



The *SHINNSTON* News & Journal *HARRISON COUNTY*

A Publication of Mountain Media, LLC

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Focusing on local news throughout Harrison County.*



July 13, 2023 - July 19, 2023

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Volume 32 Edition 28 (USPS 494-420) • (304) 647-5724 • newsandjournal@yahoo.com • \$1

Girls Nights Out Help to Raise Funds For a Worthy Cause



Cutline for photo: Megan Oliverio poses in front of her table where she sold sweet treats to raise money for the Humane Society. By the end of the first hour, she'd already sold out of her sugar cookies.

By Kara Linaburg

From 5-8 PM, July 6, Amanda Sayers of Shinnston hosted a Girls Night Out event, one of several in the GNO series being held over the summer months at her business, Home Style on 604 Pike Street. This Thursday's event was special to her and her friend helping co-host the event, Megan Oliverio of Sweet Events, because a portion of the profits made that night were going to the Harrison County Humane Society. This GNO was a fundraising event for the

cause, and the Humane Society was also in attendance, with several adoptable kittens under ten months and a dog. The animals were a big hit among the guests both young and old. Several children enjoyed feeding the dog treats and cuddling the kittens. Despite the rain, Sayers said on a live video on facebook that "it hasn't held anyone away," and as the first hour of the event ticked by, guests, sometimes in groups, began to trickle into Home Style. Guests had the option to enter the vari-

ous raffles, including Oliverio's strawberry cake and a Kate Spade purse, to buy shaved ice from the food truck outside, donate food for the animals or kitty litter to the Humane Society, and browse and purchase from several vendors who had merchandise on display. Pokurio Creations from Bridgeport was one of the vendors in attendance and had nerdy stickers, keychains, bookmarks, and items made out of resin for sale. The owner said the stickers and bookmarks she'd drawn and designed herself, and

had a variety of fandoms represented for the nerdy heart, including Lord Of The Rings, Pokemon, and Harry Potter.

Oliverio said that she has participated with Sayers on past GNO fundraising events for the Humane Society. She had baked a variety of cookies and brownies to sell that night at her table, with a part of proceeds going to the society. Less than an hour into the event, she had already sold out of her sugar cookies and had several dozen entries for her raffle.

Sayers said that while none of the animals brought to GNO were adopted, "they had lots of interest" from attendees.

For those who were unable to attend the event, you can still donate in the following ways...

- Paypal to director@hshcwv.org
- Venmo to HSHCWV
- Mail a check to PO Box 4397 Clarksburg, WV 26302
- Or call in to pay by phone 304-592-1600.

Northern Lights Could Be Visible From West Virginia July 13



Northern lights view from Calhoun County Park in June 2015. The area may get another rare view of the event tonight, weather permitting. Photo taken by Michael Charnick and published on NASA website.

By Stephen Smoot

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks are forecasting a space weather event that could light up the skies across Canada and much of the United States.

The Geophysical Institute predicts that "Weather permitting, highly active auroral displays will be visible overhead from Inuvik, Yellowknife, Rankin and Iqaluit to Vancouver, Helena, Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Bay City, Toronto, Montpelier, and Charlottetown, and visible low on the horizon from Salem, Boise, Cheyenne, Lincoln, Indianapolis and Annapolis," the July 13 forecast reads, citing cities in both Canada and the U.S."

It listed 17 states in which the northern lights, or aurora borealis, can clearly be seen. Though not on the list, experts advise that they could be visible over West Virginia, but very low along the horizon. Best viewing times will range from 10 PM to 2 AM.

"Space weather" from the Sun creates the greenish glow of the northern lights. According to the Geophysical Institute, "the light is caused

See "Northern Lights" on Pg 6

Board of Education Focuses on Facility Upgrades and Improvements

By Stephen Smoot

As students continue to enjoy a well-earned summer break from books and homework, the Harrison County Board of Education discussed physical plant improvements that will improve the quality of the school experience for thousands in the county.

The meeting opened with a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, then jumped into the Superintendent's report. Dora Stutler, Harrison County Schools Superintendent, said "I was just sharing some information that we received from the state department." She related that the audit of the special education department gave the result that "we did meet standards."

She added that the state had approved the county budget and that the schools had to upgrade to receive two modules focusing on dyslexia education.

Next came the updates on facilities. Robert C. Byrd High School received a

great deal of attention, including athletic facilities, the food lab, academic spaces, the cafeteria, and more. Simpson Elementary School was listed as the next to receive help, but after work at RCB is completed.

Work will then start at Liberty High School in the middle of the month.

All projects up for work in the near future have been bid out, excepting heating and air conditioning projects at Bridgeport Middle School and RCB. It was reported to the board that "we're in pretty good shape."

Looking ahead, the school system has several major projects that will get underway. South Harrison High School will receive a suite of secure entrance technology. "We're doing that in house," it was stated to the board. Three other schools, Mountaineer Elementary, Bridgeport Middle, and Bridgeport High School, will also have entrance security enhanced. Of the middle school, it was said

that "it's not hard to do." Bridgeport High School, however, is "complicated."

The United Technical Center greenhouse will benefit from major work, including pouring concrete and running drainage lines. "That's a big project," the board heard. Also, a state funded zone lighting project at Lincoln High School will be finished by Sept. 20.

Later in the session, the board heard plans to ensure that all county middle and high school gyms will have air conditioning installed by the end of the year, an action referred to as "long overdue." The lowest reasonable bid, as defined by state law, came in at approximately \$845,000.

Finally the board reviewed plans to repair and restore the baseball field and batting cage at RCB, which was damaged by flooding.

Discussion then turned to the possibility of obtaining grant funded electric school buses as part of a United States Envi-

ronmental Protection Agency clean school bus initiative. Green Power and Matheny Motors will assist with the application, but "the chance of us getting a grant is slim." It was added that "we're shooting to get one of the buses the state has already purchased," at a potential value of between \$250 and \$300,000. A memorandum of understanding with Highland Electric would also be required to have the proper infrastructure for electric buses installed.

In other business, the board approved meeting dates for the 2023-24 school year, but also stated that "it's not like they are not going to move around."

The board closed the public part of its meeting, going into executive session to discuss issues that included proprietary business information protected by state law.



BUILDING AMAZING CITIES
By JIM HUNT
author, speaker, consultant

Port St. Lucie, A Thriving and Amazing City Shining in the Sunshine State

I recently was contacted to do some leadership training in the city of Port St. Lucie, Florida. As I investigated it further, I discovered that Port St. Lucie is one of the fastest growing cities in the country and is nearing a quarter of a million residents. The amazing thing about the city is that in 1960, the population was only 300 people. It is difficult to handle that much growth for any city, but starting from basically nothing, it is remarkable.

The Mayor and City Council are doing a great job of putting the pieces together to build a truly Amazing city. They recently competed for the National Civic League's All American City designation and made it to the top twenty finalists. While they didn't finish in the top ten, the effort was one that put everyone on notice that Port St. Lucie is a city on the move.

I scheduled Zoom interviews with the Mayor and City Council prior to my visit to the city for a half day leadership session. The city is operated under the Council-Manager form of government and has a mayor, vice-mayor and three councilmembers. As might be expected, the mayor and council are extremely busy dealing with infrastructure needs, strategic planning and a thousand other issues that crop up in one of the top 100 cities in America. I was pleased that each member of council took the time for the interview and spent over an hour discussing the city and their backgrounds.

As the trip to Port St. Lucie neared, I read dozens

See "Hunt" on Pg 3



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OPINION

The Hidden Malefactor in the Student Loan Crisis Is Higher Education

By Stephen Smoot.

Recently, the Supreme Court ruled that President Biden overstepped his Constitutional bounds in offering student loan forgiveness...

One of the problems comes from the higher education community taking advantage of easily provided credit to students. After 1993, the federal government moved toward a public directed loan program...

Additionally, states such as West Virginia initiated scholarship programs that would pay the tuition of students who hit grade and standardized testing benchmarks.

Also, the environment created a situation in which colleges and universities often raised tuition drastically ahead of the rate of inflation.

According to BestColleges.com, in 1963 the average total cost of a year of college, including everything, came out to just over \$10,000. By 2020, that average cost sat at \$26,000.

Even worse, four year colleges between 2000 and 2020 "jumped from roughly \$13,000 a year to over \$21,000 annually. Four year public college yearly costs have gone up 64 percent over that time.

Also, tuition and fees at colleges and universities actually dropped between 1973 and 1980.

Academics are often fond of pointing out predatory private sector practices, but ignore the impact of how higher education conducts itself. Low income and other students are encouraged to go into debt...

As tuition jumped at many state schools, the West Virginia State Legislature generally, and wisely, limited increasing state funding while higher education continued to ask students to pay more.

What did colleges do with the windfall? In many cases, it did not go to the classroom. An Inside Higher Ed opinion piece revealed that professor salaries remained essentially flat in recent years...

"Faculty members are working harder than ever, but their pay "has barely budged in four years," an American Association of University Professors study revealed.

Colleges and universities seemed to spend and create programs as if their economic sector would always grow, but the reduced value of degrees has led to a drop in college attendance across the nation.

Beyond tuition, fees, and federal largess, state governments fund a large share of the nation's colleges and universities. Many states ought to consider a full audit and accounting of public funded higher education since the federalization of student loans...

Moreover, because higher education's predatory pricing contributed mightily to the student loan crisis, the field should take a place at the front of the line of both accountability and also contributing to the solution.

Super Crossword

NINE FLEET

- ACROSS 1 By means of 4 Seizes suddenly 9 Niche religion 13 Cousins of rumbas 19 Noah's craft 20 Zellweger of "Bee Movie" 21 Assistant of Frankenstein 22 Mount where the 19-Across landed 23 1987 comedy starring Nicolas Cage and Holly Hunter 26 Set fire to 27 Streisand musical film 28 Diner relative 29 Portion (out) 31 Part of "GWTW" 32 Mosque God 35 Black-and-yellow stinging insect 39 1993-2004 Chrysler sedan 43 Thing to fly in the wind 44 Pertaining to 45 Seat in a bar 46 Seat in a church 48 Things 52 Give new weapons to 54 Fluctuate wildly 56 Cole — (shoe brand) 59 Curious pet 60 Gift label 61 Pro- (some) (some) (some) (some) 64 Sport fish also known as "little tuna" 68 "Them's the breaks!" 71 Title word before "Inferno" or "Peak" 72 Came to rest 73 Atlanta daily since 2001 77 "Game of Thrones" actress 78 Charlotte — (Virgin Islands capital) 79 Turning out 80 Windy City airport 84 Adobe Acrobat file 85 "— believer!" 88 Almond-hued 89 Actress Olin 90 Plaintiff 92 Turns toward 94 Darling child 96 Perceive 99 limited a sheep 102 — -pedi 103 "It's My Turn" singer Diana 106 Small, floating cephalopod 109 Device used in cardiology 113 Actress Eve 114 Everything 115 Venus de — 116 9-to-5er's shout 118 Of a junction point 122 Gazed angrily 124 Principle of capitalism 129 Showing on TV 130 Work to make 131 Second-largest city of India 132 — out a win (just prevail) 133 Distant 134 California, par exemple 135 Stellar hunter 136 Abbr. that can precede nine key words in this puzzle 2 "Dies —" (Mass hymn) 3 Similar 4 Car radiator covering 5 Toon pal of Stimp 6 "The Ice Storm" director Lee 7 Plastic pail or shovel, say 8 Toxin fighters 9 Form a rough judgment of 10 Vanity 11 With 15-Down, filmflaming guy 12 "Lady and the —" 13 Rum cocktail 14 Evita's land 15 See 11-Down 16 Big name in faucet filters 17 Solemn vows 18 Expensive 24 Veteran 25 Casual statement of sympathy 30 Comic shriek 33 Fleur-de- (iris) 34 Kitchen pest 36 Fabric flaw 37 Bardic verse 38 Rainy 39 Juicy gossip 40 Draft-eligible 41 Coercing 42 Edifice topper 47 "Let's suppose ..." 49 Like the study of habitats 50 County in the Bay Area 51 "Undo" mark 53 Bryn —, Pennsylvania 55 Info that's not up to date 57 Pub spigot 58 Preposterous 62 Domestic household 63 Hit hard, as the brakes 65 Airline to Copenhagen 66 Apnea-treating doc 67 Abel's brother 69 Blacklisting org. of the 1940s-'50s 70 Petting zoo animals 73 2008-12 Mets pitcher 74 Roman 151 75 Suffix with planet 76 Petty quarrel 77 Eight: Prefix 81 Doled-out share 82 French inn 83 2021 is one 86 Diner list 87 Sale rack caveat 91 Pursued speedily 93 Key related to C major 95 Bungle 97 Lead-in to center or dermis 98 Do lunch 100 Gift for music 101 Clunker 104 Wee bit 105 Note above fa 107 Very strong 108 One of a bowler's targets 109 "Horrible" cartoon Viking 110 Actress Kemper 111 Fire alert 112 Credit card lure 117 — -Chinese 119 God, to Gigi 120 Inquires 121 Some blue jeans 123 Brazilian city, in brief 125 Hamelin pest 126 Slice of time 127 Yale attendee 128 Pi-sigma link

Crossword grid with numbers 1-136 indicating starting points for words.

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 13, 1861: The Battle of Corricks Ford took place in Tucker County. Confederate Gen. Robert S. Garnett was killed. He was the first Confederate general killed in the Civil War.

July 14, 1861: Union troops under Gen. Jacob Cox drove Confederate militia and cavalry out of town during the Battle of Barboursville. Union forces remained in control of Barboursville for the remainder of the war.

July 15, 1886: Congressman Cleveland Monroe "Cleve" Bailey was born on a farm in Pleasants County. He represented West Virginia's third congressional district for eight terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, 1945-47 and 1949-63.

July 15, 1988: Interstate 64 was completed when the final section between Sam Black Church and the West Virginia Turnpike was opened to traffic.

July 16, 1869: Philanthropist Michael Late Benedum was born in Bridgeport. He made a fortune in the oil and gas business but is best remembered for establishing the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

July 17, 1861: The Battle of Scary Creek took place in Putnam County. It was one of

the earliest battles of the war and one of the first Confederate victories.

July 17, 1914: Singer Eleanor Steber was born in Wheeling. She made her debut with the Metropolitan Opera in 1940.

July 17, 1922: The Cliftonville Mine Battle took place east of Wellsburg, Brooke County. The gun battle between striking miners and sheriff's forces left at least nine people dead.

July 18, 1776: Methodist bishop Francis Asbury first set foot in present West Virginia outside of Berkeley Springs. He worked extensively in what is now the Eastern Panhandle, preaching and lecturing almost every day, before continuing farther into western Virginia.

July 18, 1893: Spencer State Hospital opened. With its connected brick buildings, a quarter-mile in length, the hospital was sometimes referred to as the longest continuous brick building in America. It remained in operation until June 1989.

July 19, 1850: Pope Pius IX established the Diocese of Wheeling, naming Richard V. Whelan as its first bishop.

July 19, 1863: A Confederate raid led by Gen. John Morgan came to an end on Buffington Island, near Ravenswood. The Confederates were overtaken by federal troops, local militia and three U.S. Navy gunboats.

July 19, 1946: Author Stephen Coonts was born in Morgantown. After graduating from West Virginia University and serving in the navy during the Vietnam War, Coonts became a best-selling action and adventure novelist with the 1986 publication of Flight of the Intruder.

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

In addition to the main center in Clarksburg at 500 W. Main St., there are 12 senior center satellite groups in Harrison County that meet at various times and locations throughout the month.

For more information on senior center activities, services, or satellites, call 304.623.6795, or visit our Harrison County Senior Citizens facebook page or website at www.hcscwv.org

Harrison County Family Support Center invites caregivers and children to a cookout and playground fun. It will be held on July 15 at Bridgeport City Park from 11 AM to 1 PM.

"Hunt" From Pg 1.

of documents, news stories, and other information about the city. I also watched several videos of city council meetings and got the feel for how the city operated and the citizen participation at the meetings. I booked my flight and flew into the West Palm Beach International Airport on a Monday morning and got my rental car and headed north on I-95. It is only 48 miles from the airport, and I soon saw the exit and headed to the hotel.

Like most of Florida, the area around Port St. Lucie is flat and it is hard to get a grasp on the size of the city. I explained to almost everyone I met, that in West Virginia, you generally see the city from atop a mountain, and you can get an idea of where things are and how big the city is. My first impression of Port St. Lucie was that it was very clean and well kept. The mediums in the roadways are like going to a fine country club or resort. Palm

trees and colorful foliage lined as far as the eye could see.

Our training session took place at a city-owned golf course, called the Saints. It is undergoing some renovation and I had the opportunity to talk with the course manager and he excitedly told me about the improvements that they had planned, including a high-tech driving range that should attract thousands of golfers, looking to improve their swings. The training was held in the conference room at the clubhouse and the city staff had done an incredible job of setting the meeting room up and making it feel comfortable.

As the participants made their way into the room, I got to finally meet the mayor and council in person. The Zoom calls are nice but meeting in person is the best way to conduct training and it gives everyone a chance to express themselves.

We spent a little over three hours talking about how to lead in a growing city and it turned into an interesting session with a lot of dialogue and discussion. We closed with a nice lunch, and I got to talk to some of the staff that were in Attendance.

I called my wife after the training, and she asked me if I had seen the ocean yet. I told her that I had been so wrapped up in leading the training that I hadn't even thought about being close to the beaches of Florida. As we talked, I headed east to find the ocean. I arrived at Jensen Beach, quite by accident, but it was a beautiful area and I Facetimed with my wife, standing next to the crashing waves.

They say the secret to a happy life is to do what you love to do, and I have to say that my trip to Port St. Lucie fulfilled my goal of helping local officials build Amazing Cities!

Exploring Roots of Family Italian Heritage



GRAPEVINE

By Rosalyn Queen

This week I had the opportunity to do a little more research on our Italian roots. My brother was given a book entitled Maria Rosa Oliverio written by Jim Oliver. Pete Iaquina had the book and shared it with my brother. It contained a lot of the history of Pete's family on his fathers side.

Oliver is from South Jordan, Utah, and traveled to Clarksburg in search of his family history. He has researched the Oliverio side and has maintained that Maria Rosa Oliverio is the sister of his grandfather, Salvatore Oliverio and his brother Giovanni Oliverio.

Of course my interest was piqued from my research of my grandfather Giovanni Oliverio. I will state from the beginning that I still have found no trace of Maria Rosa Oliverio to my grandfather. But this still did provide a fascinating story of Maria and her connection to the Pete Iaquina, the Merrotto and Mancuso families.

Growing up in the close knit Italian families in East View, there were many visits to the Iaquina, Merrotto and Mancuso families. I remember well the names of those listed in this history and will still wonder if there is not some connection since my grandmother, Giovanna BRUNETT WAS married TO Giovanni Oliverio who was my dads father and was killed in the Monongha Mine explosion.

What a wonderful story this was of the reunion of Jim Oliver which was hosted by the Louis Iquinto family and his sister and brother.

This is a good example of why we should start to trace our roots before all the history is lost.

While reading this story I was contacted by my Cousin, Donna June who lives in New York. On Wednesday she was attending a breakfast at the local fire station. While there she struck up a conversation with a gentleman who said his family was from Clarksburg. She told him she was from Clarksburg and asked him what his name was. He said his name was Franagrossa. She inquired as to if I recognized this name. In all my research I have never ran across it. Perhaps the name had been changed to Grossa. He told Donna that although he was born in New York. He had 12 brothers and sisters. If anyone has any information about this family, please share it with me.

These are just two examples of family histories that need to be told. And of course, I am always on the look out for any information about my grandfathers family. If you think you might know anything please share it.

Take care, stay cool and until next week "Now you Have Heard It Through The Grapevine."

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The End of an Era For Robert C. Byrd Football



The Bottom Line

By Bill Nestor
Sports Editor

Saying good-bye is never easy, and it becomes more difficult when a relationship has lasted over two decades.

Robert C. Byrd has lost one of the best football coaches in North Central West Virginia. Josh Gorrell stepped down earlier this summer following an impressive run while guiding the Flying Eagle program.

Gorrell began his time at RCB as an assistant for Bryan Fisher. This dynamic duo was extremely successful as the Flying Eagles would earn six postseason appearances before Fisher exited the program. In 2010, Gorrell would take over the reins leading RCB to the playoffs in his second season.

The next level came calling in 2012 and Gorrell answered, taking an assistant position at Fairmont State. Gorrell proved to be a valuable commodity to the Falcon program, but in 2016 his heart led him back to Flying Eagle territory. It was *deja vu* all over again as Gorrell led his team to the post-season in his second season of his second stint at the Clarksburg based school.

In 2018, Gorrell would claim his first playoff win with a lopsided victory over Shady Spring. Even a second round setback to crosstown rival Bridgeport couldn't stop the momentum that was building. Gorrell had produced a stable of top shelf running backs led by Jeremiah King. King would eventually become the all-time leading rusher in Harrison County history.

En route to that fine accomplishment, King would spearhead the offensive attack and Gorrell would guide a talented offense on a deep playoff

run in 2020. RCB was just one win from playing for a state championship. The Flying Eagles appeared to be a team that had a date with destiny.

However, COVID crashed the party and the pandemic put an end to the season without a loss. There was no closure to the campaign, which left an empty feeling with Flying Eagle Nation.

Most programs would have gone into a downward spiral after being left such a bad hand. Those programs were not led by Josh Gorrell. He rallied the troops the very next year and went on a late season run. In the last two regular season matchups and the first postseason clash, RCB outscored their opponents 143-34. In the next round of the playoffs, the Flying Eagles scored a touchdown to take a late fourth quarter lead at Fairmont Senior. The win was in the bag until the Polar Bears returned the ensuing kickoff for a touchdown leaving seconds on the clock. It provided a heart-breaking loss that put an end to another exceptional season.

Fairmont Senior would go on to win the Class AA title that year.

Gorrell has always coached the program with a deep passion, showing his players how much they have meant to him every step of the way. It's hard to say good-bye to a coach that has given so much to this school, his players, the fans, and to me. Josh and I have been friends since the high school days (that's 40 years if you are counting) and I have been fortunate to have broadcasted RCB games for 26 years. He has always been gracious with his time, whether it was for interviews or to keep me updated on the pulse of the program. I've been fortunate to broadcast his games and to be able to call him a friend.

Gorrell left it all on the field when he played and when he coached. Now he leaves the program to which he gave his heart and soul in position for more playoff runs.

Congratulations and well done, my friend!



Teeing It Up in Beautiful Terra

Alta for a True "18 Hole Gem"



This week's edition of "Tee It Up" took us to Alpine Lake Resort. Located in the mountains of Terra Alta, this 18 hole gem provides a break from the dog days of summer. The mountain air, scenic views, multiple overnight options, modestly priced packages, and, of course, a 150 acre freshwater lake provide all of the makings of a great golf excursion.

The golf course owns an equal number of par threes, par fours, and par fives, (six each) and ranges 6,69 yards from the white tees. The day starts with an easy test, the first hole is the easiest hole on the course and holes two through four are the 16th, 12th, and 14th handicapped allowing some scoring opportunities off the bat.

The par threes at Alpine Lake Resort are some of the toughest in the state, collectively. The number and distance are number three (205 yards), number six (182 yards), and number 18 (181 yards).

The views at this track are breathtaking and number 10 is one of the most spectacular in the Mountain State. The tee box is extremely elevated and looks out over the heart of the huge lake. The most intimidating hole is number 17, a 589 par five that doglegs right to an elevated green.

The 18th hole offers a similar view as seen from number 10 and provides the perfect spot to reflect on your round.

If you are looking for an escape from the heat and a great day of golf, try Alpine Lake Resort.

Nikayla Edgell Set to Lead Salem

Women's Basketball

SALEM, West Virginia - After a strong women's basketball season that saw the Tigers' finish just short of a USCAA Division I National Championship back in March, there is some exciting news coming out of the Salem women's basketball program. Namely, the Tigers' will have some new leadership going into the 2023-2024 season. Nikayla Edgell has been named head coach of the Salem University Tigers women's basketball program.

Edgell comes to Salem from just a few miles up the road from Philippi, where she served as an assistant coach for local rival Alderson Broaddus University. Additionally, this is not Edgell's first time in Salem, as she served as an assistant coach under Salem women's basketball coach Cody Gilmore during the 2021-2022 season. Her experience with Salem and with the landscape of women's basketball in the state of West Virginia should serve her well in her new role leading the Tigers. Prior to that time with Salem, Edgell coached at the club level with New Level Basketball Academy, a development program she developed for youth basketball student-athletes in and around her home town of East Liverpool, Ohio. Edgell also played collegiately at NCAA Division

III LaRoche College in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

In regards to taking over the Salem women's basketball team, Edgell has the following to say, "I am excited for this opportunity to lead these young women. I want to thank the Salem administration for believing in me to take on this role and for the opportunity to return to a place that means so much to me. I am eager to get things started and thrilled to coach this talented group."

Athletic Director Alex Joseph also had some thoughts about the new leadership of Salem women's basketball. He commented, "We are really excited to bring Nikayla on board. She is a young talented coach that is eager to put in the hard work with her student-athletes in order to succeed here at Salem, both on and off the court. I feel she is well equipped to continue the positive strides Salem women's basketball made this season, and I am excited to see that continued development over the coming season."

The Salem University Athletics department is excited to have Head Coach Nikayla Edgell back in Salem, and we look forward to a strong 2023-2024 campaign for our new coach, and, most importantly, for our student-athletes.

The Mountain East Conference and South Atlantic Conference Form Football Scheduling Alliance Beginning in 2025

BRIDGEPORT, W.Va. - The Mountain East Conference and South Atlantic Conference have formed a football scheduling alliance, MEC Commissioner Reid Amos announced on Tuesday morning in a joint release by the conference offices. The scheduling alliance is for the 2025 and 2026 football campaigns.

In a historic partnership, the football member institutions from both conferences will fill available non-conference dates with a focus on travel distance and competitive balance. In addition to providing quality non-conference matchups, the collaboration will ensure that every team in each conference will be able to complete a full 11-game regular season schedule.

Both conferences will have 11 football members beginning in 2025, making a non-conference scheduling agreement between the conferences a natural fit.

"We look forward to this football scheduling partnership with the South Atlantic Conference in 2025 and 2026 as we expect a series of exciting matchups," said MEC Commissioner Reid Amos. "Our conferences are highly

competitive NCAA Division II leagues, and we anticipate that this partnership will be mutually beneficial to the SAC and the MEC."

South Atlantic Conference Commissioner Patrick Britz added the following about the partnership between the two leagues.

"The SAC is thrilled to reach this agreement with the Mountain East Conference," said (SAC) Commissioner Britz. "As two of the stronger football conferences in NCAA Division II, we feel this 'outside the box' idea will ensure full and competitive schedules for all our football teams."

Mountain East Conference football members in 2025 include: Alderson Broaddus, Charleston, Concord, Fairmont State, Frostburg State, Glenville State, Notre Dame College, West Liberty, West Virginia State, West Virginia Wesleyan and Wheeling.

South Atlantic Conference football members in 2025 include: Anderson, Carson-Newman, Catawba, Emory & Henry, Lenoir-Rhyne, Limestone, Mars Hill, Newberry, Tusculum, UVA Wise and Wingate.

Matchups Announced for 2023 Fort Myers Tip-Off Beach Division

FORT MYERS, Fla. - Opening-round matchups for the Beach Division of the 2023 Fort Myers Tip-Off are set as Wisconsin will square off against Virginia at 6 p.m. ET and West Virginia will face SMU at 8:30 p.m. on Nov. 20 at Suncoast Credit Union Arena on the campus of Florida SouthWestern State College. Third-place and championship contests are set for the same times on Nov. 22. All games will be televised by FS1.

The Badgers and Cavaliers have faced each other six times previously, with Virginia owning a 4-2 mark in the series. The Cavaliers have won two straight in the series. It will be the first all-time meeting between West Virginia and SMU.

The four programs have combined for 82 conference regular season or tournament championships and 92 NCAA Tournament appearances. Wisconsin and Virginia have each appeared in the Final Four within the last decade and the Cavaliers claimed the 2019 NCAA Championship.

Travel packages are on sale now for Wisconsin, West Virginia, Virginia and SMU fans looking to spend Thanksgiving Week with their favorite teams in Southwest Florida. Official fan travel packages include tickets to each Beach Division game, hotel accommodations and parking at Suncoast Credit Union Arena. For complete travel package information, log on to www.fortmyerstipoff.com/travel.

The Westin Cape Coral Resort at Marina Village and the Marriott Sanibel Harbor Resort & Spa are the host hotels for the Beach Division teams of the Fort Myers Tip-off, and fans will have the opportunity to stay where the teams stay and experience resort life to the fullest. Additionally, the Luminary Hotel & Co., a boutique hotel that opened in September

2020, is the premium destination to enjoy the many attractions of historic and lively downtown Fort Myers.

At this time, the only way to guarantee tickets for the 2023 Fort Myers Tip-Off is to purchase an official fan travel package. Ticket-only packages, based on availability, will become available this fall. To receive the latest email alerts regarding tournament news, ticket information and more, visit our website at www.fortmyerstipoff.com.

"The excitement for this year's tournament continues to build as we get closer to tip off," said Mark Stasiak, vice president at Intersport and tournament director of the Fort Myers Tip-Off. "Each program brings not only a successful basketball pedigree but also an incredibly passionate fan base that we expect turning out in full force this Thanksgiving. This promises to be one of the most highly anticipated tournaments that we've had in our short history."

Coming up on its sixth year, the Fort Myers Tip-Off has become one of the top early-season events in the country and a fixture in the Southwest Florida sports calendar. The tournament, which has hosted several Final Four-caliber programs in its first five seasons will welcome four power conference programs to the Beach Division for the third straight year (Georgia Tech, Marquette, Mississippi State and Utah in 2022; Florida, Ohio State, Cal and Seton Hall in 2021).

Nationally recognized brands have also aligned themselves with the high-profile nature of the Fort Myers Tip-Off. Premium partners Old Trapper Beef Jerky, State Farm, Libman, O'Reilly Auto Parts and more have annually partnered with the event and return once again in 2023.



Zach Frazier, a Fairmont Senior, earned recognition as West Virginia University's sole representative on the preseason all Big 12 football squad

HCSCC SPOTLIGHT

Featuring news from the Harrison County Senior Citizen Center

HCSCC Board of Directors News



L-R Bill O'Field, Vice President, E. Ryan Kennedy, President, Betty Waddy, Treasurer, and Franklin Hairston, Secretary.

HCSCC Board of Directors Actions at the June 22, 2023, Annual Board Meeting On Thursday, June 22, 2023, the HCSCC Board of Directors held the Annual Meeting in a hybrid fashion both in-person in the boardroom and on Zoom. At the meeting, the board elected officers for 2023-2024:

Ryan Kennedy, President; Bill O'Field, Vice President, Franklin Hairston, Secretary, and Betty Waddy, Treasurer.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, September 28, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. in person in the boardroom and on Zoom.

Remaining board meeting dates scheduled for 2023 are: September 28, and October 26.

2023 - 2024 Board Officers' Members

E. Ryan Kennedy, President, Bill O'Field, Vice President, Franklin Hairston, Secretary, Betty Waddy, Treasurer, Carol E. Brown, Janet Dotson, Sharon Hamilton, Will Hyman, Harley Jeffries, Bill Phillips, Donna Stuart, and Susan Thomas.

Harrison County Senior Center Senior Olympians Win 30 Medals



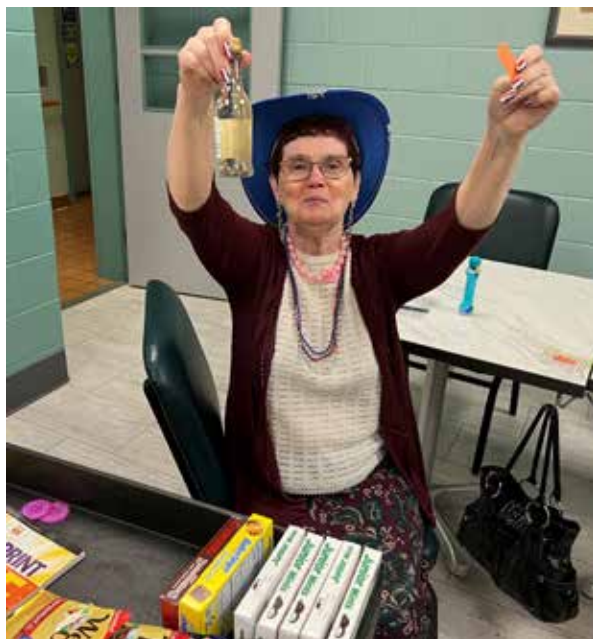
Senior Olympians from around the state competed at field, track, and indoor events at WVU Potomac State College in Keyser, WV during June 7-9, 2023. Due to the pandemic, this event was not held for three years. Everyone was excited to meet and compete once again, renew old friendships, and make new friends.

Pictured are HCSC Senior Olympians displaying their total of 30 medals when they arrived home on the senior van.

Shown L-R are Cliff Marshall, van driver and participant, Jane Underwood, Diana Christafore, Linda Maul, Virginia Harding, Margaret Davis and Donna Burr.

HCSC Celebrates 4th of July with a Special Door Prize and Bingo Day

On June 29, 2023, HCSC celebrated an early July 4th with an after lunch event featuring door prizes and special bingo games to win meal token certificates. A special thanks to Jim Corley, Bill O'Field, and two anonymous member donors for our fun and valuable door prizes. Pictured is enthusiastic volunteer and member Violet Stout with her door prize ticket and the prize she picked to celebrate her birthday weekend. Prior to the activities, the winning ticket for the Walk to End Alzheimer's raffle basket to benefit the HCSC walk team was picked. Loxie Quada, HCSC member and winner of the basket was present and posed for a picture with Bill O'Field, HCSC Walk Team Captain and North Central Walk to End Alzheimer's Chair.



Marshville Satellite Members Take a Day Trip on the New Tygart Flyer Train



On Friday, June 16, 2023, the Marshville Senior Citizens' Satellite group enjoyed a day trip on the New Tygart Flyer train, departing Elkins Depot. The group enjoyed riding in the parlor car with its pleasant atmosphere, padded seating, and

buffet lunch. Those attending were Jan Childers, Leslie Childers, Bob Clutter, Kendy Clutter, Lynne Clutter, Vickie Clutter, Bob Delaney, Jennifer Delaney, Mona Knapp, Sue Maass, Cliff Marshall, Sharon McCarty, Tom McCarty, and Bill O'Field.

AARP Applauds CMS' Final Guidance for Medicare Negotiation Implementation to Lower Drug Prices

WASHINGTON, DC—AARP Executive Vice President and Chief Advocacy and Engagement Officer Nancy LeaMond issued the following statement in response to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' final implementation guidance of the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program:

"AARP commends CMS for issuing final guidance of the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program. This is an important next step to bring down astronomically high drug prices. Thanks to the new law, Medicare will begin to use its buying power to get a better deal for American seniors and taxpayers by negotiating for lower drug

prices. This will save Medicare billions of dollars and help ensure that millions of older Americans can afford the prescription drugs they need.

But the fight isn't over. Big drug companies are already spending millions trying to overturn the new law so they can keep charging Americans the highest prices in the world. After decades of calling on Congress to make prescription drugs more affordable, AARP and older Americans won the fight for Medicare to negotiate drug prices and help seniors save money on their medications. We won't back down until Americans finally get the relief they have desperately needed for too long."

HCSC Information

HCSC Membership is \$10 yearly and open to those age 50+. Activities and services available include, fitness room, Exercise group, Toning group, Tai Chi class, Bingocize class, Line Dance group, Ceramics class, Bingo Fun Club, Senior Olympics, daily cards and game playing in the café, puzzle & TV room, computer lab, transportation, food box programs, in home caregiving programs, socialization, and Kinley Café food service. The center is open M - F, 8 AM - 4 PM.

Senior Center Closed for Mandatory Training Day

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

Harrison County Senior Center

500 W. Main St., Clarksburg, WV 26301

304.623.6795

www.hcscwv.org

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“Northern Lights” From pg 1

by collisions between electrically charged particles streaming out from the sun in the solar wind that enter Earth’s atmosphere and collide with molecules and atoms of gas, primarily oxygen and nitrogen.”

The process works similar to when an electric current excites the particles in a neon light. Light indicates the release of energy.

Recently, an intense July 7 solar storm disrupted communications on the ground and in space.

Northern lights generally appear at the poles because the Earth’s magnetic field usually channels the flow toward there.

A similar solar storm in April also made the northern lights visible in the Mountain State. Dark skies areas,

such as Spruce Knob in Pendleton County, gave viewers a rare show.

One of the closest officially designated dark skies areas to Harrison County lies in Calhoun County Park, nearly two hours from Shinnston on West Virginia Route 16 between Grantsville and Mt. Zion. According to the park’s website, “the park is already known by many to be a premier destination for stargazing and our board of directors’ present endeavor is to secure its status as an official International Dark Skies Park!”

Unfortunately, as of publication time, the National Weather Service predicts showers for Thursday night across West Virginia.

American Legion Provides Patriotic Community Dinner for Independence Day



Pictured are the auxiliary cooks for the day. Betsy Turner, Andrea Skelly, Marsha Duckworth, Lily Capozzi, Parry Jenkins, Carla Wilfong, Dortha Parsons, Cheryl Turner and Margaret Yost. Not pictured: Kim Mellie and Roxie Nicholson.

The American Legion Family (Legion, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders) of American Legion Post 31 in Shinnston celebrated the Fourth of July on Tuesday, July 4, from 2 - 4 pm with a dinner for members, family and guests. American Legion Auxiliary Unit 31 prepared a picnic style meal of hot dogs with all the fixings, baked beans, a variety of salads and desserts. The event was considered a success with approximately 50 people in attendance.

Gov. Justice Announces MOU Between DNR, Boy Scouts to Promote Education, Conservation

CHARLESTON, WV — Gov. Jim Justice announced that the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources and the Buckskin Council of the Boy Scouts of America officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding that will allow scouts to utilize various state parks for activities while encouraging scouts to contribute to the conservation and preservation of these natural treasures through service projects.

“I’m thrilled that this collaboration between the WVDNR and Boy Scouts has come together and look forward to seeing all the ways these two incredible organizations will work together to instill a love for nature in our youth and promote the preservation of West Virginia’s natural beauty for generations to come,” Gov. Justice said. “This partnership will give scouts access to unforgettable outdoor experiences and empower them to actively engage in conservation efforts in our beautiful state parks.”

Under the terms of this agreement, scouts from the Buckskin Council will have the unique opportunity to camp for free in designated state parks, such as Pipestem Resort and North Bend, as long as the requested facility is available for use on the requested date. Recreational activities may also be provided at a reduced or negotiated rate, depending on volume, availability, operational hours, and the time of year.

Before starting a service project, scouting units will be required to complete volunteer agreements and obtain project approval from the WVDNR’s West Virginia State Parks section. State Parks personnel may also provide educational programming, such as merit badge classes and counseling, to visiting scouts.

This collaboration is a win-win situation for both the WVDNR and the Buckskin Council,” WVDNR Director Brett McMillion said. “By welcoming scouts into our state parks, we’re not only providing kids with invaluable opportunities to learn and explore the outdoors, but we’re giving them the chance to contribute to the conservation and enhancement of our state’s precious resources. We hope this experience will translate into a lifelong love for West Virginia. We look forward to seeing the positive impact of this partnership on the scouts, our state parks, and the community as a whole.”

The Boy Scouts of America’s Buckskin Council is headquartered in Charleston and serves 40 counties in West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio and Virginia. As with all Boy Scouts of America councils, the Buckskin Council helps youth develop academic skills, self-confidence, ethics, leadership skills and citizenship skills through outdoor activities.

This new agreement is one of several public-private partnerships the WVDNR has developed over the years to promote environmental stewardship, outdoor education and community engagement. Other partnerships include work with the Mountaineer Challenge Academy to guide at-risk youth on their first deer hunt and give cadets an opportunity to participate in trout stocking initiatives and stream improvement projects.



Cooper

Cooper (previously Shuebert) is a young beagle mix, around a year old, 30.5 pounds, male, neutered, up to date on vaccines, dewormer, and microchipped. Good with young kids, great with other dogs (may love a home with a dog to teach him the ropes), ok with cats.

His adopters have had some medical issues arise and just can’t give him what he needs now.

He is being fostered in West Milford area.

If interested please submit an application and we can get you set up with a meet and greet <http://www.hshcww.org/adopt.html> or call 304-592-1600.

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Answers

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OBITUARIES



Robert James Drain

Robert James Drain, 86, of Lumberport, formerly of Jane Lew, passed away on Tuesday, July 4, 2023, at the Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown. He was born in Shinnston, November 22, 1936, a son of the late Robert L. and Opal Simms Drain. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Elizabeth "Libby" Drain, and his second wife, Dottie Cross Lang.

Surviving are two daughters: Tammy Russell and her husband Charles, Lumberport, Kim Smith, New Martinsville; one son, Jamie Drain and his wife Robin, Fairmont; step-son, Gary Lang and his wife Jan, Elkins; his brothers: Danny Drain and his wife Karen, Shinnston, Mike Drain and his wife Pam, Shinnston; grandchildren: Stacy Swiger and her husband Chris, Liza Russell and her fiancé Jason, Erin Smith and her fiancé Tyler, Cole Smith, Alvin Williams, Robbie Williams, Branden Drain, Andrew Drain, Josh Lang, Kelly Lang; great-grandchildren: Lucy Swiger, Emily Baker, Ryan Smith, Mason Madosky, Hailey Williams, Brody Lang, Gwen Lang; and his special friends and neighbors, Carol Sprouse and her husband Leon, Jane Lew.

Robert was also preceded in death by his daughter, Shelly M. Williams, a son-in-law, Bruce Smith, daughter-in-law, Shelly K. Drain, brother, Ronnie Drain and his wife Sandy, his sisters, Phyllis Helms and her husband Bernard, Jean Scritchfield and her husband Ed, Loretta Curfman and her husband Jack, Jody Tate and her husband Norman, one niece Jeri Scritchfield, two nephews, Patches and Todd Drain.

Robert loved doing crafts

when in Jane Lew, telling stories and jokes, going out to eat and eating sweets. He loved spending time with his family.

The family will receive friends at the Perine Funeral Home, 1348 S. Pike St., Shinnston, from 4pm until the time of the service at 6pm, Thursday, July 6, with Pastor Robert Shingleton officiating. Cremation will follow the service. Interment will be in the Shinnston Memorial Cemetery. Condolences may be extended to the family at www.perinefunerals.com. The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Drain family.



Roger Eugene Duckworth

Roger Eugene Duckworth, 76, of 37 Sand Plant Hill Road, Worthington, WV, passed away on July 3, 2023 at his home, with his family by his bedside, after an 18-year long battle with colorectal and prostate cancer. Roger was born on December 11, 1946 in Richwood, WV, the eldest child of the late Elton Eugene Duckworth and Betty Lou Rankin Duckworth McIntyre.

He is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Sharon (Menear) Duckworth; son, Kevin A. Duckworth and his wife Michelle of Worthington, WV; daughter, Tara Lynn Morgan and husband Jason of Weddington, NC; four grandchildren, Savannah Grace, Jessalyn Ann and Roger Michael Duckworth of Worthington, WV and Mason Jacob Morgan of Weddington, NC; two sisters, Marsha Riley and husband Jay of Bridgeport, WV, and Tamela McMurray and husband Bill of Newark, DE; sister-in-law Marsha K. Duckworth of Shinnston, and sixteen nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Roger was preceded in death by three brothers and sisters-

in-law, Richard L. and Linda Duckworth, Columbus, OH, Elton Allen and Brenda Duckworth, Worthington, WV, Charles W. and Sarah Duckworth, Lumberport; brother Michael L. (Mick) Duckworth; two infant brothers, Robin Laign Duckworth and Tommy Duckworth.

Roger attended Cowen Grade School, Cowen, WV and Thornburn Grade School, Monongah, WV. He graduated from Monongah High School in 1965, playing baseball for four years, and football for three years, serving as a captain of each his Senior year. He received the Outstanding Senior Athlete Award for 1964-1965. After high school, Roger attended and graduated from Fairmont State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology.

After college, Roger went to work for Consolidation Coal Co. and retired from Consol Energy as a Northern WV Regional Project Engineer in charge of well plugging and shaft sealing on July 1, 2008 with 38 years of service. He was a member of Sons of the American Legion, American Legion Post 31, Shinnston, WV. He loved spending his time fishing, woodworking, reworking guns, bird watching, following the grandchildren's gymnastics, cheerleading, baseball, football, or basketball activities, and spending time with friends and family at camp at Harman, WV, and more recently, Mount Storm Lake, WV.

The family would like to express their thanks to UHC Hospitalists, UHC Oncology team, UHC and Ruby's Urology teams, UHC nurses and aides, and WVU Medicine Hospice (Marion, Monongalia counties) for their care, guidance, and concern.

Family and Friends will be received at Harmer Funeral Home on Thursday, July 6, 2023 from 2:00PM-8:30PM. A funeral service will be held on Friday, July 7, 2023 at 11:00AM with Pastor David Markley, friend and neighbor, officiating. Interment will be at Enterprise I.O.O.F. Cemetery.

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

Out of the Past

Memorable photographs from around Harrison County



West Virginia
State Archives

Northwest Academy served as a school prior to the Civil War, but during the conflict also served as a barracks, military prison, and hospital. Gordon Battelle, principal from 1843 to 51, later served as a Methodist preacher and a leader of Union loyalists.

Junior Franklin Swiger

Junior Franklin Swiger, 82, of Wallace, passed away on July 3, 2023 at his home. He was born November 16, 1940 in Spelter, a son of the late Esty Franklin and Rhoda Macel Byrd Swiger.

Junior is survived by his loving wife, Mary Lucretia Bogges Swiger, whom he married on April 7, 1962. He is also survived by his children, Cindi L. Fleece and her husband Samuel of Centerpoint; Danny Lee Swiger and his wife Traci of Folsom; Denise Dawn Tracy and her husband Richard of Stonewood; Tracy Anette Mayfield and her husband Jerry of Wallace; and Shawn Michael Swiger and his wife Hope of Lost Creek; his grandchildren, Michael Paul Price of Centerpoint; Kaila L. Wise and her husband Dylan of Smithfield; Kurtis Scott Dennison of Morgantown; Kyle Michael Swiger of Folsom; Craig Matthew Dennison and his wife Jordyn of Boothsville; Dylan Shawn Swiger of Lost Creek; and Lakota Lynn Mayfield of Wallace; as well as six great-grandchildren, Ethan; Avin; Axton; Brielle; Elliona; and Makenzie; his brothers, Edward Swiger and his wife Linda; and Kenneth Swiger and his wife Edith; and his sister, Corinne Coburn and Robert.

In addition to his parents, Junior was preceded in death by his siblings, Elmus Swiger; Lucy Mae Swiger; Wanda Jean and Ardis Gump; and Marilyn Louise and Earl Lockhart.

Junior was a graduate of Wallace High School. He was employed in glass manufacturing at Anchor Hocking, Dupont, and Fairmont Specialty. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He was also a member of the Rinehart Community Church.

Friends will be received at Perine Funeral Home, 1348 S. Pike St. Shinnston, on Tuesday, July 4, 2023 from 12:00 pm until the time of the funeral service at 2:00 pm. Pastor Jeff Burnside will officiate the service. Interment will follow at the Wallace Lions Club Cemetery. Online memories and condolences can be shared with the family at www.perinefunerals.com

Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Swiger family.

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The Ukrainian People Are In My Heart Every Day

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Buongiorno!

In the Gospel for today, the Solemnity of the Holy Apostles, Saints Peter and Paul, Jesus says to Simon, one of the Twelve: “You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church” (Mt 16:18). Peter is a name that has several meanings: it can mean rock, stone, or simply, pebble. And, in fact, if we look at Peter’s life, we discover a bit of all three of these aspects of his name.

Peter is a rock: there are many times when he is strong and steady, genuine and generous. He leaves everything to follow Jesus (cf. Lk 5:11); he recognizes him as Christ, the Son of the living God (cf. Mt 16:16); he dives into the sea to go quickly towards the Risen One (cf. Jn 21:7). Then, he boldly and courageously proclaims Jesus in the Temple, before and after being arrested and flogged (cf. Acts 3:12-26; 5:25-42). Tradition tells us also about his steadfastness when facing martyrdom, which happened right here (cf. Clement, Letter to the Corinthians, V, 4).

Peter, however, is also a stone: he is a rock and also a stone, able to offer support to others — a stone that, founded on Christ, acts as a support to brothers and sisters, for the edification of the Church (cf. 1

Pt 2:4-8; Eph2:19-22). We discover this too in his life: he responds to Jesus’s call together with Andrew, his brother, James and John (cf. Mt 4:18-22); he confirms the Apostles’ desire to follow the Lord (cf. Jn 6:68); he cares for those who suffer (cf. Acts 3:6); he promotes and encourages the shared proclamation of the Gospel (cf. Acts 15:7-11). He is “stone”, a reliable point of reference for the entire community.

Peter is a rock, he is a stone, and he is also a pebble: his littleness emerges often. At times he does not understand what Jesus is doing (cf. Mk 8:32-33; Jn 13:6-9). When confronted with His arrest, Peter allows fear to overtake him and denies Him, then repents and weeps bitterly (cf. Lk 22:54-62). But he does not find the courage to stand under the cross. He locks himself in with the others in the Upper Room out of fear of being captured (cf. Jn 20:19). In Antioch, he is embarrassed to be with converted Gentiles — and Paul chides him to be consistent (cf. Gal 2:11-14). Lastly, according to the Quo vadis tradition, he tries to flee when faced with martyrdom, but he meets Jesus on the road and regains the courage to turn back.

This is all in Peter: the strength of the rock, the reliability of the stone and the littleness of a simple

pebble. He is not a superman — he is a human being like us, like every one of us, who, in his imperfection, generously says “yes” to Jesus. But exactly like this with him — just as in Paul and in all the saints — it appears that it is God who makes us strong with his grace, who unites us with his love, and forgives us with his mercy. And it is with this true humanity that the Spirit forms the Church. Peter and Paul were real people. And today, more than ever, we need real people.

Now, let us take a look inside ourselves and ask ourselves some questions starting from the rock, from the stone and from the pebble. From the rock: Is there ardour, zeal, passion for the Lord and for the Gospel in us? Or is there something that easily crumbles? And then, are we stones, not stumbling blocks, but building blocks for the Church? Do we work for unity, are we concerned for others, especially the weakest? Finally, thinking of the pebble: Are we aware of our littleness? And above all, in our weaknesses, do we entrust ourselves to the Lord who accomplishes great things through those who are humble and sincere?

May Mary, Queen of the Apostles, help us imitate the strength, the generosity and the humility of Saints Peter and Paul.

After the Angelus the Pope continued:

Dear brothers and sisters, I address a warm greeting and special wishes to the people of Rome, on the feast of the patron saints Peter and Paul! I thank the Pro Loco Association of Rome, which has organized the historic flower festival, created by the master florists of the various Pro Loco Associations of Italy, now in its tenth edition. I am looking at [some of the displays] from here... There are some beautiful carpets of flowers inspired by peace, and this tells us not to tire of praying for peace, especially for the Ukrainian people, who are in my heart every day.

I renew my greeting to the Delegation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, which participated in today’s celebration, and I send an embrace to my dear Brother, His Holiness Bartholomew.

I greet you all, starting from the faithful who have come to celebrate with the Metropolitan Archbishops, for whom I blessed the Pallia this morning, and then the groups from Brazil, Croatia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Poland, the United States of America and various places in Italy.

I wish you all a happy feast day, and please, do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your lunch. Arrivederci!

Biden Administration’s “Internet For All” May Fall Short of Federal Expectations

By Stephen Smoot

Last month Gina Raimondo, United States Secretary of Commerce, announced that “if you don’t have access to quality, affordable high-speed Internet service now – you will, thanks to President Biden and his commitment to investing in America.”

Local governments trying to access that funding to expand broadband and promote economic development, as well as citizens counting on access to service, may need to look at the fine print.

State governments, as well as the District of Columbia and U. S. territories, will receive shares of the \$42.5 billion Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment program, or BEAD.

“This is a watershed moment for millions of people across America who lack access to a high-speed Internet connection. Access to Internet service is necessary for work, education, healthcare, and more,” said Alan Davidson, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communication and Information.

Senator Joe Manchin also touted the program that will inject \$1,210,800,969.85 into state broadband efforts, saying in a release that “today, not only are we announcing more than \$1.2 billion to finally ensure every home in West Virginia is connected to reliable broadband. The maps now show what we knew all along – that West Virginia is one of the least-served states in the country.”

Senator Shelley Moore Capito also supported bringing BEAD funding to West Virginia.

Funding for BEAD comes through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The National Telecommunications Information Administration, according to a Congressional Research Service release, intends that funds will be spent “to bridge the digital divide’ by facilitating ‘access to affordable, reliable, high-speed internet’ throughout the United States, particularly in ‘communities of color, lower-income areas, and rural areas.’”

In a recent public meeting, however, Laura Brown, executive director of the combined

Pendleton and Grant County economic development authorities, dismissed the notion that this funding would connect everyone as “fluff,” due to the fact that the most challenged local governments may have the most difficult time obtaining the funds.

She shared that federal officials encouraged interested local governments in West Virginia to seek match funding from the State.

According to State Tech Magazine, depending on the area, fiber optic broadband expansion can cost between \$25,000 and \$50,000 per mile. In West Virginia in 2018, the generally accepted number was \$30,000 per mile, but inflation has driven up that cost since then.

This has made broadband expansion an expensive proposition, as well as a nearly unprofitable one in remote rural areas. Additionally internet service can be provided at levels below what is needed for business or professional use, but economic development officials generally push for broadband service that can support a variety of business or residential needs..

According to a report by CTC Technology and Energy, BEAD applicants must provide a 25 percent match for BEAD grant funding. That match could come as either a cash or an in kind match.

Importantly, states are “required to incentivize matches of greater than 25 percent from subgrantees wherever feasible.” States are encouraged “to include extra points or weight to applicants that offer to provide more than 25 percent in match.” American Rescue Plan Act funds can be used for the match, but only if applicants adhere to strict guidelines.

States that do this could effectively create disadvantages for economically struggling jurisdictions that may lack the human capital to create an effective application, let alone pay a higher match.

Reason Magazine referred to BEAD as a “boondoggle,” citing statistics demonstrating that the private sector had rapidly expanded broadband access in recent years with 90 percent of Americans connected. Their critique, however, did not include discussion of the challenges of connecting rural Americans with service that providers struggle to provide, due to high costs and unprofitability.

The Taxpayer Protection Alliance attacked the program for imposing mandates and guidelines that will drive up the price of projects. In a release, Patrick Hedger, executive director, shared that since BEAD is also a “industrial and a social policy and a federal jobs program,” as well as a service expansion project, that it will likely fail to deliver on its promises.

Other provisions that applicants must follow “will greatly raise the costs of connecting unserved households.” The organization also questioned the allocation of \$100 million to the District of Columbia, which already has 100 percent broadband service coverage.

Capito Announces Over \$27 Million for Head Start Projects, Public Health Assistance, Medical Research

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 \$27,072,343 in federal funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to support Head Start Projects across West Virginia, two public health initiatives regarding hospital preparedness and youth immunization, and funding two public health research projects at higher education institutions in West Virginia.

“I am glad to see HHS invest in these programs and initiatives, which will ultimately help create healthier communities across West Virginia,” Ranking Member Capito said. “This funding will not only strengthen child health services and strengthen hospital preparedness procedures, but it will also support health research at WVU and Bluefield State. These resources will also aim to help improve early childhood education in West Virginia.”

Individual awards listed below:

\$7,942,940 — Head Start funding for North-central West Virginia Community Action Association, Inc. (Fairmont, W.Va.)

\$7,622,492 — Head Start funding for Northern Panhandle Head Start, Inc. (Wheeling, W.Va.)

\$2,065,371 — Head Start funding for Upshur Human Resources, Inc. (Buckhannon, W.Va.)

\$1,851,756 — Funding for Immunization and Vaccines for Children to the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) (Charleston, W.Va.)

\$1,625,075 — Head Start funding for the Monongalia County Board of Education (Morgantown, W.Va.)

\$1,419,786 — Funding for the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) to the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) (Charleston, W.Va.)

\$1,329,982 — Head Start funding for the Greenbrier County Board of Education (Lewisburg, W.Va.)

\$920,866 — Head Start funding for the Monroe County Board of Education (Union, W.Va.)

\$444,000 — Allergy, immunology, and transplantation research funding awarded to Bluefield State University. (Bluefield, W.Va.)

\$225,000 — Arthritis research funding to West Virginia University (WVU) Research Corporation (Morgantown, W.Va.)

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FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

Capito, Barrasso Call on FERC to Analyze the Impact of the Proposed Clean Power Plan 2.0

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), Ranking Member of the Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, and John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Ranking Member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee, sent a letter to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Chairman Willie L. Phillips and Commissioners James Danly, Allison Clements, and Mark C. Christie, to ask the Commission to hold a series of conferences to analyze the impact of the proposed Clean Power Plan 2.0 on our nation's electric reliability.

Read the full letter here and below.

Dear Chairman Phillips and Commissioners:

Last month, the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) published a proposal that would regulate greenhouse gases from our nation's fossil-fueled power plants in the Federal Register (“Proposed Clean Power Plan 2.0.”) The proposal presents unjustifiable claims about the future availability of technologies – including carbon capture, clean hydrogen, and the related infrastructure – used to power our electric grids. In light of recent testimony before Congress and the projected impact of the Proposed Clean Power Plan 2.0, we ask you to convene as soon as possible a series of technical conferences to assess the potential impact of the proposed rule on electric reliability. It is important that you act promptly as the EPA has already denied reasonable requests for a 60-day extension of the comment deadline; EPA granted only a 15-day extension, and the comment deadline is now August 8, 2023.

As each of you has readily acknowledged, Congress directly charged the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC” or “the Commission”) in the Federal Power Act with protecting electric reliability through mandatory reliability standards. More generally, Congress looks to the Commission to safeguard the quality of the nation's interstate electric and natural gas service.

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources recently held two hearings that demonstrated the unprecedented and growing risks to electric reliability in the United States. In the first hearing, Chairman Phillips and Commissioners Danly and Christie outlined these risks.

Commissioner Danly warned of “an impending, but avoidable, reliability crisis” caused by “public policies that are otherwise designed to promote the deployment of non-dispatchable wind and solar assets or to drive fossil-fuel generators out of business as quickly as possible.” Commissioner Christie explicitly warned about a “looming reliability crisis” if “the far too rapid subtraction of dispatchable resources, especially coal and gas” continues unabated. Chairman Phillips said during the hearing that he is “extremely concerned when it comes to the pace of retirements that we are seeing of generators that we need for reliability on our system.” He went on to say that “NERC and grid operators have warned about this . . . this is something that we have to keep a careful eye on.” As the Chairman explained, “[FERC is] resource neutral but [FERC is] not reliability neutral.”

In the second hearing, the

Chief Executive Officers of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”), the Regional Transmission Organization PJM, and one of America's largest electric cooperatives also warned about increasing risks to the stability of the electric grids in the United States. When asked if they agreed with Commissioner Danly and Commissioner Christie's warning that the United States is heading for a reliability crisis, each said “I do.” These witnesses expressed the critical, consistent concern that the premature retirement of dispatchable generation is frequently driven by government actions, including rulemakings from the EPA. The Proposed Clean Power Plan 2.0 appears to pose a significant threat to the remaining dispatchable fleet when the nation can afford it least. All three witnesses also agreed that FERC and NERC should have input on rule making that may impact electric reliability.

When developing the original Clean Power Plan finalized in 2015, the Obama administration itself stated that “comments from state, regional and federal reliability entities, power companies and others, as well as consultation with the Department of Energy (DOE) and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), helped inform a number of changes made in [the] final rule to address reliability” At that time, EPA acknowledged that its consultations with FERC were “particularly important in shaping some provisions in these final guidelines.”

In 2014 and 2015, the Commission “held four technical conferences to discuss implications of compliance approaches to the rule for electric reliability.” These included “one national and three regional technical conferences on the proposed rule in which the EPA participated and at which the issue of reliability was raised by numerous participants.” All conferences were attended both by EPA leadership and staff, with “EPA leadership [speaking] at all of them.”

The already-strong pressure for premature retirements of electric generating units coupled with the rising risks to electric reliability require you to convene representatives of entities subject to your jurisdiction and other interested parties in order to develop a record on the potential impact of the Clean Power Plan 2.0. Without such a record, FERC's consultations with EPA are likely to be ineffective. EPA clearly lacks the expertise to project accurately the impact of its rulemaking on electric reliability without deeply informed and engaged participation from FERC and those subject to its jurisdiction that are charged with the obligation to generate and deliver electricity in order to meet continuous demand for electric service.

We ask that the Commission hold a series of technical conferences to analyze the impact of the Proposed Clean Power Plan 2.0 on electric reliability. Additionally, we request that any analysis or documents FERC and NERC provide to the EPA on the impact to electric reliability be shared with the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

WVU Jackson's Mill partners with BHE GT&S to add river access ramps for safer outdoor recreation on July 5, 2023

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — West Virginia University Jackson's Mill has offered outdoor recreation opportunities to youth for years, but their access to the river that runs along the campus has been limited. However, through a recent partnership, they were able to add two new river access ramps, increasing these opportunities significantly.

Jackson's Mill partnered with BHE GT&S, a Berkshire Hathaway Energy Company, to bring this vision to life. The two ramps are made to create a better experience for kayaking and small boats for 4-H campers and visitors alike.

“We have been doing canoeing and kayaking activities at the Mill for several years, but never really had good access to the river, so we primarily used the ponds on the property,” said Dave Snively, director of WVU Jackson's Mill.

The programs team at the Mill had the idea to improve the paddling experience by creating easy access points to the river. After suggesting the idea, BHE GT&S immediately agreed to help.

“With many of our employees working and living in Lewis County, this area is a special place for our team,” Phyllis Hinterer, BHE GT&S director of area operations said. “We were happy to partner with the Mill's programs team in support of these outdoor recreation improvements that created safe water access for all ages to explore nature. This was also a great way for us to support the training opportunities offered at the nearby State Fire Academy in spirit with our commitment to safety.”

This gift aligns with both the needs of WVU Jackson's Mill and the philanthropic goals of BHE GT&S.

Outdoor recreation is one of the three pillars of education at Jackson's Mill, and this project helps to expand the outdoor youth campus to better achieve that goal.

The ramps are placed along the riverbank so a person can put their boat in at one ramp and float downstream to the next ramp to exit.

“We wanted to be able to put in and take out without leaving the Mill property and still provide as long a float as possible,” said Snively. “The locations selected also provided good access to the river with as little earth moving as possible.”

But one ramp also has a unique feature—it provides access to the water for firefighters to further their education.

“WVU Extension's State Fire Academy staff asked if it would be possible to drive a fire truck down the ramp so they could teach firefighters how to draft out of the river and install a dry hydrant,” said Snively. “We asked BHE GT&S if it was possible, and they made it happen.”

BHE GT&S also donated an ATV and money to plant trees at WVU Jackson's Mill. Overall, the company's contribution totals around \$50,000 for this project.

“We are grateful for the partnership with BHE GT&S and everyone involved in making this project possible,” said Snively. “The ramps will allow WVU Jackson's Mill to continue to develop and enhance our outdoor and environmental education programs for youth and adult audiences.”

The gift was made through the WVU Foundation, the nonprofit organization that receives and administers private donations on behalf of the University.

Manchin Announces \$481K to Support Lily's Place

Charleston, WV – Today, U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced Lily's Place in Huntington will receive \$481,719 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to support its critical efforts to treat and prevent Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and promote healthy families. This federal funding is one of the Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) requests Senator Manchin secured on behalf of West Virginia through the Fiscal Year 2023 funding bill.

“Every West Virginian has been impacted by the devastating drug epidemic that continues to ravage our communities, and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome is an especially heartbreaking issue in this fight,” said Senator Manchin. “I'm proud to have secured this direct funding for Lily's Place, the first Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome center in the country, to support and strengthen its vital efforts to promote healthy infants and families. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will continue advocating for projects that combat the drug epidemic and enhance health services for all West Virginians, no matter their age or circumstance.”

This funding will be used to support the From the Start program at Lily's Place, which will help increase the number of babies treated, as well as enhance and increase the efforts of the organization to care for infants prenatally exposed to substances in utero and provides them with best practices and treatment specific to their needs. Lily's Place offers additional critical services for infants and their families, including weaning from medication, case management, peer recovery support, counseling, education classes for pregnant women, follow-up clinics and children and parent groups.

The Senate Appropriations Committee allows members of Congress to submit CDS requests, which provides an opportunity for state and local governments, non-profits, and other public entities to receive targeted funding for projects that bolster their communities and directly support West Virginians. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Manchin works to ensure taxpayer dollars are allocated to priorities that benefit all West Virginians, boost economic growth and support the needs of communities across the Mountain State while remaining fiscally responsible.

Manchin Announces \$1.8 Million for Runway Extension at Morgantown Airport

Washington, DC – Today, U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced \$1,800,000 from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to support a runway extension project at the Morgantown Municipal Airport.

“As a pilot myself, I am pleased the FAA is investing in this runway extension project at the Morgantown Municipal Airport,” said Senator Manchin. “West Virginia's airports are our gateway to the rest of the world, and this investment will boost local commerce and spur economic development. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will continue advocating for resources to support transportation hubs across the Mountain State.”

To make drinking water safer, WVU researcher investigates microbial communities living in pipes

A West Virginia University engineer is working to solve the unknowns about microorganisms growing inside pipes that bring drinking water to homes and businesses.

Supported by \$505,784 from a National Science Foundation CAREER award, researcher Emily Garner has launched a five-year study to learn more about biofilms. Known as “cities of microbes,” biofilms are conglomerations of fungi, algae, bacteria and other single-celled organisms that cling to each other and to surfaces like the insides of water pipes, where they become coated in protective slime.

“Many things influence how biofilms grow in drinking water distribution systems: water chemistry, the presence of disinfectants like chlorine and the forces exerted as water flows through pipes,” said Garner, an assistant professor in the Wadsworth Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources.

“But past research about biofilms doesn’t account for the complexities of varied flow conditions in different parts of a water distribution system. These systems can consist of hundreds of miles of buried pipes, so ensuring the chlorine disinfectant hasn’t decayed by the time it reaches all parts of the system can be a challenge.”

Garner’s lab will develop strategies for maintaining water quality throughout these complex infrastructures and offer recommendations to managers of drinking water distribution systems.

The research also includes an outreach and educational component that will bring K-12 students across West Virginia hands-on activities about water treatment and information about water sector careers.

Research that tests the waters

Rest assured, Garner said, “it’s normal and expected for biofilms to form on the inside of all drinking water pipes. Biofilms rich in organisms that are harmless to humans may even be effective at reducing the growth of harmful pathogens through competition.”

But biofilms can be also detrimental to drinking water quality. The protective environment they create can harbor dangerous microorganisms like salmonella or E. coli, and they can release particles or compounds that affect the taste, odor and color of tap water. They can also facilitate formation of harmful compounds called “disinfection byproducts.”

Garner explained water utilities control the growth of microorganisms by adding small amounts of a disinfectant like chlorine into the water.

“At low enough levels, these disinfectants are not harmful to humans but prevent growth of microorganisms like those in biofilms,” she said. “This is really important for making sure the water that arrives at your home is high-quality and safe, even though it has made a long journey of many miles from the treatment plant.”

To evaluate ways to minimize potential safety hazards, Garner will combine lab experiments with field sampling from water systems throughout West Virginia, where water quality can vary dramatically between communities.

Garner said she drinks plenty of tap water be-

cause she knows water quality is high in her home city.

“Here in Morgantown, our water is consistently compliant with all federal drinking water standards, and I drink it daily,” Garner said. “Everyone should be aware that public water systems must create an annual Consumer Confidence Report that describes their water quality and any violations of regulatory requirements for drinking water quality. You probably receive it in the mail, you can often find it online or you can contact your drinking water utility to request it. It’s a good idea to review this report to understand if your drinking water is in compliance with federal regulations.”

Students who chart the waters

Garner’s project, “Elucidating hydrodynamic drivers of microbial water quality in drinking water distribution systems,” prioritizes not only research but also education and training.

Garner will deliver an educational module, “Why Water Matters in Rural Communities,” to K-12 classrooms in West Virginia. Her goal is not only to help kids recognize water’s essential role in supporting healthy, prosperous communities, but also to increase awareness about water careers and promote recruitment of an emerging workforce into apprenticeship programs with local water utilities.

“Having well-trained water professionals is critical for ensuring community access to safe drinking water. Yet the U.S. water sector is facing an imminent workforce crisis. As the existing workforce nears retirement age, we have to raise interest in water sector jobs,” she said.

Garner has a history of leveraging her research to support local communities, especially through the Appalachian Community Technical Assistance and Training Program, in which she assists small utilities in establishing effective, sustainable management practices.

“We provide technical assistance on challenges that often arise among rural utilities,” she explained. “For example, I have partnered with the WVU student chapter of Engineers Without Borders to map the buried water infrastructure of a rural system that had no digital records of where their infrastructure was located.”

Garner will also integrate important topics for rural communities’ water and wastewater systems into courses for engineering undergraduates at WVU, addressing topics such as decentralized wastewater treatment technologies and public health engineering.

U.S. Attorney Ihlenfeld Named Chair of Washington-Baltimore HIDTA

WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA - United States Attorney William Ihlenfeld has been named as chairperson of the Washington-Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (W/B HIDTA) Executive Board and will lead efforts in the region to combat the trafficking of fentanyl, methamphetamine, and other illicit substances.

The W/B HIDTA supports 43 drug task forces from Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, and West Virginia. In 2022, these units collectively seized nearly nine thousand kilograms of drugs with a wholesale value of \$107.5 million and disrupted or dismantled 134 criminal organizations. The W/B HIDTA also supports substance use prevention and treatment initiatives.

“I’m honored to serve as chair of this important group and I’ll use the opportunity to strengthen the response in the eastern United States to the threat posed by Mexican drug cartels,” said U.S. Attorney Ihlenfeld.

Ihlenfeld will lead an executive board that is responsible for assessing the drug trafficking threats found in the region; developing a strategy to address the threats; designing initiatives to implement the strategy; and proposing funding needed to carry out the initiatives.

W/B HIDTA Executive Director Tom Carr has worked with Ihlenfeld for over a decade. They regularly discuss strategies how best to respond to the dangers posed by illicit drugs.

“The Washington-Baltimore HIDTA is fortunate to have an experienced federal prosecutor like U.S. Attorney Ihlenfeld to lead our executive board and to help identify solutions to the problems caused by drug trafficking in the region,” said Director Carr.

The Eastern Panhandle Drug & Violent Crimes Task Force and The Martinsburg Initiative - an evidence-based prevention program that focuses on aiding children in Berkeley County Schools - are both supported by W/B HIDTA funding.

Ihlenfeld previously served as Vice Chairperson and Budget Chair for the W/B HIDTA. He also has served as chairperson of the Appalachia HIDTA.

Two Sentenced to a Combined 23 Years For Bank Robberies in West Virginia, Virginia, and Pennsylvania

MARTINSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA - A Virginia couple was sentenced today for bank robberies that spanned three states.

William Birdsall, 51, of Boones Mill, Virginia, was sentenced today to 20 years in prison after pleading guilty to bank robbery. Jaqueline Elizabeth Havens, 56, also of Boones Mill, was sentenced to 36 months in prison for disposing of the money that was stolen.

U.S. District Judge Gina M. Groh heard testimony today that Birdsall carried out a series of bank robberies in West Virginia, Virginia, and Pennsylvania over an eight-month span, stealing more than \$162,000. The targeted banks in West Virginia were the Bank of Romney, in Augusta; Summit Community Bank, in Rupert; and M&T Bank in Fort Ashby. Following the robberies, Havens assisted Birdsall with hiding the money and spending the proceeds on three vehicles, Havens’ mortgage, and a down payment on land. Birdsall previously served a 15-year sentence for robbing six banks in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Nevada in 2004 and 2005.

Birdsall must pay \$162,475 in restitution, and Havens is jointly responsible for \$129,300 of that amount. The judge ordered Birdsall and Havens to forfeit the three purchased vehicles, a firearm, and cash.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Pittsburgh Division; the West Virginia State Police; the Mineral County Sheriff’s Office; the Augusta County, Virginia, Sheriff’s Office; and the Pennsylvania State Police investigated. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberley Crockett prosecuted the case on behalf of the government.

UHC Receives Blanket Donation from Jenkins Subaru and Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

Bridgeport, WV—June marked Subaru Loves to Care month, Jenkins Subaru in Bridgeport has partnered with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) to bring warmth to cancer survivors being treated at the Cecil B. Highland Jr., & Barbara B. Highland Cancer Center at United Hospital Center (UHC). Through their generosity, more than 150 blankets were donated.

“It is during the most trying of times that a donation of kindness can warm the heart of a patient and bring out a smile,” said Maggie Lowther, RN, BSN, OCN, oncology program coordinator at the Cecil B. Highland, Jr. & Barbara B. Highland Cancer Center at UHC. “Jenkins Subaru and LLS have been graciously donating blankets to UHC since 2016.”

Every three minutes in the U.S., a new patient is diagnosed with leukemia, lymphoma, or myeloma. As the treatment and rehabilitation process can often be long and arduous, blood cancer patients can be left feeling cold, confined, and in a weakened state.

Thousands of Subaru owners and retailer employees have contributed messages of hope throughout the Subaru Loves to Care initiative and are proudly continuing the tradition in 2023 to show support for their community members during an emotionally and physically challenging time in their lives.

“UHC and its staff are highly valued assets to the community and state, and we have enjoyed working with them once again to spread our message of care and love to cancer survivors in the region,” said Matt Jenkins, general manager at Jenkins Subaru. “Jenkins Subaru and Subaru of America are once again happy to have made this possible.”

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Shinnston Harrison County
The News & Journal

USPS 494-420

Michael Showell
Publisher

Stephen Smoot
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Debra Smith
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Bill Nestor
Sports Editor

Published weekly by
Mountain Media, LLC, P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV,
with the exception of the week of July 4th and the last week of the year.
Single Copy \$1.00

Annual Subscription Rates

in-county: \$45.75 • out of county: \$49.50 • out of state: \$53.25
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