in this puzzle
 - 114 See 111-Across
 - 118 Is identical to
 - 119 Famed French mime
 - 120 Interfere
 - 121 Nuanced
 - 122 Places in categories
 - 123 Flip one's lid
 - 124 Plant with prickly leaves
 - 37 Avian creature
 - 38 Boise's home
 - 40 1960s Jaguar model
 - 41 Team booster
 - 42 Actress Longoria
 - 43 Sea, to Gigi
 - 45 "— longa ..."
 - 46 Vexes
 - 47 Flee to wed
 - 48 Sediments
 - 49 Writer T.S.
 - 51 Showed rage
 - 52 UFO fliers
 - 56 "— Andronicus" (Shakespeare play)
 - 57 Locomotive supporter
 - 59 Singer Bob
 - 60 Yank
 - 62 Actress West
 - 63 "I'm here to help"
 - 64 Bit of artifice
 - 65 Join, as a table
 - 66 Peak in W. Turkey
 - 67 Happy as —
 - 68 Fish eggs
 - 69 Run out on
 - 72 Tube lover's punishment
 - 73 57-Down vehicles
 - 74 De-feathers
 - 75 Prior to, poetically
 - 78 Team booster
 - 79 Exercise in a pool
 - 80 Long time
 - 81 Leicester lav
 - 82 WWII prez
 - 84 Recoil from
 - 85 Multivolume Brit. lexicon
 - 89 Dawber of "Mork & Mindy"
 - 90 Amazon Kindle, e.g.
 - 91 Dodgers
 - 92 Recuperation by lying down
 - 93 Asian monkey
 - 97 Natural gift
 - 98 Rival of Sony
 - 99 In — (not just sleeping)
 - 100 Big couches
 - 101 Many future kings
 - 102 Long time
 - 103 Tubular pasta
 - 105 Edicts
 - 106 Esther of "Good Times"
 - 107 Photographer Adams
 - 110 Creative work
 - 112 Cl doubled
 - 113 Big brass instrument
 - 115 Sarge, e.g.
 - 116 Sports org. with skaters
 - 117 Scooby- —



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 29, 1845: George W. Atkinson was born in Charleston. In 1896, Atkinson was elected governor in an upset victory over Cornelius C. Watts of Charleston, ending 26 years of Democratic rule.

June 29, 1952: Writer Breece D’J Pancake was born in South Charleston and grew up in Milton, Cabell County. Many of Pancake’s stories are set in Milton, fictionalized as “Rock Camp.”

June 29, 2012: A violent storm called a derecho raced across West Virginia, leaving downed trees and damaged homes in its wake. About 688,000 homes and businesses lost power for a week during a widespread heat wave.

June 30, 1914: Statewide prohibition of alcohol sales became law years before it was enacted for the whole nation.

June 30, 1929: The Wheeling Symphony Orchestra gave its first concert at Oglebay Park.

June 30, 1944: Harpers Ferry National Historical Park was authorized as a national monument, the first in West Virginia.

July 1, 1861: Francis Pierpont, governor of the Reorganized Government of Virginia, called the legislature into session. The general assembly re-established governmental functions, provided for the raising of military units, and elected new U.S. senators and representatives.

July 1, 1937: Watoga State Park was opened to the public. The Pocahontas County park is the largest of the state parks and among the oldest.

July 1, 1971: Southern West Virginia Community College was formed by joining the Marshall University branch campuses at Logan and Williamson. In 1995, the name changed to Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College.

July 2, 1829: Potter and businessman Alexander Polk Donaghho was born. He began a pottery operation in Parkersburg, creating hand-thrown, salt-glazed crocks, jars and other pottery that are avidly collected today.

July 3, 1863: At Gettysburg, Union troops in the 1st West Virginia Cavalry took part in a fruitless charge against Confederate infantrymen during the waning moments of that historic battle.

July 4, 1882: The steamboats Scioto and John Lomas collided on the Ohio River as they were returning from holiday excursions. The Scioto sank almost instantly, and 70 people drowned.

July 4, 1918: Poet Muriel Miller Dressler was born in Kanawha County. Her poem “Appalachia,” published in 1970, was her signature piece.

July 4, 1928: West Virginia dedicated Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park. Droop Mountain was one of the most important Civil War battles fought on West Virginia soil.

July 4, 1938: Musician Bill Withers Jr. was born into a miner’s family of 13 children in Slab Fork, Raleigh County. In 1971, he released his first album, Just As I Am, including his first Grammy-winning song, “Ain’t No Sunshine.” In 2015 he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

July 5, 1896: Cartoonist Kendall Vintroux was born at Fraziers Bottom. He began his career with the Charleston Gazette when he submitted a cartoon about the town of Poca’s first paved road. Many of his drawings are now in the collection of the University of Charleston.

July 5, 1950: Army Private Kenneth Shadrack of Wyoming County was one of the first U.S. servicemen killed in action in the Korean War.

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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

Clarksburg First Friday, 4:30-8 PM. Bicycle Parade starting at the Caperton Center (6PM); Hot Dog Eating Contest (7PM) and Ice Cream Social (6-8PM) at the Clarksburg Baptist Church parking lot. Live music, vendors, and food trucks at Jackson Square. Artists Market at the Art Gallery on Main Street. Lawn games and Mini Book Sale at the Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library. Clarksburg History Museum, Model Railroad Club, businesses, and restaurants open extended hours. Clarksburg Visitors Bureau, 304-622-2157.

Bridgeport Public Library is holding a book sale at 1200 Johnson Avenue Bridgeport, WV.

Saturday, July 1 – Monday, July 31. Buy one bag of books for \$2, get one bag free. All other items priced as marked. (304) 842-8248 for additional information.

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"Hunt" From Pg 1.

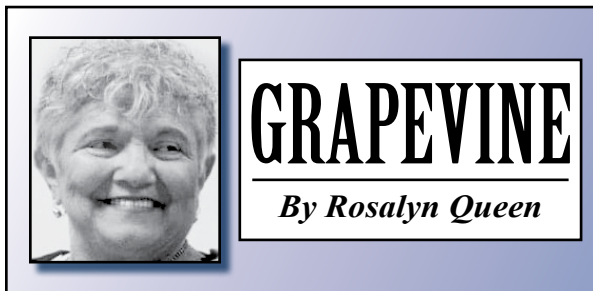
Heritage Festival. I think Tony could have made a living as a character actor in Hollywood. He was bigger than life and looked like he just stepped off the set of the Martin Scorsese, film "Goodfellas".

Tony returned home to Clarksburg a few years ago and I started to see him when I worked out at The Bridge. He was a dedicated pickleball player and would play almost every day. When he wasn't playing, he would lift weights and talk to anyone and everyone. He made friends with all the regulars at The Bridge, and you could hear his distinctive voice, before you saw him. I would always ask Tony about his daughter Virginia, who I met when

she interviewed me for a story on Public Radio, where she spent several years as a journalist. You could tell that Tony was proud of his daughter.

Tony passed after passing out at a pickleball tournament in Virginia. Tony's lifelong friend, Vinnie Oliverio, showed me a video he took of Tony, just a few months ago. It was at the new park area, next to the Bluebird Store on Main Street. Tony was dancing to the music and mugging for the camera. And that's the way I would like to remember my friend. Two fine men. As different as night and day, left this world with family and friends wondering, why them, why now.

Porch Gardens Can Help Anyone's Love of Vegetables Blossom



Recently I became a member of the Lions Club of Clarksburg. Pictured from left to right are Warren Wilson, president, Al Cox installing officer RosaLyn Queen and Betty Waddy, sponsor. The Lions Club has more than 1.4 million members in over 200 countries. The Lions are uniting in five areas of need. those being diabetes, vision, hunger, environment and childhood hunger. Membership is open and I urge you to contact a local member to find out more about our local Lions Club. The local Lions Club has made many contributions to individuals in our community.

Everywhere you look there are beautiful flowers in bloom. They might be the ones in the fields or the beautiful manicured gardens gracing our homes. We even take time to prepare the hanging baskets or flower boxes on our patios or our porches. I always feel that the flowers add such a touch to our homes.

But wait a moment, how about some vegetables? I know that many have large gardens, especially now that the cost of food is so high. But if you do not have the space or the energy to maintain a large garden, why not plant some vegetables in some pretty urns or even raised gardens and place them on your patio. They will compliment your flowers.

I have two large urns and three flower pots located on my deck with vegetables. I have planted four tomato plants, four pepper plants and two basil plants. My friend Frances Scott sent me a large urn with a hot pepper plant and four basil plants. The pepper plant already has a small pepper growing. The tomato plants have blooms but no tomatoes yet. I have already staked and tied them.

I try to set out a little time each morning to water and care for them. I really do not know if it is best to water in the morning or in the evening. The rain has helped me from watering every day.

If there is any one who is out there that knows me than you know that basil is my favorite spice. I have been using fresh basil from my garden for quite some time. I pluck a couple leaves from the top. This will also keep the basil from seeding. I use fresh basil in my tomato salad and hop it for my spaghetti sauce. I do not dry the basil for storage as I try to keep fresh basil on my windowsill year round.

It is almost like having a baby: the thrill of getting that first tomato or pepper from your garden.

My little garden reminds me of my father who had a really big garden and he always made my sister Joan and I water the plants every evening after the sun went down. He and my grandmother had a glass hot house and raised plants for all the neighbors. They sold them for twenty five cents a dozen.

It is still not to late to start your garden. Good luck and I hope you have a green thumb. Shop at the Clarksburg Farmers Market for your plant needs. It is located in the Farmers Supply parking lot every Saturday morning.

Take care, enjoy your summer and until next week "Now You Have Heard It Through the Grapevine."

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The Real Answer to the Question



The Bottom Line

By Bill Nestor
Sports Editor

It has been over a decade since I asked former West Virginia University men's basketball coach Bob Huggins a question in his post game press conference and his response stuck with me. At the time, Truck Bryant was a key contributor to the Mountaineer squad. Bryant was a very talented player that was just learning the Bob Huggins way. Truck liked to do things on the court his way and Huggins was in the process of trying to tame the Truck.

Midway through this particular game, just before halftime, Bryant was making his way down the court at the same time Huggins was shouting out instructions. Bryant put his hands out, palms up, and provided a shrug of his shoulders in the veteran mentor's direction.

Before the guard could get his hands down, Huggins already had a player at the scorer's table to replace Bryant.

Bryant would come out of the locker room after the halftime break, and made a brief appearance in the second half. Truck had been logging big minutes and he had the potential to become a leader for Huggs. His absence in the final 20 minutes was a big deal to me. So in the post game press conference, I posed the question to Huggins concerning Bryant. I asked if the star player was in the dog house. Huggins looked directly at me and answered that he didn't have a dog house. Even

at home, he didn't have a dog house and his wife keeps the dogs in the house.

It was a classic diffuse and redirect answer.

Huggins wanted to keep the issue in house and he didn't want to air his team's laundry publicly. He was protecting Bryant from any media scrutiny while handling the matter internally.

The next several games, Bryant was on a short leash. Almost every mental mistake on the floor would bring a replacement into the contest.

Over time Bryant made less mistakes, especially the intolerable ones, and all was forgotten. Huggs viewed his players like family and they saw him as a father figure. He would do anything for his players and the state. If you line up all of the former Mountaineer coaches, you'd be hard pressed to put any two together and have as much love for the Mountain State as he does.

I am not getting into the middle of the discussion of the events that have recently transpired. Since I do not live in a glass house, I will refrain from throwing stones at anyone. What I do want to write about is the motivation behind the man. Huggins has always wanted the best for his players, his staff, the fans, and this great state.

At the infamous event so long ago, Huggins was protecting Truck Bryant. He would do the same for any player that he has ever coached. The best part about the Mountaineer family that Huggins has created is that once you are in, you are in for life. He is there for his players anytime they need him, and I'm sure that he will continue to be there for them as long as he can.

Thank you, Coach Huggins, for loving a state that will always love you back. You have earned a spot in the heart of Mountaineers everywhere. Thanks for the memories, Coach!



By Bill Nestor
Sports Editor

Tee It Up at Clarksburg Country Club and 111 Years of a Great Links Legacy

This week's edition of "Tee It Up" focuses on the Clarksburg Country Club. This is a place that's rich in tradition, founded in 1912 as a nine hole course. It has grown in so many ways, while overcoming adversity along the way, to become one of North Central West Virginia's favorite places to go.

The Clarksburg Country Club owns a 19 hole course, a junior Olympic heated swimming pool, and a restaurant that offers an exceptional dining experience.

The course is a tale of two dramatically different mines. The front side is much tighter and the room for error, especially off the tee, is minimal. The back side is wide open, but there is added length that will challenge golfers with risk versus reward opportunities. The 16th and 17th holes have water hazards that force players to lay up or roll the dice.

The rough provides a real penalty throughout the course. There is an emphasis on fairways and greens at Clarksburg Country Club, which is exactly how it should be, which doesn't make low scores come cheap. The greens are in the best shape they have been in for years. The overall condition of this tract is rather impressive. It is a tribute to the hard work put in by the staff.

The people make the difference at C.C.C. and that includes the total team of workers that take pride in their club.

The membership is growing and it would be a great place to call home. Give the Clarksburg Country Club a chance. You will be glad you did!

Salem Men's Basketball Brings in Al Wilson Jr. as Assistant Coach

SALEM, West Virginia - With head coach Vincent Thibodeau returning to lead the Salem Tigers men's basketball program last month, the first task on the docket for a new head coach is filling in their coaching staff positions for the 2023-2024 season. Salem Tigers men's basketball has done just that with the hiring of Al Wilson Jr as assistant men's basketball coach.

Wilson brings a long list of unique coaching experiences to the Tigers next season. Most recently, he was a head coach at the prep level at Mountain Mission School in Virginia, Benedictine High School in Ohio, and Davidson Day School in North Carolina.

Wilson prides himself on player development, and has worked with quite a large number of major college and professional players including former West Virginia Mountaineer and Kentucky Wildcat Oscar Tshwiebwe, Jonathan Kuminga of the NBA's Golden State Warriors, and collegiate

players at Baylor, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, and Penn State.

Wilson was also quite an athlete in his own right before his coaching career as he played professionally in Switzerland after a strong collegiate career at the Division I University of Toledo.

In regards to the hire, coach Thibodeau had this to say, "Al, first and foremost, is an incredible human being. He brings a lot of experience to our staff and program both as a former head coach and former Division I basketball player. His knowledge from years as a head coach and ability to develop players will have a huge impact on our program. Our players are going to love having him as a coach. I'm excited for Al and his family to join the Salem community."

Obviously, this hire is a great step towards the rapidly approaching 2023-2024 campaign which will tip off in November of 2023.

Salem Women's Water Polo Places 14 on WWPA All-Academic List

SALEM, West Virginia - With the spring campaign in the books, the focus of the Salem women's water polo program has returned to the classroom this week as 14 Tigers made the the Western Water Polo Association's All-Academic Team for the spring 2023 campaign. The particular Tigers that earned the WWPA honors are as follows:

Claudia Cziernawski

Jojo DeSalvo

Emma Donnelly

Emma Halle

Mackenzie Hamilton

Abigail Hopkins

Alexis Kilgroe

Sierra Maze

Courtney O'Shaughnessy

Iris Oudshoorn

Courtney Repinz

Morgan Riordan

Shemiyah Ross

Lorelai Weaver

Salem University Athletics would like to congratulate these student-athletes for their hard work and dedication in the classroom, and their commitment to Tigers athletics on and off the field, or in this case, in or out of the pool.

Parks Department Compliments Board of Education Summer Program



From The World of Parks & Recreation

By Doug Comer

The Summer Program offered by the Board of Education over the past two summers allows kids the chance to work on some school activities during the next four weeks all while maintaining those school-year friendships that may slip once the summer begins. To provide recreation, which is a requirement of the federal grant, Harrison County Parks and Recreation stepped up to give the kids some outdoor recreational actions to make sure that all four corners are covered.

Director Mike Book and staff provide support for the program on a four-day work week beginning at 11:30 am at sites located throughout the county. While two sites are on school grounds, one has bus transportation to the location. Of the three sites, a significant number do take part in the program. With days of service beginning on Mondays and finishing on Thursday, Book has been a strong

supporter of the program and if it involves kids, he wants to find a way to contribute.

"We already work with the Board of Education on numerous projects including the food program as well as rentals for many of our recreational programs including youth basketball and other special projects," said Book. "We have been working with them for many years and when this opportunity presented itself, we felt that we could contribute with our staff in the afternoon providing recreation for them. While we would like to see some bigger numbers, the overall has been a success."

With sites located at Big Elm, Nutter Fort and Johnson elementary schools, two of the sites have kids stay on property while one will transport kids to a neighboring park within a mile from the school. Big Elm has a wonderful playground in the front of their school and has plenty of playground pieces to keep kids occupied while playing. For Johnson, kids will be sent to Compton Park where the park there provides for all forms of recreation including basketball, ga-ga ball, swings and plenty of space for organized activities like kick-ball and other activities. These sites will have breakfast and lunch before being released to the playground

areas where parks and recreation supervises.

While kids are not mandatorily required to stay for the afternoon, most in fact do stay and enjoy their friends while playing organized games or just hanging out. And others even travel to some of the other sites located in the county to play in the afternoon. With most of the summer parks program kids attending the Recreation Complex, those who attend the BOE program will leave sites like Nutter Fort and come out to the main office. There is nothing wrong with any of the sites except that maybe the four-day work week may put a strain on what to do on Friday, but we encourage the kids to come and take advantage of the program no matter what site they go to during the morning.

"It is our encouragement to make things easily accessible for the kids to get a place to be a kid during the summer," said Book. "A tremendous program with longevity like our program is a great benefit to the people who utilize it. The program is free of charge and families should take advantage of this simply because it is a fun and safe place for kids to spend their summers. Parents can feel at ease knowing that their children are being supervised and the hours fit perfectly for those whether you are a two-income family or a single parent."

Fairmont State Soccer Finalizes 2023 Schedule

The Fairmont State women's soccer team and head coach Kernell Borneo have released its 2023 schedule. The slate includes nine home games scheduled at Duvall-Rosier Field.

The Falcons begin the 2023 season with a road non-conference match in Greensburg, Pa. at Seton Hill on Thursday, Aug. 31. Fairmont State's home opener will be played on Sunday, Sept. 3 when the Falcons welcome Slippery Rock to the Friendly City.

The defending Mountain East Conference Tournament Champions are prepared to play 16 matches versus conference opponents. The MEC opener is set for Sunday, Sept. 10 when the Falcons host West Liberty. The final game of the regular season will be played on Nov. 1 when Fairmont State travels to Maryland for a match at Frostburg State. The MEC Tournament will be held Nov. 5-12.

Women's Club Hears Presentation on West Virginia Day



The Woman's Club of Shinnston met Monday, June 19th at the Clubhouse with Co-President Debra Herndon presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag and the Pledge to the West Virginia Flag were said in unison by the group. Wanda Ashcraft gave a devotional message on choosing happiness and led the group in prayer.

After a short business meeting, Past President and current Secretary, Wanda Ashcraft, who has been part of the Shinnston Woman's Club since joining the Juniors 70 years ago, presented a program on notable West Virginia Women in honor of the State's birthday. Dividing the ladies into categories including politics, actresses, holidays, poets, authors, war, sports and singers, Ashcraft recounted the contributions of women including Kathy

Mattea, Mary Lou Retton, Jessica Lynch, Betty Zane, Pearl Buck, Kathryn Johnson, Jennifer Garner, Julia Pierpont and many more.

The group then enjoyed West Virginia birthday cake, ice cream and fellowship. Attending not previously mentioned were Debby Starkey, Carrie Mancino, Viviane Spagnuolo, Donna Mick, Mary Ann Ferris and guest Bobby Bice III.

American Legion Joins Boy Scouts for Flag Retirement

American Legion Post 31 and the American Legion Family (Auxiliary, Sons and Riders) were especially busy in the days leading up to Memorial Day. The activity kicked off on May 24, 2023, when American Legion Post 31 Commander, Tom Jenkins; Legion, Auxiliary and Riders member, Cliff Shingleton; and Auxiliary member Parry Jenkins participated in a flag retirement at the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center. The American Flags lining the entrance drive to the hospital were all replaced by volunteers from various organizations.

On May 25, 2023, Legionnaires and Auxiliary members participated in a Flag Retirement Service conducted by Boy Scout Troop 59 at the Clay District Veterans Memorial. The purpose of an American Flag Retirement is to respectfully dispose, by burning, of flags that are damaged by normal wear and tear or are old. Post 31 Legion members in attendance were Tom Jenkins, Jason Dingledien, Joe Skelly, Tom Lewis; Unit 31 Auxiliary members, Parry Jenkins and Andrea Skelly; and Post 31, Auxiliary Unit 31 and Legion Rider members Cliff Shingleton and Robin Shingleton.

The flag being lowered at the Clay District Veterans Memorial by Boy Scout Troop 59.

Three Shinnston Men involved in the formation of the State of West Virginia

Most local people are familiar with "The Daughter of the Elm" and know the name of Granville Davisson Hall as the author of this book of fiction. But Hall's most important work was "The Rending of Virginia" that was published in 1902.

Hall was very interested in politics and worked for the Wheeling Intelligencer, a newspaper published in Wheeling, that used the "power of the pen" for political persuasion. He used his stenographic skills to record all the meetings and later used this material to publish "The Rending of Virginia."

Hall also served as the first Secretary of State for the newly formed state of West Virginia.

Solomon Fleming moved to Shinnston in 1840. Politically he was a Whig. He was an astute businessman, public-spirited and held many positions of responsibility and trust. He was a delegate to the convention at Clarksburg on April 22, 1861 and the Wheeling constitutional conventions in 1862

and 1863. He was also the first Mayor of Shinnston when the town was incorporated in 1852.

Felix Sturm was a successful farmer and owned 300 acres of land on the west side of the West Fork River that abutted the Hood land on the south and the McIntire holdings to the north at Viropa.

Sturm never held political office but had considerable influence. He was also an entrepreneur and had a cheese-making business and sold apples on his farm. Felix was an ardent Republican and was named one of the delegates to represent Harrison County to meet at Wheeling to decide what action the people of northwestern Virginia would take after Virginia voted to secede from the Union.

This movement culminated in the formation of the great state of West Virginia on June 20, 1863. These three local men helped to shape the state of West Virginia.

Be proud Shinnston!

Capito Announces Largest Amount of Broadband Funding for West Virginia to Date

West Virginia to receive \$1.21 billion for internet connectivity through bipartisan infrastructure law

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), a member of both the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Appropriations Committees, and Ranking Member of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, today announced that West Virginia will receive \$1,210,800,969.85 in funding through the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program to deploy high-speed internet networks.

The BEAD program, and the funding for it, was made available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Additionally, Senator Capito has worked diligently to not only advocate for the creation of this program in the IIJA, but also to ensure accurate mapping data. Specifically, she has raised concerns with the Federal Communications

Commission's (FCC) about the past inaccuracies in their broadband maps, given broadband funding through the IIJA is directly tied to these maps.

"Connecting West Virginia has been a top priority of mine since Day One in the U.S. Senate, and today's announcement has the ability to lead us to a major breakthrough in that effort," Senator Capito said. "I have consistently worked with those involved in this process at both the state and federal levels to ensure our maps are as accurate as possible and West Virginia receives its fair share of funding. This funding, which is the largest amount of broadband funding awarded to the state to date, will assist in our efforts to provide communities with the resources they need to improve connectivity overall. We are on the cusp of a major breakthrough — one that I am committed to seeing through."



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“Properties” From pg 1

way. One positive and unforeseen result lay in the fact that tax auctions “are intensely more profitable than they’ve ever been in history.”

Where the State Auditor’s office and State Legislature set the table, the Governor’s Office and West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection served the meal.

John King, from the WV DEP’s Office of the Environmental Advocate and head of the dilapidated properties program, recently gave a presentation to a regional economic development and planning council. He discussed the scope of the problem and funds provided to start to tackle the dilapidated properties issue.

King explained from the start that “it’s very much a team effort” between the State of West Virginia, local municipal and county governments, and others trying to roll back the problem.

“At the start we didn’t have funding, so we developed a questionnaire,” King said. Communities could share the scope, range, and different aspects

of the challenges faced.

Governor Jim Justice shifted \$10 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds into the hands of the program to start phase one of the pilot project. “We are currently working with 26 communities across the state, counties and municipalities.”

King shared that the State “can adapt the program to fit local needs,” explaining that “we want to put gas in the tank, not drive the bus.”

The program mostly pays invoices for local governments as they work on solutions to the dilapidated properties program, but also provides resources such as free consultation from West Virginia University Law Clinic and experts based at Marshall University.

He warned “it’s a marathon and not a sprint,” to solve the problem statewide, as initial estimates of the total cost come in at 15 times the \$10 million currently allocated. That said, momentum from the private and non profit sector could certainly reduce that cost as they push forward to acquire and develop.

“Capito” From pg 1

cited the Biden Administration removing “critical infrastructure and opportunity zones” while pursuing an agenda more heavily weighted toward diversity, equity, and environmentalism.

“Congress should provide for stability here,” the Senator added.

Patricia Cannon, director of special projects for the Delaware Department of State’s Division of Small Business,” appeared flustered at the question, but answered that “rich people” used such programs “to build hotels.” Capito replied that the same happened in some parts of “my state,” but agreed that “some stability” would be a benefit.”

Fetzer added that the predictability of what struggling communities need does not change and that innovations, such as those the Biden Administration pushes “could become a distraction from what communities really need.”

Capito responded, saying “core

functions have to remain the same . . . from administration to administration.”

Discussion then turned to the impact of opportunity zones. According to the Tax Policy Center, the Trump era program is “meant to spur investment in undercapitalized communities” by offering deferrals on tax payments as an incentive for investment.

By August 2020, the US EDA reported that opportunity zones created approximately 500,000 jobs and helped to lift about one million out of poverty. Capito co-sponsored the legislation that created 55 such zones in West Virginia.

Capito finished her time with praise of Tracey Rowan, working on economic development for the State of West Virginia. “What a difference she makes,” the Senator shared, adding that her knowledge has been incredible.

“She’s fantastic,” the Senator finished.

Scholarships Awarded and Officers Installed



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 31, Shinnston, held a covered-dish dinner on Thursday, June 15, 2023 at 6:00 pm to honor this year’s three American Legion Auxiliary College Scholarship recipients and the incoming American Legion Auxiliary Unit 31 officers for the 2023-2024 Auxiliary Year.

This year’s scholarship recipients pictured with Unit 31 President, Marsha Duckworth, are Kaitlyn Bee, Kelsey Stanton and Brenna Wilfong with 2nd Vice President,

Carla Wilfong and Education Chair, Roxie Nicholson.

The regular meeting followed at 7:00 pm with the installation of officers for the 2023-2024 Auxiliary year. Roxie Nicholson, past Department President, American Legion Auxiliary Department of West Virginia, performed the installation. Officers for the

coming year are Marsha Duckworth, Unit 31 President; Parry Jenkins, 1st Vice President; Carla Wilfong, 2nd Vice President; Margaret Yost, Secretary; Roxie Nicholson, Treasurer; Karen Flanigan and Andrea Skelly, Sergeants-at-Arms; Dortha Parsons, Historian and Betsy Turner, Chaplain.

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OBITUARIES**Nicole Marie O'Dell**

Nicole Marie O'Dell, 30, of Fairmont, passed away on Saturday, June 17, 2023. She was born in Fairmont, February 9, 1993 a daughter of Dave A. O'Dell and his wife Jodi O'Dell, Whitehall, and Robin Kay Limberick Drain and her husband Jaime, Fairmont.

Also surviving are four children, Jason Watkins, Kensley O'Dell, Hunter O'Dell, and Raylynn Boore; her siblings: David O'Dell, Fairmont, and Taylor O'Dell, Fairmont; step-siblings: Brittany Webb, FL, Chelsie Webb, Fairmont, Isaac Jenkins, Fairmont; step-grandparents, Ron and Shirley Webb; and several nephews. Nicole was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents Randy and Carolyn Limberick.

Cremation services were provided by the Perine Funeral Home and no public services will be held at this time. Condolences may be extended to the family at www.perinefunerals.com.

The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the O'Dell/Drain family.

jogging.

Per his wishes, he will be cremated.

Online memories and condolences may be shared at www.harmerfuneralhome.com

A service of Harmer Funeral Home, Shinnston.

**Ricky L. Waggy**

Ricky L. Waggy, 63, of Lumberport, passed away on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at his residence in Lumberport, WV surrounded by his loving family. He was born on August 9, 1959 in Weston, WV to the late Robert "Bob" Lloyd and Dolly Ann (Self) Waggy.

Ricky was a hard worker and was employed by Sutter Roofing from 1978-1984. He was also a mechanic at Harrison Power station and he was also on the Fire Team from 1984-2002.

Ricky was a very kind, caring, and loving man. He was an amazing husband, father, son, brother, uncle, and cousin.

Ricky married the love of his life Cathy (Reed) Waggy on March 2, 1985. They enjoyed 38 wonderful years of marriage and made a beautiful life and family together.

Ricky enjoyed life and loved spending time with his family especially his grandchildren, as well as; NASCAR, WVU football, hunting, fishing, trapping, and generally anything outdoors.

Left to cherish memories of Ricky are his wife Cathy, his son Robby Waggy and wife Maddie, Loraine OH, one daughter; Caitlin Waggy and fiancé Frank Wright, Shinnston, one brother; Mike Waggy, Lumberport, three sisters; Debbie Facemyer and husband Charlie, Lumberport, Linda Wable and husband Mike, Shinnston, Becky Waggy, Lumberport, two granddaughters; Freya and Veira Waggy, several nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, cousins, two uncles; Danny Self and wife Wanda, Dusk Camp, and Jim "Butch" Reed and wife Koleta, Fort Worth TX, two aunts; Virginia Self, Dusk Camp, and Kathleen Thompson, Lumberport.

In addition to his parents Ricky was preceded in death by his sister Carolyn Waggy and several aunts and uncles.

The family will receive friends at Dorsey Funeral Home at 701 S. Pike St., Shinnston, WV on Friday June 23, 2023 from 4:00-8:00PM. The funeral service will be on Saturday June 24, 2023 at 10:00AM with Pastor Thomas Bell officiating. Interment will follow at Self Family Cemetery, Gilmer county. Dorsey Funeral Home

and Crematory will be handling the services and are honored to serve the Waggy family. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.DorseyFuneralHomeWV.com.

**Russell R. Wagner**

Russell R. Wagner, 78, of Stonewood, WV passed away peacefully on June 17, 2023, surrounded by his children.

Russell was born in 1944. He worked on the farm with his dad as a child, and later became a carpenter. He helped build smoke stacks and many bridges in WV. In his free time, he enjoyed spending time with family, yardwork, and relaxing on his peaceful back porch watching the squirrels and rabbits, and watching NASCAR and the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Russell is survived by his three children, Kelly Hilliard, Russell (Nancy) Wagner Jr., and Patricia (Leon) Collins; seven grandchildren, Michael, Tyler, and Jessica Hilliard, Ashley Quinton and Dakota, Kasey and Tevin Halcomb; six great-grandchildren; numerous nieces; nephews; great-nieces and nephews; and great-great-nieces and nephews. He is also survived by brothers, Jerl (Erma) Wagner, Roy Wagner, Paul (Francie) Wagner; and sister Lucille (Frank) Bowers. He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles Clark (Mose) and Floa Marie Shomo Wagner; sisters Dorothy Everson, Carol McGinnis, and Louise Bartlett, along with brothers Herman and Robert Wagner.

Russell had a personality that would keep you laughing for hours. He had a heart of gold and was always the first to offer a lending hand. His love for his family and friends was immeasurable. Please remember him as the funny, helpful, feisty man we all knew and loved.

Friends will be received at Harmer Funeral Home on Thursday, June 22, 2023 from 10:00AM-12:00PM. A funeral service will directly follow with Eric Miker officiating.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to WVU Medicine Hospice 2673 Davison Run Road, Clarksburg, WV 26301 in his name, or the Stonewood Fire Department in his name, 213 Plainwood Ave. Clarksburg, WV 26301.

Online memories and condolences may be shared at www.harmerfuneralhome.com

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**John Dominick Spadafore**

John Dominick Spadafore, 86, formerly of Shinnston, passed away at the Madison Center in Morgantown on June 15, 2023. John was born in Shinnston on April 20, 1937 to the late John Spadafore and Rose Nuoto Spadafore.

He is survived by his wife Sara Thornburg Spadafore, two children, son John C. Spadafore of Palm Springs, CA, and daughter Carole Merritt of Fredericksburg, VA; and three granddaughters, Ann Lastuvka of Philadelphia, PA, Amy Lastuvka of Tampa FL, and Donna Lastuvka of Eugene, OR. John is preceded in death by his siblings. He was the youngest of fourteen.

John graduated from Fairmont State College, and went onto get his Masters at WVU. He worked for the Harrison County Public Schools and Fairfax County Public Schools. He enjoyed golfing and

Out of the Past

Memorable photographs from around Harrison County



The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad that ran through Harrison County was once the nation's main east to west commercial artery. Here is Baltimore and Ohio locomotive number 1239, resting in Clarksburg on July 23, 1939.

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A Place of Safety For the Oppressed

From *L'Osservatore Romano*

"Do you live here too?" "Yes of course, this house is all ours". "Yours"? "Yes, but it is at the disposal of those in need". "So you are good people". Surprised, the young Somali woman, beautiful and veiled in the Muslim custom, takes a closer look at that woman, who is also wearing a veil like her, with whom she has decided to exchange her first words.

Asha arrived in Rome from a refugee camp on a Greek island, where she gave birth beneath a plastic tent that protected her neither from the cold, nor from the animals and people. After leaving Somalia, driven away by her husband who no longer wanted her, Asha, who is just over 20 years old, set out on the sea route, going first through the hell of Libya, and ending up in the black hole of the island of Lesbos, the migrant camp where in her desperation, she thought she had come to the end of her useless race.

There were days without hope, filled with chaos, terror and noise beneath the plastic tent, clutching her daughter whom she protected like a lioness, while another was growing in her womb to be delivered in this endless danger. Asha has sturdy arms like many young Somali women. But she has never known goodness. She asks the veiled woman: "Where are your children?" "I don't have children", she replies. "And where is your man?" "I don't have a husband". "No man? No"? Asha's eyes open wide. "No. No man. I am consecrated to God".

Asha, who was found beneath that tent belonging to the Community of Sant'Egidio, eventually made it to Rome, arriving at the

convent of the Franciscan Sisters of Mercy. With Noor and Fatima, 6 and 3 years old, she is taken to the second floor, where she sets up her belongings in a room that, unbeknownst to her, many years earlier, in 1943, was made accessible to other mothers, to other fleeing children: oppressed people saved from the Nazi-Fascist persecutions by people who risked their lives for them.

Asha does not know it, but for years, the family of women without a man, has been responding to a vocation: to be a rescue boat for anyone fleeing from evil, with a boarding dock on Via Poggio Moiano 8, in the northern periphery of the city of Rome. There is a door there that, if times become difficult, is opened, no questions asked. A story that began on the brink of the end of the Second World War, when the Nazis hunted down Roman Jews, door-to-door, to load them into trains headed for Auschwitz. Destination final extermination.

However, in the Nazi-occupied Rome of 1943, news was circulated among the convents of one of the Pope's "wishes": to hide the Jewish people, who were hunted by the Nazis with the complicity of Italian Fascists who had compiled a list of Romans to find. The convent at Via Poggio Moiano 8, had already been opened when the Mother Superior at the time, Mother Elisabetta, wrote in her diary about the Pope's wish that the oppressed be given refuge. Not all the Roman convents responded. At Via Poggio Moiano, however, the Pope's wish was almost foreseen.

The first to arrive was an elementary school

teacher. Then families on the run. All were hidden on the second floor, in the seven rooms concealed from the hunters' sight, where the sisters entrusted the persecuted to Our Lady of Luxembourg to watch over them, but not without having first asked for permission from their Jewish guests. With courage and boldness they hid them in the same rooms that, until 3 October had been occupied by the SS and turned into a field hospital. And it was precisely their boldness that came to their aid every time the black squads showed up to conduct searches, which the sisters would foil with white lies and reckless improvisation, until the SS would leave, deceived.

In times of peace, the convent saw the beginning of the Saint Francis pre-school and elementary school. Generations of children, myself included, who grew up in those classrooms, lining up on the black lines along which the armed SS had lined up on 3 October 1943. None of those peacetime children ever knew, until 2019 (when "L'Osservatore Romano" revealed it) the hidden story of that family of women who taught them the loving tenderness of Jesus and Francis, and not to ever lose hope.

But war was on the horizon. Ready to rise and become total. Corruption, arms trafficking, crazy weather, profound destabilization in Africa, the Middle East, the persecutions of totalitarian regimes, created new oppressed people. Thus the door at Via Poggio Moiano 8, naturally opened again for the oppressed, who were no longer Romans like in 1943, but Romanians, Russians, Ukrainians, Somalis, Congolese, Syrians, Afghans, Rom.

There are currently 12 guests in the seven rooms that were once used by the SS and later by Jewish refugees. The Franciscan Sisters of Mercy put the second floor at their disposal. And people come and go from every corner of the world. Children show up, some are born there. Mothers arrive, burdened with pain, with children born in fear, sometimes from violence, experienced as an inevitable fatality. The convent is once again a hospital where broken human beings are cared for. A vessel that in secret, will always be ready to welcome aboard, at Via Poggio Moiano 8, "the oppressed" of every war.

Northern and Eastern West Virginia Declared a "Moderate Drought" Zone

By Stephen Smoot

The United States Drought Monitor, based at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, released a map on June 15 indicating that much of northern West Virginia currently is experiencing a "moderate drought." It also revealed that most of the central and eastern counties not yet experiencing drought face "abnormally dry" conditions, also categorized as "D1." More than 930,000 West Virginians live in the affected zones.

A small sliver of southeastern Harrison County and much of Upshur, however, may be experiencing "D2" or "severe drought" conditions, according to the National Integrated Drought Information System, an operation of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NDIDIS.

According to the map, the boundary line between "moderate drought" and "abnormally dry" starts in the west at Ravenswood, bisects Jackson County, then follows a line that runs east-southeast to the Pocahontas County-Virginia line.

The NDIDIS indicates that last May served as the 40th driest May in 129 years of information gathered and the 17th driest year.

According to the National Weather Service, "moderate drought" conditions may involve "some damage to crops, pastures, fire risk high, streams, reservoirs, or wells low, some water shortages developing or imminent, voluntary water use restrictions requested."

"Severe drought" involves "crop or pasture losses likely, fire risk very high, water shortages common, water restrictions imposed."

Harrison County has 14, 559 acres

of hay, 7,576 acres of haylage, 5,799 cattle, and 690 sheep in challenging conditions created by the lack of rainfall.

According to data collected by the National Center for Environmental Information, also under NOAA, Harrison County's average rainfall in May between 2018 and 2022 was 4.858 inches. May 2023 brought 3.27, the lowest for May since 2015 when only 2.74 inches fell. Between December and April 2023, Harrison County received a monthly average of 2,868 inches.

Lack of rain has been mitigated somewhat by temperatures. May 2023 saw average temperatures more than four degrees lower than the average of 63.98 between 2018 and 2022. June has also seen unseasonably cool temperatures.

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service reports showed that approximately 80 percent of West Virginia's topsoil moisture for the week ending June 11 was "short" or "very short." Last year in the same week, top soil moisture was rated as a combined 95 percent mostly adequate, but also some surplus.

The same report also provided an outlook for key crops and livestock, including apples, peaches,

hay, winter wheat, pasture, cattle/calves, and sheep/lambs. Conditions for the vast majority of

those engaging in these activities remain between fair and very good, according to the USDA.

Recent weather and the National Weather Service forecast, however, brings welcoming news. In addition to days of recent rains (include forecast starting at publishing date and run through forecasts, include rain from last week)

WorkForce West Virginia announces July 5 Statewide Virtual Job Fair

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — WorkForce West Virginia announces the next date in a series of Statewide Virtual Job Fairs. Both employers and job seekers are invited to participate in the virtual event on Wednesday, July 5, from 1:00 - 3:30 pm.

"We invite all West Virginia employers and job seekers to participate in the July Virtual Job Fair," said Scott Adkins, Acting Commissioner of WorkForce West Virginia. "We have seen a great deal of success with these job fairs since they began last October and are excited to announce updated hours for these events, which are now scheduled from 1:00 until 3:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month. Job seekers can log in at their convenience and participate wherever they have an Internet connection."

Virtual job fairs allow job seekers to apply, live chat, video chat and interview virtually with employers participating in the event.

"Through these Virtual Job Fairs, job seekers can speak with West Virginia employers, submit resumes and learn more about the fantastic opportunities available to start a new job or advance an existing career, right here in the Mountain State," said James Bailey, Secretary of the WV Department of Commerce.

Registration is required for both interested employers and job seekers. Click here to register as a jobseeker for the July 5 Statewide Virtual Job Fair.

When attending the event, job seekers are encouraged to dress professionally and have a calm, clutter-free background, as employers may request to engage in a video interview. The Virtual Statewide Job Fair portal features a Job Seeker Training video, a list of participating employers, and channels for attendees to register and log in.

After registering for the first time, new employers will create a "Virtual Booth" to connect with job seekers. After completion, this booth will be available during subsequent job fairs.

United Way Invites You to Dine For A Cause

We are having a Dine 4 a Cause a Primanti Bros on Tuesday (June 27th). All you need to do is eat at Primanti Bros (dine in or take out) and let them know that you're supporting United Way of HDC and a percentage of your total bill will be donated to our 21 partner agencies!

We have another one scheduled on Wednesday (6/28) as Cosmo's Kitchen on WV Avenue! They have a sandwich called a "Village

Idiot" that's HUGE and could feed a family of four!

On Wednesday, July 19th, we will be welcoming Fat Angelo's!

Then every Friday in August, Mr. Taco will be donating a percentage of their total sales of every UWHDC Supporter that dines with them!

Basically, you're giving back to your community just by eating out at local restaurants!

LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE

June 16, 2023

The West Virginia Health Care Authority announced that it has received a Letter of Intent from Village Caregiving, LLC, to provide In-Home Personal Care Services in Berkeley, Boone, Braxton, Brooke, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Marion, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mineral, Monongalia, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Ohio, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Taylor, Tyler, Upshur, Wayne, Webster, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood, and Wyoming counties in West Virginia. From Village Caregiving, LLC, CON File #23-12-12717-PC. The capital expenditure is \$1,500.

Further information regarding the Letter of Intent, including the Certificate of Need application when submitted, is on the Authority's website at www.hca.wv.gov.



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WEST VIRGINIA

almost heaven

2023 Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame Inductees Announced

JACKSON'S MILL, W.Va. – The West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame (WVAFHF) will honor the 2023 inductees with a banquet on Saturday, July 22, at Jackson's Mill. The 2023 banquet and reception will start at 5:00 p.m. with a dinner to follow at 6:00 p.m.

"The people we are honoring this year have contributed so much of their valuable time and effort to the residents of their communities and the State of West Virginia as a whole," said WVAFHF President Jeremy McGill. "Their work and dedication to advancing the science and practice of agriculture and forestry has earned them this prestigious recognition. It is important that we come together and celebrate their achievements."

Chartered in 1974, the West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame honors West Virginians who have made outstanding contributions to the establishment, development, advancement, and improvement of agricultural and forest industries in West Virginia and around the world.

The 2023 inductees are: Arthur and Anna Mouser (Preston County, WV) – Arthur and Anna Mouser were one of the first farms to bring the Charolais breed of

cattle into West Virginia and have been instrumental in promoting the breed and the bloodline within the state. Their efforts have netted them many awards, ribbons, and banners over the years, such as the Grand Champion Female at the State Fair of West Virginia in 2017, the West Virginia Association of Conservation District's Carrol Greene Award, and the Monongahela Conservation District's Luther Britton Award. They have also been active in many local and national organizations such as the West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts, the Monongahela Conservation District, West Virginia Envirothon, 4-H, Conservation Farm Recognition program, the West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts Auxiliary, and the Preston County Farmland Protection board, among others.

James "Jim" Foster (Doddridge County, WV) – Though not a native West Virginian, his service in the U.S. Air Force brought him to the state as a young man, and in time, he chose a farm in the hills of Doddridge County to put down roots with his wife Earlene. Jim has dedicated himself to becoming a leader in agriculture through such organizations as the Doddridge County Farm

Bureau, WVU Extension Service, the West Fork Conservation District, and the Farm Service Agency. He has served as a Chaplain to the National Grange. He is a founding member of both the Appalachian Grazing Conference and the West Virginia Envirothon Committee. He was also named the 2006 Grassland Farmer of the Year, 2006 Conservation Supervisor of the Year, and 2003 National Grange Family of the Year.

Jewell Plumley, DVM (Hardy County, WV) – Dr. Jewell Plumley has spent nearly her entire career advancing the field of veterinary medicine in West Virginia. She is the first woman to be appointed State Veterinarian and Director of WVDA's Animal Health Division, and one of only six women veterinarians overseeing a state Animal Health department in the entire country. She has also been active in 4-H and FFA, mentoring and instructing our youth. She is a 4-H All-Star, a recipient of the 2018 Women in Agriculture Award, 30-Year WVDA Governor's Service Award, and the USDA Excellence Award for her response to Avian Influenza.

Jim and Enid Crawford (Marion County, WV) – Though Jim and Enid are no longer with us, their

farm in Marion County was more than just a farm. It was an example of their commitment to forest management in the state of West Virginia. In 1963, they were only the second farm to join the Tree Farm Program in Marion County and were heavily involved in many of the conservation organizations and local institutions. Over the years, their management practices were studied by local and international scientists alike, with professionals coming from as far as England and France to observe their activities. Among their many awards, they received the Tree Farm of the Year Award – not just once but twice — in 1971 and 2000 and went on to represent the Northeast Region of the U.S. at the 2001 National Outstanding Tree Farm Ceremony.

Joseph McNeel, PHD (Fayette County, PA) – Dr. Joseph McNeel, longtime resident and native son of West Virginia, started his forestry journey at WVU with a B.S. in Forest Management and an M.S. and PH.D. in Industrial Forest Operations from Virginia Tech. During his tenure, he has been a tireless supporter of the West Virginia Forest Industry, and mentor to thousands of young students as the Director of WVU's Division of Forestry

and Natural Resources. He now serves as the Director of the Appalachian Hardwood Center at WVU. His research contributions are numerous and include the 2018 Outstanding Alumnus for the WVU Division of Forestry and Natural Resources Association, a member of the National Forestry Research Advisory Council from 2005-2008, and Extension Chair of the National Association of University Forest Resources Programs from 2006-2010.

Howard 'Larry' Six (Mason County, WV) – A native West Virginian, Larry Six's forestry dream began while he was still in high school in Cairo, West Virginia, when his ninth grade Civics teacher asked her class to write a paper on potential careers. He never looked back, becoming the first in his family to attend college, first at Glenville State, then at WVU for a B.S. in Forestry. He has worked a quiet life of service with the West Virginia Division of Forestry, serving the citizens of the State with dignity and honor for almost 50 years and counting. His loyal service has led to several awards over the years, including the Bronze Hardhat Award for number of tree farms nominated — four of which were awarded the West Virginia Tree Farmer of the Year in 1992, 1994, 1996 and 2020.

Capito, Colleagues Introduce Dental Care for Our Troops Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), along with her colleagues Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), introduced the Dental Care for Our Troops Act, bipartisan legislation that would ensure that every service member has premium-free dental care.

"Dental care in our National Guard and Reserve is a growing issue, keeping tens of thousands of troops from being able to deploy and serve our country. I have heard firsthand how a lack of access to dental care affects military readiness, and this legislation helps provide the access to care our troops deserve and need," Senator Capito said. "I am continually impressed by the men and women who serve in the West Virginia National Guard and the broad array of missions they support around the world. Our military relies heavily on the ability of National Guard and Reserve members, and I will continue to put forward solutions that support them."

Capito Announces \$357,000 for WV Department of Agriculture

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), Ranking Member of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, and member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, today announced \$357,000 for the West Virginia Department of Agriculture to prevent pesticide contamination and protect water quality across the state.

"Ensuring West Virginia has the resources it needs to maintain and protect its natural environment is critical for the future of our state," Ranking Member Capito said. "I'm proud to announce this funding today, which will strengthen the West Virginia Department of Agriculture's ability to address key environmental priorities such as managing pesticide programs, maintaining water quality for residents, and protecting endangered species."

Governor and First Lady Justice celebrate West Virginia's 160th Birthday; winner of WV Birthday Punch Contest announced

CHARLESTON, WV – Gov. Jim Justice and First Lady Cathy Justice participated in several West Virginia Day events at the State Culture Center today, in celebration of the state's 160th Birthday.

"I'm so happy to be celebrating West Virginia Day with all of you," Gov. Justice said. "We have so much to be proud of, too. We are no longer a bad joke. Instead, we are the diamond in the rough everybody missed. We are the envy of the world. There is no better place to live, work and raise a family than right here in West Virginia. Our state's future is really bright."

The first 160 people to arrive received a limited edition 160th birthday commemorative gift handmade by local artisans with the Black Locust Woodshop in Charleston.

A chorus of talented students representing schools across West Virginia came together to deliver a lineup of tunes, including iconic songs "Oh, the West Virginia Hills" and "Take Me Home, Country Roads."

Cabell Midland High School student, Brody Hammers, also played a spirited rendition of "Take Me Home, Country Roads" on the piano.

Emmet Cahill, the lead singer of Celtic Thunder, a renowned Irish singing group and stage show known for its distinctive style, also performed the well-known hit "Danny Boy" and "Home Among the Hills."

GOLDEN HORSESHOE KNIGHTING

First Lady Justice was knighted as an honorary member of the Golden Horseshoe, a recognition usually bestowed to top 8th grade WV history students. The special award was given in honor of the First Lady's unwavering commitment to education, students, and the vibrant culture and tradition of West Virginia.

"It is a great honor to join such an amazing group of West Virginians who have served and represented our State with devotion," First Lady Justice said. "I consider this a special highlight of my time as First Lady of West Virginia, and I'm grateful to be included among all the other Knights of the Golden Horseshoe"

WEST VIRGINIA PUNCH CONTEST

First Lady Justice also announced the winner

of her West Virginia Birthday Punch Contest during today's celebration.

Cindy Scott of Morgantown was named the grand prize winner with her recipe – "Mountain Mama's Refresher." Scott joined First Lady Justice onstage, along with her college friend, Sandy Murcock. The two collaborated on the punch recipe while attending West Virginia University.

"Our West Virginia Birthday Punch contest has been a lot of fun and the response was really great," First Lady Justice said. "With summer coming, I know that these wonderful recipes will provide many West Virginians with a delicious beverage to serve at family gatherings. I hope everyone has a terrific summer!"

GRAND PRIZE WINNING RECIPE

Scott won a \$300 Visa gift card and both ladies were awarded honorary certificates for taking home the top prize.

"Mountain Mama's Refresher" was selected as the best of the best among four outstanding punch recipes that were selected as finalists in the contest. All finalist punch recipes were taste-tested by the First Lady, Gov. Jim Justice, Chief of Staff to the First Lady Vicki Shannon, Special Assistant to the First Lady Katie Morris, Special Liaison to First Lady Justice Serena Nichols, and other staff members.

Those who submitted punch recipes that were selected as finalists, have each won a \$50 Visa gift card and have been awarded a participation certificate.

All of the finalist punch recipes will soon be made available on the West Virginia Birthday Punch Contest webpage.

Finalists listed alphabetically by punch name below:

Apple Orchard Punch
Craig Turk | Westover, WV

Peggy Erwin's Punch
Deloris Harless | St. Albans, WV

Wild and Wonderful Frozen Banana Punch
Janet Perry Sheldon | St. Albans, WV



Jamaican Jerk Pork Chops

These sweet, spicy chops can be thrown together in minutes, but they definitely tastes like you've spent hours in the kitchen. Serve them with a side of jasmine rice and you'll feel like you're on a tropical vacation.

Ingredients:

- 3 tablespoons butter, divided
- ¼ peach preserves
- 4 boneless thin-cut pork loin chops (2 – 3 ounces each)
- 3 teaspoons Caribbean jerk seasoning
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- ½ medium sweet orange pepper
- ½ medium sweet yellow pepper
- ½ medium sweet red pepper
- Hot cooked rice of your choice

Directions:

Soften 1 tablespoon butter, mix with peach preserves. Sprinkle chops with seasonings. In a large skillet, heat 1 tablespoon butter over medium-high heat; brown chops 2-3 minutes on each side. Remove from pan. Cut peppers into thin strips. In same pan, saute peppers in remaining butter over medium-high heat until crisp-tender and lightly browned, 5-6 minutes. Add chops to pan with peppers; top with preserves mixture. Cook, uncovered, until heated through, 30-60 seconds. Serve with your favorite rice.

Remember, readers, if you have a favorite recipe that you would like to share, we welcome your submissions. E-mail your recipe to us at debra@mountainmedianews.com. And don't forget to stop by your local Price Cutter to purchase all of your cooking and baking needs.

Ascend West Virginia announces addition of the New River Gorge community to remote worker program

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Ascend West Virginia, the state's talent attraction and retention program, today announced its addition of the New River Gorge community to the program.

New River Gorge joins a lineup of other communities that have welcomed nearly 300 new West Virginians while maintaining a 98% retention rate.

Founded by West Virginia native Brad D. Smith and his wife Alys, Ascend WV will welcome a new group of adventurers to the state's New River-Greenbrier Valley region, home to the country's newest national park, offering them more than \$20,000 in incentives—and a path to making "Almost Heaven" home.

"Opening a new regional community is another great milestone for this program," said Brad D. Smith, Co-Founder of the Wing 2 Wing Foundation and President of Marshall University. "We have established four thriving locations, all of which continue to welcome new talent to our home among the hills, and the applications haven't stopped pouring in since Ascend WV launched. We are excited to welcome this talented group of Ascenders as they join our growing family of new West Virginians who have found their next home in the Mountain State. It's incredible to see the momentum continue to grow around this program and our great state."

Beginning today, applications are being accepted for the New River Gorge community, in addition to the other four communities previously announced. The area is known for the nation's newest national park, world class outdoor recreation, untouched natural beauty, rich history and small town charm. This community, on the rim of the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve, makes a perfect home base for adventures in the nearby park.

"Community, purpose and the outdoors are the three core principles of this program," said Co-Founder of the Wing 2 Wing Foundation Alys Smith. The Ascenders who have already made the move to West Virginia are truly planting their roots here and making a difference. We could not be more thrilled to open up West Virginia to more remote workers and look forward to welcoming them to our state's renowned New River Gorge area."

Leading remote worker program offers \$12,000 cash and year of free outdoor recreation

The Ascend WV program was made possible by a \$25 million gift to West Virginia University's Brad and Alys Smith Outdoor Economic Development Collaborative from former Intuit executive chairman and current Marshall University President Brad D. Smith and his wife, Alys. Together with Governor Justice and his departments of Tourism and Economic Development, the collective team developed the only program in the country that focuses on outdoor recreation opportunities for talent attraction and retention.

"I have long believed that when we look beyond our state's challenges, we can find opportunities to ignite our economy, develop world-class recreational infrastructure and expand outdoor educational programs," WVU President Gordon Gee said. "The Ascend West Virginia program enables us to advance our state's assets, rather than dwelling on our obstacles. And through this program, we are embracing innovation and engaging with those whose eyes are cast to the future."

To help participants experience West Virginia's extraordinary landscapes, roaring rivers, and vibrant small towns, the program includes these incentives:

Cash: \$12,000 cash relocation incentive, paid in installments over a 2-year period.

Free Outdoor Recreation: One year of free outdoor recreation valued at more than \$2,500. The package encourages a healthy work-life balance filled with hiking, ATV riding, ziplining, rafting, rock climbing, golfing, skiing, and more.

Free coworking space: Remote workers will have modern facilities to stay connected and access to more than \$1,200 in free outdoor gear rentals.

Professional advancement: The ability to earn remote work certifications through West Virginia University and access to the John Chambers College of Business and Economics entrepreneurship ecosystem.

Outdoor & Social Programming- opportunity to participate in curated outdoor recreation excursions and social activities.

The program will welcome more than 1,000 remote workers to the state over the next six years.

Applications now open for all five program areas

Beginning today, Ascend West Virginia is accepting applications for New River Gorge, Greater Elkins, Morgantown Area, Eastern Panhandle and Greenbrier Valley.

"The growth of this program is a testament to the increased interest and positive buzz around West Virginia," said Chelsea Ruby, Cabinet Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Tourism. "The residents of our mountain towns are some of the most warm and welcoming people you'll find anywhere in the nation—they're eagerly awaiting these new folks to move in. We encourage remote workers across the nation to find the vibrant community that fits their needs and apply for a chance to join the fun and talented Ascend members who have already made West Virginia home."

The Ascend WV program spans four regions of the state, each of which offer a unique setting to appeal to remote workers:

Greenbrier Valley: Laid-back living along the idyllic Greenbrier River—and home to 203 mountain bike trails, 2,325 climbing routes, 138 paddling runs, and a booming arts scene.

Morgantown Area: Lively college town brimming with culture, innovation and plenty of space to roam—boasting 94 paddling runs, nearly 200 mountain bike trails, and 1,400 climbing routes.

Eastern Panhandle: Historic small towns with great proximity to the nation's capital—197 mountain bike trails, 1684 climbing routes, 90 paddling runs coupled with an elevated, bustling arts and culture, new development and hearty adventure along the Appalachian Trail.

Greater Elkins: Small town charm, music, and outdoor recreation meet here and provide a place to escape the hustle and bustle. Discover 176 mountain bike trails, 626 climbing routes, 123 paddling runs, WV's highest mountains, world-class fishing, the Monongahela National Forest and more.

New River Gorge: A community that's loved by avid nature enthusiasts and new explorers alike, the New River Gorge area is a perfect place to plant roots—with 142 mountain bike trails, 1693 climbing routes and 111 paddling runs on the New and Gauley Rivers. This booming area was rated one of the coolest small towns in America because of its array of local restaurants, scenic surrounding mountains and recreational activities.

Ascenders are tackling service projects across the state to celebrate West Virginia's 160th birthday

This year, on West Virginia Day, an official state holiday, members of Ascend West Virginia will show their collective state pride by volunteering in their community. Ascend members can't think of a better gift to give this state they now call home than to give back to their own communities.

Ascend Greenbrier Valley:

Ascend Greenbrier Valley members spent their time working at the Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Lewisburg from 10am to 2pm today, June 20th. Habitat for Humanity is near and dear to the hearts of several members of the Ascend Greenbrier Valley Cohort. Since February, several hours have been spent volunteering to help build houses, first in Frankford and now in Ronceverte. On this 160th birthday of West Virginia, smiling Ascender faces cleaned, organized, sorted and stocked at the ReStore.

Ascend Eastern Panhandle:

Ascend Eastern Panhandle members love their local outdoors and want to make it shine. Today, the group cleaned up spring-fed Tuscarora Creek near the City of Martinsburg's future Frog Hollow recreation trail that will connect Ranson and Martinsburg. Volunteers met at the Martinsburg Hub and went off to the creek to tackle the area with the most need. Some community members even joined in.

Ascend Morgantown Area:

Ascend Morgantown Area loves giving back to the community and is collaborating with the Monongahela Rail Trail Conservancy to show love to the popular Caperton Rail Trail. Community and Ascend members met at Ascend's newest Base Camp—1279 University Avenue, then tackled litter cleanup along the river trail from Hazel Ruby McQuain Park to Reynolds Hall.

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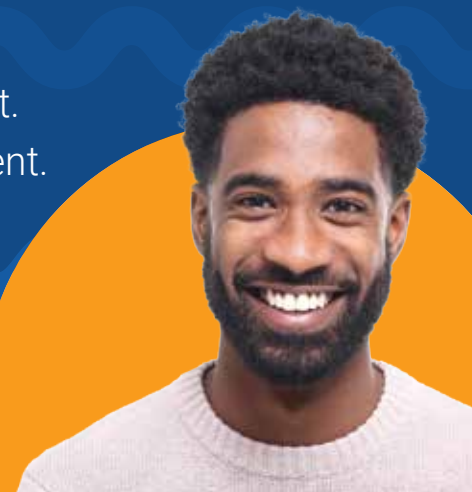
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