

First Energy Does the Little Things Right to Serve the Community



By Stephen Smoot

From anywhere in Shinnston, or much of Harrison County for that matter, the smokestacks of the Harrison Power Station appear as a sentinel of sorts. They define the skyline, but the real story takes place beneath the superstructure visible over the treeline. Its three coal fired units, all approximately 50 years old, still serve as one of the prides of their company, First Energy.

Harrison Power Station opened operations with Unit One in 1972, Unit two in 1973, and Unit three in 1974. These three units com-

bine to produce almost 2,000 megawatts of activity, which can potentially power two million homes.

West Virginia's entire population totals between 1.8 and 1.9 million people in total.

Two years ago, the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at West Virginia University's John Chambers College of Business and Economics shared an estimate of the Harrison Power Station's economic impact. In Harrison and surrounding counties, the plant boosts the economy by almost \$900 million. Approximately half of this impact takes place

in the "secondary economy," or goods and services created to support operations.

Much of this impact comes from its locally sourced coal, which relies on hard working regional West Virginia miners, truck drivers, and others to extract and deliver.

While 230 work directly for the plant, it is estimated that almost 3,200 more work in the secondary economy connected to the plant, earning over \$181 million combined. State and local governments receive more that "36 million in tax receipts. First Energy's eco-

nomic impact also comes hand in hand with corporate responsibility. The company invested nearly \$1 billion in clean coal production technology, starting almost 30 years ago in 1995. Scrubbers capture 98 percent of sulfur dioxide emissions, while Service Catalytic Reduction systems take 90 percent of nitrogen oxide out of plant emissions.

Upgrades have continued over the years, with the most recent coming last fall. The continual work has elevated Harrison Power Station to the top as one of the nation's cleanest burning coal fired plants.

The commitment does not stop there.

In recent years, plant managers grew concerned with a rising population of pigeons in and around the plant. Droppings and related problems caused health and safety issues. As Ed Murphy, technical services manager, said in a release, "pigeons are attracted to the warmth

See "Biz of the Month" on Pg 6

Shinn Family Reunion Becoming a Midsummer Homecoming Tradition



By Kara Linaburg

The weekend of June 24, Shinns from Nebraska, Ohio, and West Virginia, gathered together in Shinnston for the second Shinn family reunion. Some stayed in RVs, one family booked the Gillum House, and others booked rooms at local hotels. According to Kathleen Panek, owner of the Gillum House, "even a small family reunion is great tourism for West Virginia."

Karen Shinn and her husband, Roger Shinn, drove with their two great granddaughters who are 12 and 5, all the way from their home in Nebraska. Karen and Roger are the organizers of this second time event for Shinns, their first being in 2021.

Shinn said that her husband is "the fourth great grandson of Levi (Shinn)," and they decided to assemble the Shinn reunion in Shinnston several years ago after visiting the town. "His older brothers had been out here before, and we were just impressed with the city and cabin, so we just decided we were going to have a reunion going and meet some of the other Shinns around the area."

Shinn said that the reunion is a way, "to find out

See "Reunion" on Pg 6

City Council Discusses Items of Action, Donation For Park



The Shinnston City Council released a list of the action items already complete for the year 2023 during the June 26 council meeting.

By Kara Linaburg

In the June 26 city council meeting, a list was presented of items of action completed for the fiscal year of 2023 by the city council. The list is as follows:

Paved seven roads
2. Established street sweeping schedule
Established hydrant flushing schedule
Painted hydrants
Replaced and upgraded telemetry for the tanks
Completed AMR project
Paid off one water bond (in December 2022)
Built two new pavillions
14 new businesses opened
Both sidewalks complete

Initiated DEO program for dilapidated house demolition
Installed electric source at performance center for music
Two years' worth of audits complete
Installed new phone system
Created fire safety inspection program
Painted the pool
Fixed water slide, pool pipes, and repaired two pumps
Reopened the parking lot on Pike Street
Upgraded and restructured building inspection program
Three new events established: St Patrick's Day parade, Rollin' Coal Brew Festival, and Shindyfest
Booked headline acts for summer tour concert

Added signs to the citywide sign project
Fixed drainage and road where VanRufus and Oakwood meet
Acquired two properties on Charles Street to demo so that little league can be seen when entering Shinnston

Mayor Rodney Strait, in his brief report, said that the new pavilion on the hill is nearly complete. "They need to run electricity to it and finish up a few minor things on the outside of it."

A ten thousand dollar donation has also been given towards the park, which Strait said will be announced at the July 4th celebration.

City manager Chad Edwards said of the art walk and farmers

market that happened in Shinnston June 17, "turnout was not quite what we were hoping for, but I think it was successful." He said this will be an annual event, and they plan to find new ways to see all the vendors.

"It was kinda spread out," he said, as a way to get people to walk through the town. He said the city will learn from any mistakes and be even more successful going forwards.

The parking lot near Casey's is officially "open for use." Edwards said, "there is plenty of room to turn around," and "there's been no backlash," from the citizens nor anyone else about the opening. Edwards said that they still plan on doing a sidewalk of sorts, which has been discussed by the council in the past in order to follow DOH regulations.

Edwards also took the time in his report to thank the Lion's Club for the dinner they held for the city's employees. "It was very nice," he said. Several of the council members had been able to attend and enjoyed the food and appreciated the Lion's Club efforts.



BUILDING
AMAZING CITIES

By JIM HUNT
author, speaker, consultant

The Perils of the Middle Seat in Modern Travel

As I made way down the aisle to find my seat, I arrived at row 14 and stared at guy seated in 14D and I nodded to the middle seat, 14E. He looked up as if the Grim Reaper had come for him and shuffled around before getting up and letting me squeeze by him into my seat. I noticed the prim lady in the window seat and she looked away and buried her nose in a book. I buckled my seat belt and settled into this uncomfortable "sandwich" for a two hour flight to DC, then on to Pittsburgh.

At 6'4", I realize that I was not the person they wanted to spend time with in these cramped quarters but I smiled and tried to be as nice as possible. As I put my AirPods in and turned on my favorite playlist, I sensed that their plan was to assert their dominance and claim both armrests and a good portion of the floor space with assorted Gucci bags and matching purse.

Immediately, I realized that my seat mates were married and had taken the chance that no one would be in the middle seat.

Since it appeared my seat mates were committed to shifting around to squeeze me further into the middle seat, I decided to take some affirmative action to at least avoid an awkward situation. I rang the call bell and asked the flight attendant for some additional air sickness bags and, although she didn't ask, I said I had the Mexican bean burrito breakfast in the terminal and was feeling some rumbling! I noticed Mrs. Thurston Howell III moving her designer bags a little further away from me and hugging the outside armrest. Hubby didn't seem to care but he decided to attack from a different front. He crossed his legs and had his foot

See "Hunt" on Pg 3



McDonald's

of
Harrison County



Guest Column

By Charlotte Lane
Chair, WV Public Service Commission

Build a Career at the Public Service Commission

I have written before about how rewarding it can be to work for the State of West Virginia. During my career I have worked beside many professionals who dedicated their careers to serving the citizens of the Mountain State. The satisfaction from this work is undeniable. Still, I don’t believe any of us are so altruistic that we would spend our lives working for free. So why do people choose to work for the state? More specifically, why do people chose to work for the Public Service Commission? I’m so glad you asked.

Each individual has his or her own reason for coming to work at the PSC. Many make this their life’s work and retire after long years of service. The people who stay do so because we offer a safe and supportive work environment with great benefits. Employees have access to health insurance, including vision and dental; paid leave; a retirement program; an education reimbursement program; opportunities for advancement; and free parking at our downtown Charleston headquarters. We also enjoy a healthy work / life balance.

The PSC is always looking for smart, energetic people who want to work with us. In our ranks you will find attorneys, accountants, engineers, gas pipeline safety inspectors, and computer programmer analysts. We even have our own law enforcement officers who patrol state highways to keep you safe from trucks and buses. And, of course, there is a small army of secretaries and clerical workers keep the whole operation running smoothly.

Most positions at the PSC are covered by the West Virginia Division of Personnel (DOP) Civil Service System. In order to be eligible for these positions you need to complete the steps necessary to be placed on the DOP register. To see what positions we are currently trying to fill, go to our website at www.psc.state.wv.us and click on “Employment Opportunities.” You will also find a link there that will take you to the DOP registration site. Positions are posted for a limited period of time, but may be reposted if not filled, so check back often.

If you are just starting your career, or if you are interested in making a change, I hope you will consider applying to the Public Service Commission. This may be the opportunity you have been looking for.

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IT'S MEANINGLESS

ACROSS

1 Carter-era FBI sting

7 "It costs — and a leg"

12 "Likely story!"

16 Learning inst.

19 Spanning structure

20 Gorme with Grammys

21 Mag online

22 Boxer Clay, renamed

23 Withstanding decay

25 Dak., in the 1800s

26 Sawmill item

27 Org. for drs.

28 Haughty type

29 Reggae singer with the Wailers

31 Pureed fruit product since the mid-1800s

36 Top-drawer

37 Is storming

38 Antonym: Abbr.

39 Maker of Tater Tots

41 It induces an immune response

44 Trash collection service

48 "Our Gang" girl

49 Evict

50 Raw resource

51 Racing units

52 Furniture with four sleeping units

55 Trachea-to-lung tubes

58 TV trophy

59 Partake of

60 French for "good"

61 Winfrey of "Selma"

65 Small inlet

66 Medieval stronghold near Cork, Ireland

71 "— had it!"

72 With 6-Down, relay some information

74 Rustic hotels

75 Eighth mo.

76 Like both-sex dorms

77 Experienced again

80 Seepage in a boat's bottom

83 Exhaust conduit, e.g.

86 Cavity-fighting org.

87 Golf great

88 Actress Graff

89 Chef who was a judge on ABC's "The Taste"

93 Novelist Sidney

95 "Good Times" actor Walker

96 12, on some clocks

97 Speedskater Ohno

98 Celine of pop

99 Part of many a kid's lunchbox meal

106 Cow stomach, on a menu

108 Fix, as a knot

109 Xbox competitor

110 AOL competitor

111 Yoo- — (chocolate drinks)

112 10 answers in this puzzle have one

116 Tenth mo.

117 Guitar relative

118 Prickly shrub

119 State of hypnosis

120 Co. top dog

121 Pro votes

122 Pungent salad

123 Gossipy meddlers

DOWN

1 James A. Garfield's "A"

2 — -Seltzer

3 Occupy, as a desk

4 USN VIP

5 Become older

6 See 72-Across

7 — Fables

8 Sominex competitor

9 Have — with destiny

10 — Tin Tin

11 Got together

12 Old Mexican

13 Seven, in Seville

14 As to

15 Luxury Italian car

16 Second-largest city in Greece

17 Shut entirely

18 Tall

24 With an inky implement

29 Stage after larva

30 Bicycle pedal attachment

32 Soft felt hat

33 Actress Katy

34 Categorize

35 PD alert

39 Big oil gp.

40 College-level H.S. courses

41 Some vipers

42 "Skyfall" actress Harris

43 Writer Capote

44 Holster item

45 Invite (to)

46 Get reduced in price

47 Suffix with north

49 Surpass in competition

53 Wriggly fish

54 Sheep's cry

55 Razer brand

56 Stephen of films

57 Weeding aid

60 Fly- — (pilots' stunts)

62 Ran amok

63 Brand of bath additives

64 Actress Tippi

66 Slangy "sweetie"

67 Denver-to-Bismarck dir.

68 Call a halt to

69 Pull sharply

70 Size bigger than med.

73 Imagine

76 Young and in-experienced

78 Really weak

79 First lady McKinley

80 Stinging flier

81 Wall creeper

82 Hold and use

83 Part of many a kid's lunchbox meal, for short

84 Shimmer, as an opal

85 It's stuffed into an olive

87 Potato cover

90 After point number eight

91 Bar on a car

92 2016 Summer Olympics locale

93 1992 Summer Olympics locale

94 Frankness

97 Fall flowers

99 Regional life

100 Church parts

101 Bert's bestie

102 Some RSVPs

103 Defiant kid's declaration

104 About, timewise

105 Masks

106 College VIP

107 Rakish guy

112 "SNL" ailer

113 NHL's Bobby

114 'Fore

115 Pale-looking



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.

July 6, 1806: Statesman Charles James Faulkner was born in Martinsburg. Faulkner served in the West Virginia legislature, U.S. Congress (1851–59, 1875-77), and as U.S. minister to France.

July 6, 1848: Historian Virgil A. Lewis was born in Mason County. In 1905, Governor Dawson appointed Lewis as the first director of the Bureau of Archives and History.

July 6, 1883: Judge “R. D.” Bailey was born at Baileysville, Wyoming County. Bailey came into wide prominence as the judge of the Matewan Massacre trial in 1921.

July 7, 1928: The Madonna of the Trail monument was dedicated in Wheeling. It is one of 12 such statues erected along the National Road to honor America’s pioneering women.

July 8, 1894: Walter Aegerter was born in Helvetia. An amateur photographer, Aegerter built both a studio and darkroom on his farm and photographed portraits, families, celebrations and everyday scenes of the German Swiss settlement. The glass plate negatives survive today in several archived collections.

July 8, 1924: Rock ‘n’ roll pioneer Johnnie Johnson was born in Fairmont. Johnson collaborated with Chuck Berry on songs such as “Roll Over, Beethoven.” Berry’s hit “Johnny B. Goode” was supposedly written as a tribute to Johnson.

July 8, 1961: Sutton Dam was dedicated by Governor Wally Barron. The Army Corps of Engineers operates the dam for purposes of flood control, low-flow augmentation and recreation.

July 9, 1942: An explosion at the Pursglove No. 2 Mine at Scotts Run near Morgantown killed 20 men. It was one of three fatal accidents at the mining operation in an eight-month period.

July 9, 1989: Treasurer A. James Manchin resigned after being impeached. With a stock market downturn in 1987, Manchin bore much of the blame when the state lost nearly \$300 million in investments for which he was responsible.

July 10, 1769: Physician Jesse Bennet was born. He performed the first successful caesarian section in America in 1794, on his own wife and without proper equipment and with no antiseptics. He later established a large practice in Mason County and served as an Army surgeon in the War of 1812.

July 10, 1936: The temperature in Martinsburg reached 112 degrees. It tied the record for the state’s hottest recorded temperature, which had been set August 4, 1930, at Moorefield.

July 11, 1861: The Battle of Rich Mountain was fought in Randolph County. Union troops under the command of General George McClellan defeated Confederate forces.

July 11, 1867: John Jacob Cornwell was born on a farm in Ritchie County. He served as the 15th governor of West Virginia.

July 11, 1976: Gov. Arch Moore dedicated the West Virginia Culture Center. The facility was built to showcase the Mountain State’s artistic, cultural and historic heritage.

July 12, 2003: The Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences in downtown Charleston opened to the public. It combines a modern performing arts center with a visual arts museum and an interactive science center.

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

Harrison County Senior Center will be CLOSED on August 9, 2023 for our annual Mandatory Employee Training Day.

The Shinnston Police Department is hiring new officers. Minimum requirements include testing with pushups, sit ups, and a 1.5 mile run. Deadline to apply is July 14. See www.shinnstonwv.com for more details.





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“Hunt” From Pg 1.

dangling in front of me.
Mid-flight, I had closed my eyes and was listening to my music when I heard a loud conversation and opened my eyes to hear the couple talking. She was saying that after this disgusting travel, she needed to take her jewelry in to have it cleaned. I decided to join the conversation and told her that my wife used bacon lard to clean her rings and if she gave me her email address, I’d be happy to have her share her secret. I said it loud enough that others could hear and “Lovey” seemed aghast that others heard her speaking to me. I then asked her if she watched “The Price is Right” and told her that my ex-sister in law wore a frog outfit to get on the show and meet Drew Carey. She didn’t seem to

WVSOM Recognized As Nationwide Leader ‘in producing graduates who practice in rural settings

LEWISBURG, W.Va. – “It’s that balance. While we’re a leader in rural primary care, and, first and foremost, we’re serving West Virginia and populating the state with our grads, you can also come to WVSOM and be those other types of physicians that people want to be – dermatologists, ophthalmologists, orthopedic surgeons, you name it.”

West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine President James Nemitz explained the school’s medical opportunities this week.

While Nemitz has served as WVSOM’s seventh president since 2018, he has been a steady presence at the school for well over three decades.

Since its founding more than a half-century ago, WVSOM has established itself as a nationwide leader “in producing graduates who practice in rural settings.”

According to a recent article from U.S. News and World Report, WVSOM ranks 26th in the nation for “graduates practicing in medically underserved areas,” and 19th for “graduates practicing in rural areas.”

This fact is made considerably more impressive when factoring in the cost of education, as WVSOM offers some of the lowest medical-school tuition rates in the United States.

While Nemitz has served as WVSOM’s seventh president since 2018, he has been a steady presence at the school for well over three decades.

“Many of the challenges concern training new physicians in the environment they’re going to work in,” Nemitz said, in explanation of what makes WVSOM stand apart from other medical schools. “A lot of residency programs are in urban areas, and being trained in an urban area doesn’t necessarily prepare you for rural practice.”

“What WVSOM has been so successful at is exposing our students to a rural environment throughout their experience,” Nemitz continued. “The first two years, they’re here in this small town of Lewisburg. But in their third and fourth years they are distributed around the state to other rural areas.”

“Our students learn an appreciation for rural practice, and they get to see how it’s done,” Nemitz added.

According to Nemitz, community-based residency programs – known as “teaching health centers” – have become a vital partner in the education of rural physicians. These teaching health centers are federally funded through HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration).

“We’ve been working with two of them – Access Health in the Beckley-area, and Cornerstone (Health), which is across the border in Pennsylvania,” Nemitz noted. “These are residencies where the person is training in a more rural environment, but they still get hospital training through an affili-

be interested in continuing the conversation and I drifted off to my music.

As the plane landed in Washington, DC, I pretended to call my wife and tell her about the wonderful lady sitting next to me on the plane. I again, loudly told my ‘wife’ that I had told the lady about her secret cleaning method with bacon lard. I then said to the lady that she could talk to my wife about it while the plane was taxiing to the gate. She screamed “No” and looked at her husband for help. It was uncomfortable, to say the least.

As the plane emptied, I caught a glimpse of a few of my fellow travelers and they smiled at me and one lady even winked! Needless to say, she and hubby will probably not book seats like that again!

ated hospital.”

Nemitz further explained that, due to both convenience and geography, residents often receive their training in “big hospitals,” adding that most residents in West Virginia are trained at CAMC (Charleston Area Medical Center), WVU Medicine, or through the Marshall University system.

“It’s these smaller, community-based residencies that really have a niche,” Nemitz said. “One of the challenges with getting physicians into rural areas is the training – training the person to deal with the issues that they’ll face in rural areas.”

Those issues, according to Nemitz, center around the isolated nature of a rural environment. Resources are often in shorter supply, and frequently farther away, while assistance is not always on the other end of a phone call.

“These are real issues that you see in West Virginia that impact care,” Nemitz added. “The rural physician may be the only person in their area. I met one of our alums recently, now this was in rural Georgia, but he was the only physician in five counties. That’s part of the challenge.”

“At WVSOM, we’re proud of the fact that we’ve populated pretty much all of West Virginia with our graduates,” Nemitz said, adding that WVSOM graduates are currently practicing medicine in 51 of the state’s 55 counties.

Nemitz believes that it is the lack of medical facilities in West Virginia which prevents WVSOM graduates from practicing in all 55 counties, noting that, “The biggest challenge is access to care.”

“Quite frankly, the biggest issue is getting people to the provider,” Nemitz said. “Transportation is a huge issue – actually getting people to the doctor, or to the clinic, or to the rural hospital.”

Another obstacle to the recruitment of rural physicians are lifestyle-concerns. According to Nemitz, everything from recreational activities, to the social landscape, to salary considerations weigh heavily upon an individual’s decision as to where they wish to practice medicine.

“Everybody envisions a certain lifestyle for themselves,” Nemitz said. “Does that rural area have the things that a person is looking for?”

While a primary goal of WVSOM is “to produce the best educated, most caring and compassionate osteopathic physicians in the world,” a core principle of the school’s mission statement is its unwavering dedication to “the State of West Virginia and the health care needs of its residents, emphasizing primary care in rural areas.”

As of the start of 2023’s fall semester, WVSOM is fully accredited by both the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), and the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). Recently, full tuition waivers have been made available for qualifying West Virginia resident-students. Non-resident students may also have the option of utilizing a tuition-waiver program should they decide to remain in West Virginia to practice after graduating. A full listing of scholarships and financial aid programs are available on the school’s website, at wvsom.edu.

“Education is our primary purpose,” Nemitz said. “Our job is to prepare our students to be the best physician – the best osteopathic physician – that they can be, and be able to go into whatever specialty they choose.”

“The reality is that we need all kinds of physicians,” Nemitz added. “It’s not just primary care physicians. We need surgeons, we need cardiologists, we need nephrologists – all of those other types of specialties are needed, and we produce those as well.”

“You can come to WVSOM and be whatever type of physician you want to be, you’re not limited by coming to our school,” Nemitz concluded.

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What a Ride It Has Been



The Bottom Line

By Bill Nestor
Sports Editor

It's summertime, and typically at this time of year, West Virginia University fans are starting to load up for the start of football season. Vacations are being had, and maybe a quick trip over the state line into Kennywood might be in the plans. This hasn't been an average summer and the ups and downs of the basketball program have provided a roller coaster ride bigger than anything Kennywood could offer.

On June 17, Bob Huggins submitted a letter of resignation to WVU President Gordon Gee and Vice President and Director of Athletics, Wren Baker. Huggins was charged with a DUI that came from a little over a month after he was making derogatory comments and using offensive language. Huggins survived the first incident, but when both issues were stacked up so close together, it put an abrupt end to the Huggins era at West Virginia.

Huggins had assembled a roster that had all the makings of a national contender. The stars were lining up for a walk off season for the Hall of Fame coach. His sudden resignation brought several major concerns into play. If it were the good ol' days, time would not have been a factor, but today brings a different story.

The NCAA Transfer Portal was launched in the fall of 2018 and ever since then, the world of college sports has been turned upside down.

Borrowing a famous poker term, players, coaches, and even entire programs can go "all in" at any time. Teams can get rich quick if they can lure in enough talent. On the other hand, a program

can be forced to declare bankruptcy if there is a mass exodus.

Baker was forced to act as quickly as possible. He didn't want the defection of players to occur on his watch. He also had to make a move that the players and the supporters of the program would endorse.

There was a great deal of interest from prominent coaches. The two that were mentioned the most were Andy Kennedy and John Belein. Belein was a fan favorite during his time in Morgantown. He seemed to gain momentum with each day that the search went on, which added even more pressure to Baker's thought process. It felt like months had gone by, but in reality, it was just one week to the day when Baker announced his hire.

Josh Eilert was dubbed the interim head coach, putting an end to the suspense. Eilert has spent the last 16 seasons on the Mountaineer basketball staff. He has held several positions within the program, including video coordinator. Coordinator/Director of Basketball Operations, and, most recently, assistant coach this past season. Eilert signed a 10 month contract worth \$1.5 million to step in and fill the void left by the departure of Huggins.

The move was made to retain talent while providing additional time for Baker to settle in on the right man for the job. I think it is a golden opportunity for Eilert who, by the way, is playing with house money (\$1.5 million to be exact) and he has nothing to lose. From all accounts, he is a stand up guy that works his tail off to get the job done. To me, that is the kind of coach that you want running your program. This is the opportunity that some assistant coaches wait a lifetime for and we know that he is a main reason that several of these players wound up in Morgantown.

Now is the time for Mountaineer Nation to back Eilert as he begins the 10 month ride of a lifetime!



Race to Phillippi and Tee It Up At the Barbour Country Club

This week's focus is on the Barbour Country Club. This nine hole venue is located just outside of Phillippi and is one of the most improved tracks in north central West Virginia. Just a few years ago, the Barbour Country Club was in disrepair, but recently it has seen a resurgence of epic proportions. There have been several individuals that have stepped up as difference makers around the grounds and have brought pride back to the club.

I was fortunate enough to participate in the member-guest tournament this year and the greens were among the best in the Mountain State. During the event, I met several of the members and the hospitality was overwhelming.

Barbour Country Club owns four sets of tees ranging from 5839 yards from the blue tees. These options provide a great golfing experience for players of all skill levels.

My favorite is number 15, a par five that plays 519 yards from the blue tees, sports a narrow fairway followed by a dogleg right. It's a great scoring opportunity if you can put together a pair of quality shots. By the way, it is the third most difficult hole on the course.

The price is right at the Barbour Country Club. It provides a great day of golf for a minimal cost. You will enjoy the course and, for the price, you might even pay it twice. It's worth a short trip to play the Barbour Country Club.

Fairmont State Volleyball Releases 2023 Schedule

FAIRMONT, W.Va. – The Fairmont State volleyball team and head coach Travis Hinkle unveiled its 2023 schedule on Tuesday (June 27). The schedule includes 32 regular season matches with 15 to be played on the floor of Joe Retton Arena in Fairmont.

The Falcons will host the Fairmont State Volleyball Classic and will begin the 2023 season at Joe Retton Arena. Fairmont State will battle Ursuline and Anderson on Friday, Sept. 1 on the first day of competition at the Fairmont State Volleyball Classic. The Falcons will wrap up the first weekend of play with matches versus Elizabeth City State and Slippery Rock on Sept. 2.

Fairmont State will travel to southern West Virginia for a match at Bluefield State in the first road contest of the season on Sept. 5. The Falcons hit the road to North Canton, Ohio and will meet Roberts Wesleyan, Walsh, Mercyhurst and Seton Hill in the Hall of Fame City Challenge from Sept. 8-9. Fairmont State welcomes Salem in a non-conference home match on Sept. 12 before facing Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference members Shippensburg, Pitt-Johnstown, Clarion and

Slippery Rock in the Atlantic Region Volleyball Crossover held in Wheeling.

The Fairmont State volleyball team will host Shepherd on Sept. 19 in a midweek home match before beginning Mountain East Conference play at Glenville State on Sept. 22. The Falcons will welcome Wheeling, the 2022 MEC North Division Champions and MEC Tournament Champions, in the MEC home opener on Sept. 26. The Falcons are set to play three consecutive conference home contests starting with Frostburg State on Oct. 10 before MEC South foes West Virginia State (Oct. 13) and Charleston (Oct. 14) visit Joe Retton Arena.

Fairmont State's final non-conference match is slated for Oct. 28 versus Shaw. The Falcons will conclude their 2023 home schedule with matches versus West Liberty (Nov. 3) and Alderson Broaddus (Nov. 6). The final regular season match will be played at Frostburg State on Nov. 10. Six teams (Anderson, Elizabeth City State, Clarion, Wheeling, West Liberty & Charleston) on the regular season schedule qualified for an NCAA Regional Tournament in 2022. The conference tournament will be played from Nov. 16-18.

120 Fairmont State Student-Athletes Recognized on Winter/Spring All-MEC Academic Teams

BRIDGEPORT, W.Va. – The Mountain East conference revealed its All-MEC Academic Teams and the Commissioner's Honor Roll for winter and spring sports during the 2022-23 academic year. The sports included in the winter and spring honors are: acrobatics and tumbling, baseball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's swimming, men's and women's tennis, men's and women's track and field, softball, women's lacrosse and men's wrestling.

Fairmont State Athletics had a total of 120 student-athletes recognized.

To be a member of the All-MEC Academic Team, the student-athlete must be a member of the active roster and have a grade-point average of 3.70-4.00 in the semester of their championship season. To qualify for the Commissioner's Honor Roll, a student-athlete must be a member of the active roster and post a grade-point average between 3.25-3.69 in the semester of their championship season.

Glenville State's Stephens Repeats As Conference Coach of the Year

BRIDGEPORT, W.Va. – After advancing to back-to-back final fours as the head women's basketball coach at Glenville State, Kim Stephens was voted the 2022-23 MEC Women's Sports Coach of the Year for the fourth time in her career. She was also named the Women's Sports Coach of the Year in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2021-22.

Stephens and the Pioneers swept the MEC Regular Season and Tournament Championships in 2022-23 while compiling a record of 33-3. The Lady Pioneers went 20-2 in conference play and were unbeaten with a 13-0 record at home. This winter the Pioneers also made their seventh-consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance and advanced to the national semifinals before eventually falling to Ashland, 76-67. GSU hosted the NCAA Atlantic Regional for the second-consecutive year and won the regional championship and a berth in the Elite Eight with an 88-63 victory over West Chester in the Atlantic Region Championship Game. The Pioneers defeated the University of Tampa in the Elite Eight, 78-68.

The 30-win season was Stephen's fourth during her tenure at Glenville State. Stephens was also named the MEC Coach of the Year in women's basketball for the fourth time in her career.

The MEC Women's Sports Coach of the Year is selected by a vote of institutional administrators and the conference office.

Time to get Amped about the Amphitheater



From The World of Parks & Recreation

By Doug Comer

The City Parks of Clarksburg has operated the Amphitheater since its inception in 2009 and has hosted events of today's biggest stars. From Florida-Georgia Line to 38-Special, the "Amp" brings in talent on rise and those who have rocked the crowds for decades. This year, acts of all genres will make a stop to Clarksburg to play for their fans.

The most recent concert will be country legend Tracy Lawrence. Born in Texas, Lawrence moved to Nashville in the early 1990s and later has churned out the hits as a performer, song writer and even producer. With familiar hits like "Time Marches On," "I See it Now" and "If the World Had a Front Porch" just to name a few, Lawrence will be playing Friday, July 7th and a few tickets

are still available for those looking for something to do that evening.

For those who enjoy adult contemporary music, David Crowder will perform on Friday, July 21st. One of the top artists in 2023, Crowder, as known by his stage name, has over 3-million records sold and three Grammy nominations added to his 11-year resume. His first album, Neon Steeple, debuted at 8th on Billboard's top-200 and his hit song "Come As You Are" received multiple nominations. Today, his latest album "Milk & Honey" has been an instant success as "Good God Almighty" led the way up to #1 on Christian Radio song charts.

If you have ever listened to the National Anthem being performed at NFL games or NASCAR races, you probably heard of country performer Matt Stell. A Nashville Platinum performing artist, Stell burst on the scene with over half a billion streams with songs like "Prayed For You" and "Everywhere But On." Stell's event will close out the entertainment at the Amp for the remainder of the year. Plenty of tickets available for this Saturday, August 26th concert.

Generally for all events, doors open at 6:00 p.m.

and again tickets are still available for all venues mentioned. Whether it is a date night or bringing a group to see the show, the Clarksburg Amphitheater can be your place for entertainment.

During the fall, staff will begin looking for talent for the 2024 season with a mixture of genres to entertain all fans in the area. If you have suggestions for some of the talent that comes to the amphitheater, please feel free to drop us a line.

Located at Veterans Park, the Amp is just one of many things that lie on the property. Surrounded by numerous recreational activities, families can enjoy the Splash Zone pool that boasts a lazy river, lane laps, splash pad and even slides. There are playgrounds, ball fields, tennis and pickleball courts as well as numerous pavilions to host family or company functions.

For more information about the City Parks of Clarksburg, feel free to contact the office at 304-624-1655 or find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CityParksofClarksburg> or through the webpage www.cityparksofclarksburg.com. Always remember, there is plenty to do at the City Parks of Clarksburg!



European Green Deal: Challenge and Opportunity for WV Exporters

The European Union has been working on a new economic policy called the European Green Deal that will make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. This means that the EU wants to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by the mid-century. But what does that mean for businesses here in West Virginia?

Because the European Green Deal is a major shift in economic policy, businesses need to be aware of the changes and make sure they are prepared to comply with new regulations if they hope to be well-positioned to succeed in the European market. For example, businesses may need to reduce their energy consumption or switch to renewable energy sources and consider the impact their products have on the environment.

As the full impact of the European Green Deal on exporting becomes clearer in the coming months and years, we want to shed some light on a few policy proposals you can't ignore if you want to sell in Europe.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (and Repair)

If you sell products in Europe, you may already be aware of the new Circular Economy Action Plan, which was introduced in March 2020. Or perhaps your European customer has started referencing Ecodesign for Sustainable Products regulations, which was proposed in March 2022 and currently in the final stages of the approval process.

The goal of the Circular Economy Action Plan and Ecodesign for Sustainable Products regulations is to reduce the use of natural resources and promote reusing, repairing and recycling products. Right now, these regulations are focused on electronics and information technology, batteries and automotive, packaging, plastics, textiles, con-

struction and building materials. However, almost all products will eventually be subject to sector-specific rules and regulations.

To ensure compliance with these regulations, you may need to make changes to your product design, manufacturing process or packaging. You may also need to provide additional information on the recycled content of your product to your customers and regulatory agencies. Additionally, information on how they can be repaired may need to be shared with third party repair shops in Europe. By complying with these regulations, you can help to ensure the long-term sustainability of your business.

Obtaining a Digital Product Passport

In addition to the requirements placed on products, your product will also require a Digital Product Passport. This passport will provide information about the product, its supply chain and environmental sustainability. It will also create a record and help officials track products as they move through their life cycles within Europe.

The goal of the Digital Product Passport is to help consumers make informed decisions about the products they purchase and assist regulatory bodies check for compliance. The passport is expected to be introduced in textiles, construction, industrial and electrical vehicle batteries and consumer electronics by 2026. Requirements are still being discussed, but expect to be required to display a unique product identifier or a scannable QR code on your product or packaging.

The Digital Product Passport is a new initiative that is expected to have a significant impact on the way products are regulated and marketed. Businesses that are planning to sell products

in Europe should be aware of the requirements for the Digital Product Passport and start planning accordingly.

Be Prepared

With this information in mind, West Virginia exporters have a few options for navigating regulations and requirements for selling in the EU. Some businesses, unfortunately, may choose to stop selling to EU countries. Avoiding a market altogether is a drastic measure, which is why we want to encourage you to find creative ways to bring your production and products into compliance. The EU is a large and important market and you would be passing up on so many opportunities if you pulled out of Europe.

We believe knowledge is key to being a successful exporter and that having an export plan reduces the likelihood of you making hasty or reactionary decisions. So, prepare for new regulations in Europe now by documenting your product's components and researching their origins. You should also start conversations with your engineers and company leadership to find ways to improve product sustainability and recyclability, reduce your manufacturing carbon footprint and mitigate associated costs. If you are selling to Europe through an established partner, reach out and start talking about how they will handle the new requirements and who will be responsible for ensuring they are met. If you sell directly to Europe, you may want to consider finding a reputable European business partner to help navigate these changes.

Whatever you do, you should start preparing for new regulations as soon as possible. This will help you to avoid any disruptions to business and ensure that you can continue to sell your products in Europe.

Benedum Foundation Announces New Board Chair

The Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation welcomes its newest Board Chair, Mr. Thomas A. Heywood.

Effective June 13, 2023, Mr. Heywood will lead the Foundation's nine-member Board of Trustees succeeding Mr. Lloyd G. Jackson, II who masterfully chaired the Benedum Board for the full allowable term of ten years.

Mr. Heywood has been a Trustee of the Foundation since March 2012 and is a leading attorney in West Virginia with Bowles Rice, a regional law firm, where his expertise spans health care, banking, and corporate/commercial law.

In addition to being an immediate past Managing Partner of Bowles Rice, Mr. Heywood is a former Chief of Staff and Counsel to West Virginia Governor Gaston Caperton. He works closely and regularly with businesses, educational institutions, community leaders, and elected officials across the region, and is the recipient of numerous awards for his public service and leadership on civic boards and initiatives.

Benedum Foundation President Jen Giovannitti said, "Mr. Heywood was unanimously elected by his peers to serve as the Benedum Foundation's incoming Board Chair," adding, "the Foundation has an esteemed history of board leadership coming from West Virginia including two Governors, a U.S. Senator, a federal judge, two West Virginia state senators, four university presidents, and well-known industry leaders."

"I am humbled and honored to be elected chair of the Benedum Foundation," said Mr. Heywood. "The Foundation has touched and improved lives in West Virginia and Southwestern Pennsylvania for almost 80 years, thanks to the generosity and vision of our benefactors and the talents, leadership, and hard work of the Board, management, and staff of the Foundation over the years. I look forward to building on the accomplishments of all who have come before, and seeing that the vision of Michael and Sarah Benedum continues to be realized in the years ahead."



Rep. Mooney Introduces the Small Bank Holding Company Relief Act

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Rep. Alex X. Mooney introduced H.R. 4346, the Small Bank Holding Company Relief Act, to make it easier for smaller community banks to raise capital. This legislation provides sensible regulatory relief to rural financial institutions, while also preserving safety and soundness measures. On average, the United States loses more than one community bank every day because of burdensome federal regulation.

BACKGROUND: Small bank holding companies (SBHCs),

or bank holding companies (BHCs) with total assets under \$3 billion, are allowed to operate with higher debt levels, which can be used to more cheaply raise capital. Specifically, this bill would raise the required asset threshold to qualify as a SBHC from \$3 billion to \$10 billion. This legislation does not change capital rules and regulations for subsidiary banks.

5 House Republicans signed onto the bill as original cosponsors: Andy Barr (KY), Byron Donalds (FL), Monica De La Cruz (R-TX),

Andy Ogles (R-TN), and Zach Nunn (IA).

This legislation is endorsed by the American Bankers Association (ABA) and the Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA).

"Smaller financial institutions are the backbone of banking in West Virginia, and right now they are being suffocated by the federal government across the country," said Rep. Alex X. Mooney. "My legislation provides commonsense relief to community banks which allow them to better service their lo-

cal communities."

"Since the passage of Dodd-Frank, regulatory burdens have impeded community banks' ability to grow and lend. This legislation will alleviate unnecessary hurdles placed on small institutions and unleash their capabilities to provide financial services products and access for the communities they serve," said Rep. Andy Barr.

"I am proud to co-sponsor this legislation led by Rep. Mooney. Our local and regional banks are the heartbeat of our communities, and this bill gives them the ability to continue serving their customers without prohibitive and burdensome regulations," said Rep. Monica De La Cruz.

"This key piece of legislation will empower small banks against the crushing weight of

federal regulations by allowing them to raise capital by issuing debt. At a time when we have watched large banking enterprises fail, we must create room for growth and lending in small banks. I applaud Congressman Mooney for introducing this bill and I am proud to be an original cosponsor," said Rep. Andy Ogles.

"This important legislation will strengthen America's community banks by making it easier for smaller institutions to issue debt and bolster their capital. The bill will allow community banks to better meet the needs of their customers, clients and communities, while preserving their commitment to safety and soundness. We thank Rep. Mooney and the other co-sponsors for their leadership on this legislation

and look forward to its timely consideration," said ABA President and CEO Rob Nichols.

"ICBA strongly supports Rep. Mooney's Small Bank Holding Company Relief Act, which will provide sensible regulatory relief to community banks to help them continue to serve their customers and communities," Independent Community Bankers of America President and CEO Rebeca Romero Rainey said. "Raising the consolidated asset threshold to qualify as Small Bank Holding Companies from \$3 billion to \$10 billion will make it easier for small bank and thrift holding companies to raise additional capital, promoting lending and economic growth in local communities while preserving safety and soundness."



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“Biz of the Month” From pg 1

and shelter our plant provides.” He explained that humane “attempts to deter them from the area have not been successful long-term.

Murphy installed nesting boxes designed specifically for the use of peregrine falcons, a pigeon predator. As falcons found a new home, the pigeon population moved away.

Also important, almost a decade ago, First Energy initiated a tree trimming program. Last year, Jim Myers, president of West Virginia operations for First Energy, noted that “vegetation management is crucial to our reliability efforts and one of the most effective ways we can reduce the impact of tree-related service interruptions for our customers.”

Since 2014, Mon Power alone has removed vegetation from around 31,000 miles of power lines and trimmed approximately 3.7 million trees. Between the opening of the program and the end of 2022, customer outages dropped by 40 percent. This year will see Mon Power and Potomac Edison (First Energy’s subsidiary in the Potomac Highlands

and Eastern Panhandle) clear another 6,800 miles of lines, with 2,400 already completed.

First Energy also takes the lead in philanthropy. As a member of the Harrison County Chamber of Commerce, they support economic growth and development. Last year, the company also steered \$60,000 toward worthy causes in Harrison County, such as the Shinnston, Lumberport, and Spelter Volunteer Fire Departments, the Autism Society of West Virginia, the United Way, and more.

Employees also contribute mightily to the region. In the past two years, through the Adopt -a Highway program, they collected more than 5,000 pounds of refuse. They also give time and money to vital organizations, such as Harvest for Hunger, the American red Cross, the Boy Scouts of America, and more.

First Energy was formed in 1997 when Ohio Edison merged with Centenor Energy Corporation. By 2023, First Energy has become one of the nation’s largest investor-owned power companies, serving six million across the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic.

“Reunion” From pg 1

about the history” of their ancestors, and each reunion “has been a good turn out,” with this year around 30 Shinnss attending.

Shinn said that Sammy D’s auto shop allowed her family to park their motorcoach in the parking lot for their stay. “He let us park there so we got to see the sights and save a little money too.”

Driving not only saved them money, but Shinn said they were able to take their granddaughters to various historical spots on their way to West Virginia, including the Shinn bridge in Ohio and the Flight 93 memorial.

The festivities kicked off Friday evening in Shinnston as various Shinnss continued to arrive in town, and a pizza party was held for the group at the Gillum House. Saturday, the Shinn families took the time to explore the town and the cemetery above Shinnston High School, and later that day, Panek dressed in 18th century garb as

Elizabeth Shinn at the Levi Shinn log house in town. Panek took the time to answer questions about the history of the area, the town, and the home.

“Since it had been posted on facebook that ‘Elizabeth’ would be home to visitors, several people from the area also stopped in to tour the log house,” Panek said in an email to the News and Journal.

For Shinn’s granddaughters, one of the highlights of the trip was seeing Levi Shinn’s cabin. “They loved it,” Shinn said. “They loved the cabin. The 12 year old, she just fell in love with the cabin. She said, ‘did this really live like that?’”

Shinn said that her family, as well as the other Shinnss visiting the area, also “went shopping in a lot of the little shops because we wanted to support the town and ate at various places.” Several from the group also traveled to Weston to see the Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum and ex-

plored outside of Harrison county.

Shinn said that “just relaxing and enjoying the scenery,” was appreciated by her family, “because where we’re from we have trees but nothing like this.”

Shinn’s family met new relatives at the reunion as others had heard about the 2021 reunion, and she hopes to see this only continue to grow. She said that they plan on “getting on facebook” to advertise for the next reunion and “see if we can get more to come and keep it going.”

Panek said she wished to thank “the Roger and Gary Shinn families for organizing two wonderful Shinn reunions (2021 and 2023) in Shinnston, West Virginia.”

According to Shinn, they will be back for a third reunion in the near future.

Health officer, WVDEP caution West Virginians about wildfire smoke

CHARLESTON, W.VA. — Dr. Steven Eshenaur, Kanawha-Charleston Health Officer, cautions that the smoky haze from Canadian wildfires is a health threat to those with breathing challenges.

Air Quality Index scores in some parts of West Virginia are still in the 151-200 range. An AQI of 0-50 is normal. This means that sensitive groups – children, the elderly, people with heart disease, asthma, COPD, emphysema, lung cancer, or other sensitivities – are at risk. To monitor air quality in your area, visit www.airnow.gov.

The haze was expected to begin improving as rain is predicted for the weekend, according to the National Weather Service in Charleston.

Following overnight and morning rain, the AQI for the Kanawha Valley region was in the good range on Friday morning; however, parts of the Northern Panhandle remained over 150

Until the air in your area clears, Eshenaur discouraged outside activities.

“Smoke inhalation isn’t good for anyone, so avoid strenuous exercise in this kind of air quality situation. Consider staying inside and setting your AC on recirculation mode until the air clears. If you must go out, take it easy and make it quick!”

“If you have trouble breathing for

any reason, you should stay indoors until the haze dissipates,” Eshenaur advised. “If you absolutely must go outside, you should wear an N-95 mask to block the fine particulate matter in the smoke from your airways.”

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection’s (WVDEP) Division of Air Quality and the state Department of Health and Human Resources’ (DHHR) Bureau for Public Health (BPH) said the statewide Air Quality Advisory for fine particulate matter issued Wednesday remains in effect as smoke from Canadian wildfires continues to impact air quality.

According to AirNow.gov, Air Quality Index (AQI) scores in the 151-200 range (Red) indicate that some members of the general public may experience health effects and members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects. Sensitive groups include children, people suffering from asthma, heart disease or other lung diseases, and the elderly.

Citizens are encouraged to check the AirNow website to see real time air quality data in their area and surrounding states. Officials advise view the interactive map for your area using the “contours” setting for Ozone and Particulate Matter (PM).

Capito Announces Over \$3.5 Million for Harrison County Head Start

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-W. Va.), Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, today announced \$11,123,344 in federal funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to support Head Start Projects across the state and fetal medical research at West Virginia University (WVU).

“I’m pleased to see HHS delivering support to Head Start Programs in our state and to WVU so they can continue pioneering medical research. Head Start provides children the tools that can help them to be successful in the classroom and beyond, and WVU continues to prove their leadership in medical research fields. As the top Republican on the Labor-HHS

Appropriations Subcommittee, I will continue advocating for funding like this that helps put West Virginians on a pathway to success and strengthens our research capabilities,” Ranking Member Capito said.

Individual awards listed below:

\$3,516,629 — Head Start funding for Central West Virginia Community Action Association, Inc. (Clarksburg, W.Va.)

\$5,735,330 — Head Start funding for Eastern Panhandle Instructional Cooperative (Martinsburg, W.Va.)

\$1,529,385 — Head Start funding for Northern Panhandle Head Start, Inc. (Wheeling, W.Va.)

\$342,000 — Research funding to study “Influence of Particulate Matter on Fetal Mitochondrial Programming” at WVU (Morgantown, W.Va.)

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OBITUARIES



Richard (Dick) Wells Bray

Richard (Dick) Wells Bray, 78, of Shinnston, passed away peacefully on Monday, June 26, 2023 at United Hospital Center with all of his family by his side.

He was born March 7, 1945, in Owings, a son of the late Paul Bray and Lola Mae Wells Bray.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Sandra Bray Ledbetter, and his step-dad Clyde Weaver.

Dick is survived by his loving wife and soulmate of 58 years, Carol Sue Price Bray of Shinnston; two daughters Sandy Bray Martin of Morgantown, and Debbie Bray Crabtree and husband Heath of Boyce, Virginia; grandchildren Shalynn and Shyann Sears, Savannah, Mason and Olivia Crabtree; great-granddaughter Blakely Goulette; brother Merrill and wife Priscilla Bray; half-brothers Eddie, John, and Charlie Weaver; brother-in-law Zerl Price, and several nieces and nephews.

He was a Vietnam veteran serving in the US Navy for four years. After his tour of duty, he worked at Owens-Illinois, and the rest of his time after that was a coal miner having worked at Williams Mine, Robinson Run, and the rest of the time at Murray Energy.

He was a member of the Shinnston American Legion and Shinnston Moose. His favorite past times were golfing at Bel Meadow Golf Course and watching the Pittsburgh Steelers.

His life was centered around his loving family, and especially his grandchildren and great-granddaughter. He loved them all very much. They were the sunshine of his life.

Viewing will be held on Friday, June 30, 2023 at Harmer Funeral Home in Shinnston, from 2:00PM-7:00PM, followed by a brief conclusion given by Pastor Chris

Shingleton.



Debra Marie Price

Debra Marie Price, 63, of Shinnston, lost a 13-year battle with cancer on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at United Hospital Center. She was born April 16, 1960, in Fairmont, a daughter of the late Emmalou Mayle.

Debra is survived by her loving husband, Richard Allen “Rick” Price, whom she married on May 28, 1983. She is also survived by her son, Brandon Price and his wife Kylie of Fairmont; her granddaughter who is due in November, Emma June Price; her sister, Bonnie Hutton and husband Eric of Mineral Wells; her niece, Erica Hutton Hillyard and cousin, “Gracie” of Mineral Wells; her uncle, Jim Mayle and wife Libby of Newton Falls, OH; her aunt, Cathy Mayle of Louisville, OH; as well as several cousins.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Michael Maley; her uncle, Roger Mayle; and her maternal grandparents, Wilburn and Mabel Mayle.

Debra was employed at United Central (formerly Erwin Supply) in Shinnston. She also was the owner and operator of W.Va. Diabetic Supplies in Shinnston. Debra enjoyed playing the piano and cooking. She loved cats and will always be remembered as a loving wife and mother.

Friends will be received at Perine Funeral Home, 1348 S. Pike St. Shinnston, on Thursday from 4-8pm. A funeral service will be held at the funeral home on Friday, June 30, 2023 at 11:00am with Pastor Mike Stottlemeyer officiating. Interment will follow at the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Enterprise. Online memories and condolences can be shared with the family at www.perinefunerals.com

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



Mary Katherine Swiger

Mary Katherine Swiger, 89, of Wallace, went to be with the Lord on June 29, 2023 after a brief illness. Born August 18, 1933, to the late Dave Coleman Hooper and Caroline Morgan Hooper. She is preceded in death by her husband of over 60 years, Arnold E. Swiger; four brothers, Arthur, Howard, Richard, and James Hooper; one sister, Virginia Riley Starkey; one grandchild; and two great-grandchildren.

She is survived by five children and their spouses, Danny Swiger and Joey Sellaro, Keith and Mary Swiger, Kimberly and Jim Blake, DeAnna and Jeff Swiger, and Michael and Giget Swiger; nine grandchildren, Kip and Natasha Swiger, Jessie Swiger, Katherine Swiger, Matthew and Jessica Swiger, Tessa and Nate Yost, Chad Swiger, Celeste Swiger, Brandon Swiger, and Zane Swiger, as well as seventeen great-grandchildren.

Active in her community throughout her life, Mary regularly attended the Ten Mile Baptist Church and was a member of the Wallace First Baptist Church. She was a member of the Wallace Rebekah Lodge and volunteered for many civic organizations, including the Wallace Volunteer Fire Department and the Lord’s Pantry. Mary enjoyed spoiling her grandchildren, her cats, and her protector for the last eight years, her Border Collie Zach. No child ever left Mary’s house without feeling loved, and no adult left without being offered a meal.

Friends will be received at Harmer Funeral Home on Saturday, July 1, 2023 from 10:00AM-2:00PM. A funeral service will directly follow with Pastor Buzzy Holbert officiating. Interment will follow at Lions Club Cemetery, Wallace.

Out of the Past

Memorable photographs from around Harrison County



Unidentified men pose with a wagon load of nitro-glycerine bound for the oil fields of Harrison County. Extractive industries have historically been a mainstay of the Harrison County regional economy. Photo courtesy of West Virginia University

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July Concert & Speaker Series at Seneca Shadows Campground Amphitheater in Pendleton County

Seneca Rocks, W.Va., June 27, 2023 – Join us at Monongahela National Forest’s Seneca Shadows Campground Amphitheater 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. each Saturday evening in July for the Summer Concert and Speaker Series. Kick back to the sounds of local musicians or sit up and take note as subject matter experts share their knowledge. You do not need to be a guest of the Seneca Shadows campground to attend. All programs are sponsored by the Eastern National Forests Interpretive Association in cooperation with American Land & Leisure. In the event of inclement weather, programs will be moved to the Seneca Rocks Discovery Center Auditorium. All programs are subject to change or cancellation at any time.

July 1: Music with Chris Haddox. Chris performs songs rooted in traditional music on the guitar, banjo, and fiddle. All songs are honest expressions of how he experiences and sees the world.

July 8: Mission to Mars. In partnership with Greenbank Observatory, Experience Learning implements the Mission2Mars learning programs to local schools and community events alike. Join Learning Coordinator Becca Myers as she covers NASA’s Artemis Mission, life on the moon, and enjoy hands-on activities that

will activate thoughts astronauts, engineers, and scientists experience during this exciting new mission that is happening in our lifetime!

July 15: Music with EMay. A soulful singer, exceptional fingerpicking guitarist and eclectic songwriter, EMay performs in the style of female singer-songwriters such as Alanis Morissette, Grace Potter, Joni Mitchell and Janis Joplin.

July 22: Music with Jesse Milnes. Jesse grew up in the world of West Virginia old-time music, learning from masters like Melvin Wine and Ernie Carpenter as well as his father, Gerry Milnes. Jesse is an accomplished and soulful, songwriter, fiddle player and guitarist.

July 29: Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia. Bird trainer and educator Cheyenne Carter will discuss bird species and the importance of those birds in a healthy ecosystem. Get up close and personal with live birds of prey during this must-see program.

Contact the Seneca Rocks Discovery Center at (304) 567-2827 for more information about these programs. The center is open Thursday through Monday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., closed Tuesday and Wednesday. The Historic Sites Homestead is open Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Gov. Justice: West Virginia shatters all-time financial records with close of fiscal year

CHARLESTON, WV – Gov. Jim Justice announced today that West Virginia’s cumulative revenue collections for Fiscal Year 2023 will come in at \$1.8 billion over estimate – shattering the all-time record for biggest single-year revenue surplus in state history for the second straight year in a row. “This is an unbelievable accomplishment, and is undeniable proof that the days of West Virginia being known as poor, backward, and behind-the-times are over once and for all,” Gov. Justice said. “West Virginia is growing, our people are employed and raising their families here, companies from all over the world are investing in us, and we’ve changed the image of our state to the outside world in a major way. “All West Virginians should take a lot of pride

in this historic announcement, because, at the end of the day, this money belongs to them. The records we’ve shattered with the close of this fiscal year are all-time historic and will be written into the history books forevermore.

“I’m going to work with the Legislature to take what’s left unappropriated and continue to make wise investments in what we know will bring us more goodness, like infrastructure, federal matches, and tourism, because the more we tell the world about West Virginia, the more people will want to live, work, and raise their families here.”

At the close of the fiscal year today, June 30, 2023, at midnight, total collections for the historic revenue year will come in at approximately \$6.5 billion – 10% ahead of prior year adjusted collections – marking the first time in

State history that final collections for a single year have exceeded \$6 billion.

Severance Tax collections set a record of nearly \$950 million, a 24% increase from the prior year, with taxes from natural gas accounting for roughly 60% of total collections.

Corporation Net Income Tax collections grew at 14% and totaled \$420 million, eclipsing a record set 15 years ago in 2008.

Personal Income Tax collections set a new record of \$2.66 billion, despite a rate reduction of 21.25% that kicked in after the West Virginia Legislature passed and Gov. Justice signed HB 2526, the largest tax cut in State history.

Consumer Sales Tax reached an all-time record of \$1.75 billion, growing by about 5.7% from last year, and Interest Income Tax Collections reached an all-time record of more than \$132.4 million.

Summary of all-time records broken in FY 2023:

General Revenue: \$6.5 billion

Severance: Approximately \$950 million

Corporate Net: Approximately \$420 million

Personal Income Tax: \$2.66 billion

Consumer Sales Tax: \$1.75 billion

Interest Income: \$132.4 million

The Fiscal Year 2024 budget, passed by the West Virginia Legislature and signed by Gov. Justice earlier this year appropriated \$1,165,478,000 of the FY23 surplus. A full list of appropriations is available below.

By law, a percentage of the year-end surplus must be transferred to the State’s Rainy Day Fund, this year that amount is approximately \$231 million. This leaves approximately \$454 million unappropriated.

June 2023 total collections are expected to come in at approximately \$580 million.

Capito Announces Over \$2.1 Million in Congressionally Directed Spending for West Virginia Ag Business Projects

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, today announced \$2,155,126.30 from the Small Business Administration (SBA) for three West Virginia agricultural business development projects. This funding, which was secured through Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) requests made by Senator Capito for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, will be used to support West Virginia agriculture business development resources, increase food safety and monitoring, and improve the dairy industry across the state.

In total, Senator Capito secured \$250,950,000 in direct spending measures for initiatives and projects across West Virginia through the FY 2023 appropriations omnibus package.

“I’m pleased to have secured this funding to help West Virginia’s agricultural industry and support our hardworking farmers. I have seen first-hand how businesses in West Virginia are revolutionizing the agriculture sector, and creating innovative ways to make West Virginia products more accessible.

I’m looking forward to seeing how these funds will help expand our agricultural industry, grow our dairy industry, and increase our means of monitoring food safety,” Senator Capito said.

Individual awards listed below:
\$1,106,700 for West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) Dairy Workforce Development: This funding aims to increase the West Virginia dairy industry’s financial stability, opportunity to be self-sustaining, and public education.

\$818,362.30 for the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) Agribusiness Development Project: This project would provide agribusiness development through training, technical assistance, and access to capital for new and expanding agribusinesses.

\$230,064 for West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) Process Authority: This funding aims to reestablish an entity for the validation of thermal process for makers of acidified and low-acid canned foods in the state of West Virginia, known as process authority.

National Architectural Accrediting Board approves Initial Accreditation for Fairmont State’s Master of Architecture program

On Friday, May 19, the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) announced they approved the Initial Accreditation of Fairmont State University’s Master of Architecture program. The NAAB is the sole accrediting body for architecture programs in the United States and it ensures that graduates are appropriately prepared to enter the profession.

“Gaining NAAB accreditation is a game-changer for everyone involved with our Master of Architecture program,” said Fairmont State University Interim President Dr. Diana Phillips. “This important designation attests to the caliber of the faculty and instruction provided to our students. It provides new career opportunities for our students as the only accredited architecture program in West Virginia. I am incredibly proud of the steadfast commitment of all those involved in this arduous process.”

This milestone gives West Virginia its first and only professional degree program in Architecture which now makes it possible for those wishing to become an architect to stay in West Virginia for their entire architecture education.

“The initial accreditation through the NAAB for our Master of Architecture program not only provides a hallmark of distinction for our program, but it also establishes expectations for program quality, mission and core values, and sets forth a continuous improvement mindset for quality assurance that positively impacts the effectiveness of teaching, students’ learning, and program administration,” said Fairmont State Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Tim Oxley. “The program faculty put forth a mammoth effort to receive this initial accreditation and are much appreciated for the time invested toward this end.”

NAAB accreditation is a rigorous, multi-year, three-step process. A program must pass an initial candidacy, a continuing candidacy, and finally, an initial accreditation step to be approved. Each of these steps requires the program faculty to produce and submit an Architecture Program Report to demonstrate that the program, curriculum, and student work meet the NAAB conditions and procedures for accreditation. Each of these reports, as well as observations from accompanying site visits, undergo a peer review process by a team of educators, practitioners, students, and other regulators. Their Visiting

Team Report must then be examined and approved by the NAAB Board of Directors. The Initial Accreditation is for a term of three years. After three years and yet another report, site visit and approval, programs are usually granted an eight-year term of accreditation. All of this is to help ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the public regarding the built environment.

“Architecture, like Law and Medicine, is a highly regarded professional degree, so this is a very prestigious achievement for Fairmont State University, especially given its smaller size,” said Director of Fairmont State’s Architecture Graduate Program Dr. Bob Kelly. “It’s also a great day for our students, who have taken a chance on us hoping that they would receive an accredited degree. The accreditation is backdated to January 1, 2022, the year of our Initial Accreditation site visit. Students who graduated after that date will receive an accredited degree. The degrees of those who graduated up to two years before that will also qualify for certification by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, which can allow them to seek registration in other states, and eventually in West Virginia.”

Department of Architecture Chair, Joel Dugan, describes how the Architecture program at Fairmont State has positively impacted its alumni and their surrounding communities, and how NAAB’S accreditation will ultimately improve these things.

“The Architecture program at Fairmont State University is something to marvel at. It’s incredible how much our architecture program impacts the region and beyond. The program’s influence can be seen in the work of alumni who have gone on to play essential roles in local city planning as well as in the operation of prestigious architecture firms across the nation,” said Dugan. “Now that the program has received accreditation for its Master of Architecture degree from the NAAB, it’s exciting to think about how much more they can achieve. This respected and elite accreditation uniquely positions our program as a flagship architecture program in our state and one of the only fully accredited visual art pathways in a sought-after professional field.”

Admission to the Master of Architecture degree program requires the completion of a Bachelor of Science in Architecture degree or its equivalent.



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Five West Virginia Projects Among Those Receiving National AARP Community Challenge Grant Awards

CHARLESTON – AARP West Virginia has announced five state winners for the AARP Community Challenge, aiming to create change and improve quality of life at the community-level. Nationally, AARP Community Challenge grants totaling \$3.6 million have been awarded to 310 organizations to support projects that make communities livable for people of all ages. Each project was partially or fully funded through the AARP Community Challenge grant and is set to be completed by November 30, 2023.

West Virginia community projects receiving 2023 AARP Community Challenge Grant Awards include:

Fayette County
National Coal Heritage Area Authority | New River Gorge Hiking Guide & Trail Enhancements

Grant funds will be used to develop a “Hike Into History” guide to provide an interpretive elements to visitors hiking in and around the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve, design, and install wayside exhibits and benches along selected trails.

Kanawha County
Heart+Hand Outreach Ministries | South Charleston Community Garden Project

Grant funds will be used to develop a community garden in the City of South Charleston, utilizing volunteers to plant, tend to and harvest fresh fruit and vegetables for food pantry boxes that are delivered monthly to low-income senior residents in the Kanawha Valley region.

Marion County
Marion County Senior Center | Mannington Outdoor Fitness Enhancements

Grant funds will be used to purchase and install outdoor fitness equipment along the Joel McCann Memorial Trail at two locations – at Mannington Senior Center and near City Hall.

Ohio County
Wheeling Heritage | Market Plaza Pocket Park

Grant funds will be used to develop a downtown public green space at Wheeling’s Market Plaza, a project of Volunteer Wheeling and the Wheeling Heritage Board. Improvements will include installation of public art, mosaic tile, lighting, planters, seating, and tables.

Tucker County
National Youth Science Academy | Davis Community Garden Project

Grant funds will be used to develop a community garden on the Davis campus of the National Youth

Science Academy with community partners to grow produce for local families and supply the local food bank, while also utilizing the community garden as a living laboratory and classroom for STEAM educational programming for learners of all ages focused on local food security, preparation, preservation and health living.

Grantees will implement quick-action projects that help communities become more livable in the long-term by improving public places; transportation; housing; digital connections, diversity, equity, and inclusion; civic engagement; and more, with an emphasis on the needs of adults age 50 and over.

“AARP West Virginia is committed to working with local leaders to improve the quality of life in our communities through tangible changes,” shared AARP West Virginia State Director Gaylene Miller. “We are proud to collaborate with this year’s grantees as they make immediate improvements in their communities to jump long-term change, especially for 50-plus West Virginians and their families.”

This year, the AARP Community Challenge accepted applications across three different grant opportunities, including existing flagship grants in addition to new capacity-building microgrants for improving walkability and community gardens. New demonstration grants will focus on improving transportation systems, with funding support provided by Toyota Motor North America, and housing choice design competitions.

AARP is also bolstering its investment in rural communities, mobility innovation, transportation options, and health and food access.

“These grants continue to lead to long-term, positive changes in communities across the country,” said Nancy LeaMond, AARP Executive Vice President and Chief Advocacy & Engagement Officer. “This year, we are proud to support the largest number of projects in the program’s seven-year history, which will improve residents’ quality of life through tangible changes so everyone can thrive as they age.”

The Community Challenge grant program is part of AARP’s nationwide Livable Communities initiative, which supports the efforts of cities, towns, neighborhoods, and rural areas to become great places to live for people of all ages. Since 2017, AARP West Virginia has awarded 21 grants totaling nearly \$200,000 through the program to nonprofit organizations and government entities across the state.

Health officer, WVDEP caution West Virginians about wildfire smoke

CHARLESTON, W.VA. — Dr. Steven Eshenaur, Kanawha-Charleston Health Officer, cautions that the smoky haze from Canadian wildfires is a health threat to those with breathing challenges.

Air Quality Index scores in some parts of West Virginia are still in the 151-200 range. An AQI of 0-50 is normal. This means that sensitive groups – children, the elderly, people with heart disease, asthma, COPD, emphysema, lung cancer, or other sensitivities – are at risk. To monitor air quality in your area, visit www.airnow.gov.

The haze was expected to begin improving as rain is predicted for the weekend, according to the National Weather Service in Charleston.

Following overnight and morning rain, the AQI for the Kanawha Valley region was in the good range on Friday morning; however, parts of the Northern Panhandle remained over 150.

Until the air in your area clears, Eshenaur discouraged outside activities.

“Smoke inhalation isn’t good for anyone, so avoid strenuous exercise in this kind of air quality situation. Consider staying inside and setting your AC on recirculation mode until the air clears. If you must go out, take it easy and make it quick!” “If you have trouble breathing for

any reason, you should stay indoors until the haze dissipates,” Eshenaur advised. “If you absolutely must go outside, you should wear an N-95 mask to block the fine particulate matter in the smoke from your airways.”

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection’s (WVDEP) Division of Air Quality and the state Department of Health and Human Resources’ (DHHR) Bureau for Public Health (BPH) said the statewide Air Quality Advisory for fine particulate matter issued Wednesday remains in effect as smoke from Canadian wildfires continues to impact air quality.

According to AirNow.gov, Air Quality Index (AQI) scores in the 151-200 range (Red) indicate that some members of the general public may experience health effects and members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects. Sensitive groups include children, people suffering from asthma, heart disease or other lung diseases, and the elderly.

Citizens are encouraged to check the AirNow website to see real time air quality data in their area and surrounding states. Officials advise view the interactive map for your area using the “contours” setting for Ozone and Particulate Matter (PM).

NOAA Launches New Student Opportunities Database

NOAA Education has launched a new student opportunities database that makes it easier than ever to search NOAA opportunities for students and recent graduates.

A few NOAA student opportunities recipients in action. The database includes opportunities appropriate for kindergarten through graduate students and recent graduates.

The new student opportunities database is a searchable database of more than 60 scholarships, fellowships, internships, youth programs, and more across NOAA and our partners. The database includes opportunities appropriate for kindergarten through graduate students and recent graduates.

Users can filter by grade level,

type of opportunity, citizenship requirement, application period, and in-person and virtual opportunities.

“We hope this database makes it easier for students and young professionals to find out about the exciting opportunities NOAA has to offer. These opportunities can open the door to a future career in the NOAA workforce,” said Louisa Koch, Director of Education.

Check out the student opportunities database to find opportunities that work for you! Don’t miss our tips for using the database, which can be found above the search box. If you have feedback or suggestions as you use the database, please let us know using the form linked at the top of the database web page.

Manchin Announces \$4.7 Million for Career Development in Appalachia

Charleston, WV – Today, U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced \$4,720,580 from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to the Education Alliance for the Career Acceleration, Readiness, and Employment Experiences for ARC Region Students (CAREERS) project. This federal investment will support students’ career readiness by increasing work-based learning and mentoring experiences as well as support the region’s economy by filling job vacancies with qualified employees.

“Innovative programs like the CAREERS project are critical to opening doors for West Virginia students with job opportunities and future success,” said Senator Manchin. “This funding will help create career pathways to high-skill, high-wage jobs in both manufacturing and healthcare for high school students in West Virginia. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will continue advocating for resources to boost economic growth across Appalachia and ensure West Virginians have the resources and tools they need to thrive.”

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Attorney General Morrisey’s Mobile Office Sets July Stops for North Central West Virginia

CHARLESTON — Attorney General Patrick Morrisey announced a representative from his office will meet with north central West Virginia residents in July to discuss consumer-related issues and answer any potential questions.

“These public events are a great way for consumers to talk one-on-one with our consumer representatives,” Attorney General Morrisey said. “Residents can easily get questions answered, learn what is going on in their area and how to keep personal information safe and secure.”

Pam Krushansky, a consumer outreach and compliance specialist with the office, will host the events as scheduled below:

July 5: 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – Senior Center, 500 West Main St., Clarksburg

July 6: 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – Senior Center, 404 Main St., Fairview

July 10: 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – County Commission Meeting Room, 68 Armstrong St., Keyser

July 12: 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. – County Commission Meeting Room, 4 Randolph Ave., Elkins

July 13: 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. – Senior Center, 217 Senior Lane, Parsons

July 13: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – Hill Top Senior Center, RR 32, Thomas

July 17: 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - County Commission Meeting Room, 106 West Main St., Kingwood

July 18: 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – Senior Center, 171 West Second St., Weston

July 19: 11 a.m. to noon – Senior Center, 28 North Kanawha St., Buckhannon

July 20: 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – Blacksville Senior Center, 5977 Mason Dixon Hwy., Blacksville

July 31: 11 a.m. to noon – Senior Center, 47 Church St., Philippi

For information on additional requirements specific to any location, attendees are encouraged to contact Pam Krushansky at 304-741-5834. In case of inclement weather, please call ahead.

Manchin Announces \$798K to Support Two West Virginia Food Banks

Charleston, WV – Today, U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced \$798,894 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) for the West Virginia Department of Agriculture. The funding is made possible through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and will support the operations of the Facing Hunger Food Bank in Huntington and the Mountaineer Food Bank in Gassaway.

“To ensure healthier and more prosperous communities, every West Virginian should have access to quality, affordable food. Addressing food insecurity continues to be one of my top priorities, and I am pleased USDA is assisting the West Virginia Department of Agriculture in supporting the efforts of the Facing Hunger Food Bank and the Mountaineer Food Bank. The funding announced today will help these organizations provide emergency assistance for West Virginians in need, as well as strengthen food distribution infrastructure in underserved areas,” said Senator Manchin. “As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will continue advocating for resources to combat food insecurity throughout the Mountain State.”

TEFAP provides funds to state agencies to address gaps in emergency food system coverage and strengthen food distribution infrastructure in underserved areas. With the resources announced today, Facing Hunger Food Bank will work to establish and support new partner agencies in remote and rural areas, in addition to increasing traditional TEFAP distributions, mobile pantry distributions and just-in-time deliveries in those areas. Mountaineer Food Bank’s project will focus on expanding local agency capacity through a competitive sub grant process, as well as identify underserved areas and prioritize projects in those areas.

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Let the Healing Begin: Attorney General Morrisey Outlines Next Steps in Opioid Settlement Funds Distribution

CHARLESTON — West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey during a news conference Monday outlined the next steps in the distribution of opioid settlements to the state’s counties and cities who signed onto the West Virginia First Memorandum of Understanding.

Shortly after the filing of the West Virginia First Foundation articles of incorporation, the Attorney General’s Office mailed letters to all the counties and cities that have signed onto the West Virginia First Memorandum of Understanding, informing elected officials about the next steps following the creation of the foundation, as well as information about the settlement funds.

“This is a major step toward healing the battered communities in this state caused by the opioid epidemic,” Attorney General Morrisey said. “Our mission to heal the wounds of the past is on solid ground as the framework desperately needed to facilitate the management of the state’s and political subdivisions’ is starting to take shape.”

Included in the letters were several pages of answers to frequently asked questions about the settlements, the MOU, how funds can be used and how the foundation will operate.

The state legislature formally recognized the West Virginia First Foundation through the legislative process (Senate Bill 674), with zero nays. Gov. Jim Justice signed the bill into law on March 22, 2023.

The articles of incorporation for the foundation were filed with the West Virginia Secretary of State on May 18, 2023. The initial Board of Directors must be elected within 60 days of the chartering of the foundation, July 17, 2023—the board will have 11 members, five of whom will

be appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by the state Senate. To represent the interests of local governments, the MOU establishes six regions, and one member will be chosen from each of those regions.

The president of the County Commission of the most populous county—per the 2020 census—must convene a meeting of all local governments in the region to elect a director:

Region 1: Ohio County

Region 2: Berkeley County (meeting set for July 12, 1 p.m.)

Region 3: Wood County

Region 4: Monongalia County (meeting set for July 13 at the Monongalia County Center, 10 a.m.)

Region 5: Kanawha County (meeting set for July 12)

Region 6: Raleigh County (meeting set for July 5 at the Raleigh County Courthouse, 1 p.m.)

Settlement funds must be put to use to abate the opioid epidemic. The Attorney General and counsel for West Virginia cities and counties worked closely to develop and adopt the MOU which provides a mechanism to distribute opioid settlement funds and provides guidelines on how the funds may be used.

All opioid funds must be used in a manner consistent with the MOU’s definition of an “Approved Purpose,” which includes employing evidence-based treatment strategies for substance use disorders or addiction, substance use prevention strategies, law enforcement efforts to curtail drug distribution, supporting addiction recovery programs, or decreasing the oversupply of licit and illicit opioids.

As the central organization dedicated to addressing the opioid crisis throughout the

state, the foundation will receive 72.5% of each settlement or judgment, 24.5% of settlement and judgment dollars will be allocated to local governments and 3% will be held in escrow by the state.

This allocation maximizes the amount of money that will be available for an opioid abatement fund and will distribute money throughout the state. This distribution will allow the money to help people and fund projects most in need.

The Attorney General also announced the selection of DR Waterstone Human Capital, an Arlington, Va.-based executive search firm, to find an executive director for the West Virginia First Foundation—a private, nonstock, nonprofit entity created to distribute opioid abatement funds throughout the state.

“I am looking forward to working with them to identify the best possible candidate to serve as the first executive director of the West Virginia First Foundation,” the Attorney General said. “We are hopeful to have identified such a candidate in approximately 30 to 60 days.”

The executive director will run the day-to-day operations of the foundation.

“So many precious lives have been lost and shattered by the opioid epidemic,” Attorney General Morrisey said. “Indeed this is the time to begin the healing, but by no means will we let our guard down.”

“We will continue to fight for the families affected by this epidemic and we will serve as the voices of the sons and daughters they have lost,” the Attorney General continued. “We must prevent another generation from falling prey to senseless death and the West Virginia First Foundation will be a major step forward on the path to recovery.”

Manchin, Lummis Reintroduce Bipartisan Congressional Awards Act

Charleston, WV – U.S. Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) reintroduced the bipartisan Congressional Awards Act, which would reauthorize the Congressional Award Program. The program is an incredibly high honor for citizens aged 14 to 23 and is authorized by Congress every five years. The process encourages young Americans to pursue goals focused on volunteerism, character development, and fitness.

“Since its founding, the Congressional Award has sought to encourage and celebrate thousands of young Americans to work hard to better themselves and give back to their communities,” said Senator Manchin. “I am thrilled to work with Senator Lummis to introduce this bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the Congressional Awards Act and ensure we can continue to inspire generations of young people to public service. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this common-sense legislation.”

“Started by Wyoming Senator Malcolm Wallop in 1979, and championed for decades by my friend Senator Mike Enzi and his wife Diana, Congressional Awards holds a very special place in my heart and so many others’ across the Cowboy State,” said Senator Lummis. “Congressional Awards has inspired countless young Americans, including hundreds in

Wyoming, to better their community and themselves. Watching the next generation of leaders form through this program has given me great assurance that Wyoming and our country will be in good hands.”

Senators Manchin and Lummis were joined by Senators John Barrasso (R-WY), John Hickenlooper (D-CO) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA).

About the Congressional Award Program:

As the United States Congress’ only nonprofit and highest honor for civilian youth, the Congressional Award Program was started by Wyoming’s late Senator Malcolm Wallop in 1979.

To achieve a Bronze, Silver or Gold Congressional Award Certificate or Medal, each participant sets and achieves challenging goals in four program areas: voluntary public service, personal development, physical fitness and expedition/exploration.

Medals are presented by members of the House and Senate throughout the year, with the Gold Medal Ceremony/Summit taking place each June at a Ceremony in the U.S. Capitol.

The Congressional Award is a public/private partnership.

Although created by Congress, the Congressional Award Program is funded entirely through private-sector donations.

Congress provides in-kind support, including office space, the medals from the U.S. Mint and the audit oversight by the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

This program remains one of the most cost-effective programs available that takes no federal tax dollars.

To date, more than 8.1 million hours of service have been contributed to communities across the country as a part of the Congressional Award Program.

There are currently more than 50,000 youth enrolled in the program throughout the country, with participants residing in every congressional district.

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