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It's Always Sunny In Shinnston At the Business of the Month, Sunset Drive In and Ellis Restaurant



By Stephen Smoot

A year before Harry Truman's improbable re-election, two years after the United States and the Allies triumphed in World War II, and just over three-quarters of a century removed from today, Sunset Drive In entertained its first customers.

A list of original owners posted on the "I Like Shinnston" Facebook page were Steve Medve, Alex Silay, Charles Perez, and Lawrence Bermejo. Concessions seemed to be a family affair, managed by French Howell, with Helen and Alvina Howell assisting. The cashier was Virginia Howell and the projectionist was Bill King,

apparently aided, and sometimes obstructed, by a pet monkey. The theater's sales team was Virgil Martin, James Blake, and Sub DeFazio. Tomes Roach and Billy Blake sold tickets, while Jack Skinner, Joe and Pat Tate, and Fred Price helped drivers to place their cars.

When moviegoers looked for a bite to eat, prepared most likely by the Howells, they got to enjoy the unique experience of being served in a streetcar. Though long since replaced by a full service diner, many still remember grabbing food from it. A photo of the original stand hangs on the current wall of the restaurant.

Sunset Drive In's first year

run lasted from August 31 until November 19, 1947. Since then, Baby Boomers, Gen Xers, Millennials, and younger have come to enjoy dinner and a movie in countless numbers. The Sunset opened up only 14 years after the first official drive in theater appeared in New Jersey.

The owner of the original, Richard Hollingshead, built it because he felt that the conventional movie theater seats were too small. He may have hit on another feature when he announced "The whole family is welcome, regardless of how noisy the children are."

In 1958, the nation hit its peak numbers of drive ins, according to the Los Angeles Times. By See "Biz of the Month" on Pg 6

Public Service Commission Announces Agreement In Hope Gas Acquisition of Peoples Gas

By Stephen Smoot

Last week the West Virginia Public Service Commission shared that "an agreement has been negotiated to allow for the acquisition of a smaller central West Virginia gas utility and its merger into Hope Gas, Inc.

Although the name Hope Gas has been familiar to customers in much of West Virginia since approximately 1900, the name was most recently affixed to the business entity created when Ullico/Hearthstone Utilities, Inc acquired Dominion Energy West Virginia. The CEO of the new Hope Gas, Morgan O'Brien, also served as the head of Peoples Gas for nine years, according to a 2022 report in the Wetzel Chronicle.

As the PSC stated in a release, the two companies approached the PSC in February regarding the potential merger, with a listed purchase price of \$37 million.

The merger will bring added costs for Peoples Gas customers. Currently, base rates for Peoples customers are beneath those of Hope Gas. Hope Gas will apply for a rate increase. Former Peoples customers, after final PSC approval, will immediately see an \$8.30 monthly surcharge for "pipeline replacement and expansion." All current Hope customers already pay the surcharge.

According to Hope Gas, though its existing pipeline network is safe, "over the lifespan of the program, we will upgrade the pipe from a bare steel, cast iron, wrought iron and copper pipe to either effectively coated steel or plastic pipe. This will typically affect the mainline, which is usually in the street, and various service lines, which run from the mainline to the gas meter."

This is the seventh year of the project, expected

See "Hope Gas" on Pg 6

Harrison County Economic Development Corporation and Chamber of Commerce Host Local Government Networking Event



Tony Kowalski, general manager of the Pete Dye Golf Club in Bridgeport, addressed the local city and county elected officials invited by the Harrison County Chamber of Commerce and the Harrison County Economic Development Corporation

By Stephen Smoot

As a sometimes rainy sky rumbled overhead, elected officials from Harrison County's seven municipal governments, county commission, and the State Legislature gathered to meet, mingle, and, hopefully, find ways to produce meaningful and positive collaboration.

"The Harrison EDC and Chamber were proud to host the event giving our local leaders the opportunity to connect with each other, discuss common goals, and assist each other in resolving challenges," said Katherine Wagner, president of the Harrison County Chamber of Commerce.

Wagner started the introductory remarks, thanking all in attendance. She was followed by Amy Haberbosch-Wilson, executive director of the Harrison County Development Corporation.

Wilson explained the close relationship between the EDC and the Chamber, with the executive directors of each body serving on each others' boards. This ensures that they have as close a working relationship as any similar two local entities in the state.

Overall, it is often said that a county or city's economic development corporation's primary goal lies in attracting new business, while chambers of commerce work to help businesses maintain themselves as much as they can.

Wilson went on to discuss recent success in receiving a brownfields grant. These funds help to remove contaminants from industrial and other sites prior to redevelopment. She also briefly mentioned the EDCs priority projects and requests for information.

She specifically asked those in the room to provide information, saying "we need to know what inventory you have, what industry you have, what you want to have." Additionally, Wilson discussed the upcoming Leadership Harrison program coming up in September.

With the focus on informal networking and exploring ways to work together, they kept their remarks brief.

The event took place at the Pete Dye Golf Club in Bridgeport. Tony Kowalski, general manager, said "it sure looks like it's a mixed crowd. Some of you, it's your first time here and others have been

See "Networking" on Pg 6



**BUILDING
AMAZING CITIES**

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

Are We Beating the Heat Or Is the Heat Beating Us

When I was in Tacoma, Washington recently, there were people from throughout the United States attending the meeting and the one topic that seemed to be on everyone's mind was the record heat throughout the country. A friend of mine from Goodyear, Arizona left home with the temperature reaching 118 degrees for the past week. Some attendees from Florida reported plus 100-degree days with high humidity. My nephew lives in Austin, Texas and is dealing with 105 degrees on a regular basis and it is wreaking havoc on his puppy, who can't believe how hot it is.

While I am not a climate scientist, I think most people can agree that something is happening with the weather. And this is not unique to the United States but is throughout the globe.

Europe is suffering with record temperatures and the news is full of tourists in Italy, seeing 115 degrees in some of the favorite tourist spots. I can only imagine waiting in line at a museum or historic church, only to burn up when you finally get into the buildings. When my wife and I took our granddaughter to Prague, a few years ago, there were misting stations at some of the venues, and it was only April.

Even businesses that usually thrive during the summer are suffering. Golf courses in many parts of the south are virtually vacant after 11:00AM. Theme parks also are affected with kids sweltering while they await their favorite roller-coaster or thrill ride. Outdoor concerts must be prepared to

See "Hunt" on Pg 3



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OPINION

A Matter of Trust

By Stephen Smoot

Early last month, Gallup released its yearly poll on institutions that Americans either trust or not. Surveys get taken yearly during the month of June.

The top five institutions trusted by Americans each year since 2021 have been, in order, small business, the military, the police, the medical system, and “the church or organized religion.” Top five does not automatically mean overwhelmingly trusted. While small business garners at least two thirds of Americans’ trust, less than a third trust the fifth place, organized religion.

The bottom five, again in order, are newspapers, the criminal justice system, television news, big business, and Congress. Newspapers currently have the trust of less than one in five, Congress has a whopping tally of a trust percentage of eight percent.

Of the 16 institutions named, only organized religion, the presidency, the United States Supreme Court, newspapers, the criminal justice system, television news, and Congress have managed to increase in trust since 2022. Every institution lost trust between 2021 and 2022. Only small business and the military enjoy the support of well over half of the population.

Trust in public schools, which in the last century generally remained high, dropped from 32 percent in 2021 to 26 percent currently. Curriculum controversies, consistent national decline in test scores and other measureables since 1980 (the establishment date of the US Department of Education), the continuing sexual abuse scandals, and pandemic policies have eroded trust in public schools. At the same time, laws providing easier paths to alternative and home education have given parents more options than ever.

It must be noted that, like the Congress support paradox, people may love their own children’s or local schools, while bemoaning the state of public schools in general. Many also tend to have strong positive feelings about their own senators and representatives while disliking Congress as a body.

Trust in the presidency as an institution sat just under 40 percent in 2021, but hovers just above 25 percent today.

The American public has a dilemma with most of its major institutions. In most cases, people and society in general have to trust these institutions for them to operate effectively, much less at full potential.

America needs these institutions but, for the most part, these institutions have given many reasons to not trust. The medical system’s 10 point drop in trust, from 44 to 34 percent in two years, reflects the honesty issues related to the government, medical, and scientific community’s response to the pandemic. The Supreme Court, on the other hand, has performed as it should and has remained relatively honest, but many disapprove of the results of their work.

The problem of trust comes from multiple issues. Institutions have lied. They have covered up. They have put their own interests ahead of their mission. They have sought to inject ideologies and agendas hostile to the values of much of the country into their work, then insult and condemn those who dare to disagree.

It takes years, often decades, to build a high level of trust. It takes only a few, sometimes just one, incident to break that trust.

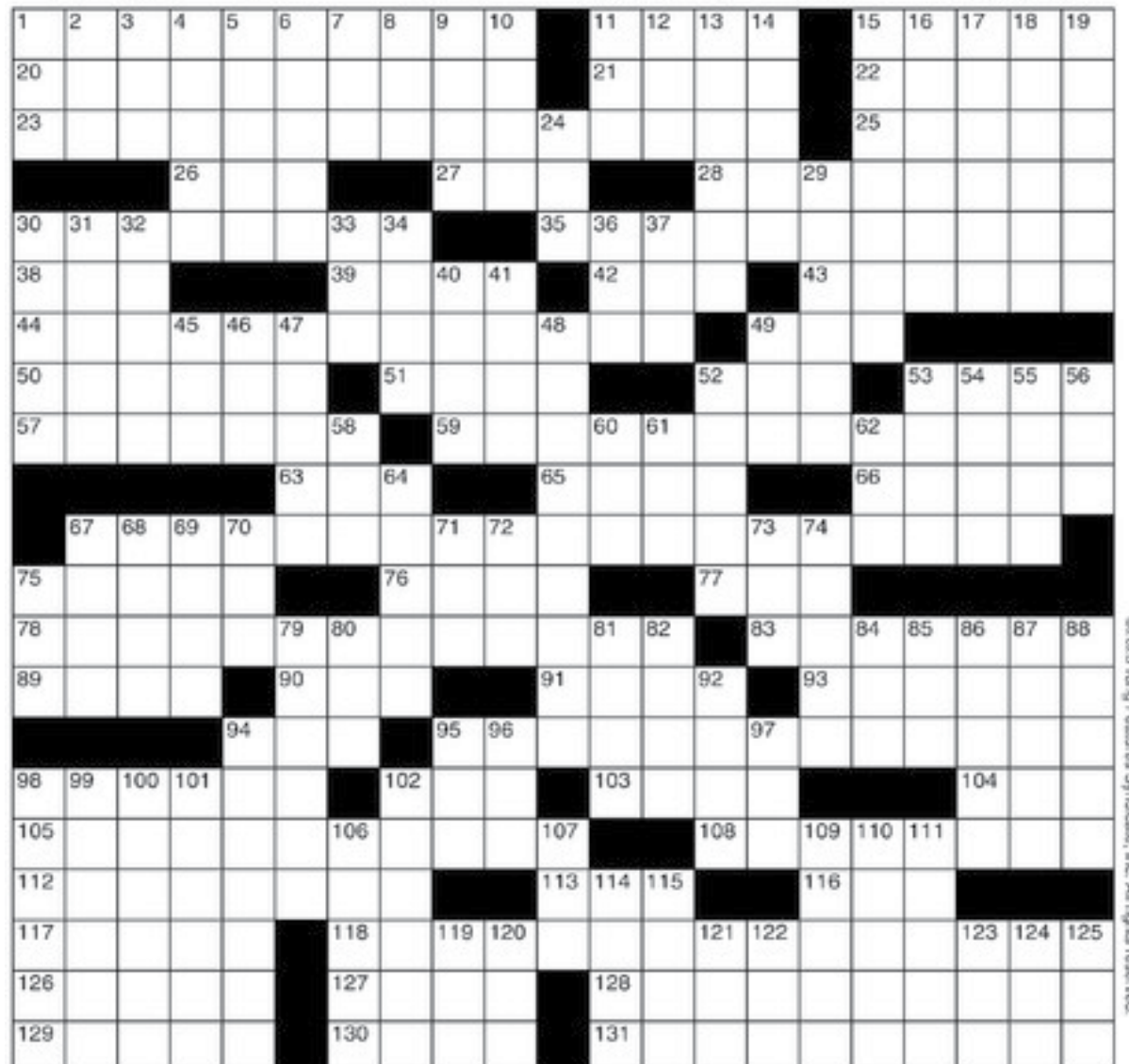
Those who have lost the trust must put in the hard work to get it back. That starts with respecting the people enough to not try to manipulate or mislead, despite the intentions behind it. Almost no public policy short of national security deserves a “bodyguard of lies” to make it work.

Those fortunate few institutions that Americans do trust must not take that privilege for granted, or risk it on lies, manipulation, or foolishness.

Super Crossword

COOLING TREND

- ACROSS**
- 1 Didn't move any closer
- 11 Swedish retail giant
- 15 Frets
- 20 Book you can't stop reading
- 21 Pupil's book
- 22 Palmer of golf, to fans
- 23 Additional person called on to peruse something
- 25 Ebbed and flowed, as water
- 26 Premaritaly named
- 27 Rarity in golf
- 28 Curative stuff
- 30 Fills with a crayon, say
- 35 Feel hopeless about
- 38 — Grande
- 39 Bring to ruin
- 42 Authorize to
- 43 Tony winner Bernadette
- 44 Longtime "Masterpiece Theatre" host
- 49 Increases
- 50 Corporation combination
- 51 Malicious
- 52 Start for historic
- 53 "I'm outie!"
- 57 Practice exam, maybe
- 59 Legendary title figure of a 1999 horror film
- 63 Granola bit
- 65 Invalidate
- 66 Bards' Muse
- 67 Some schoolkids' judged constructions
- 75 Startle
- 76 D.C. VIPs
- 77 Outback bird
- 78 Bit of jewelry with a single diamond
- 83 English class concern
- 89 Skirt borders
- 90 Hagen of the stage
- 91 Egg, in Paris
- 93 "Lawrence of Arabia" star
- 94 '60s hallucinogen
- 95 "Main Street" novelist
- 98 How silverware is often sold
- 102 Hip-hop producer
- 103 String after J
- 104 O'Hare abbr.
- 105 Times of trouble with tresses
- 108 Has a helping of humble pie
- 112 Explosion fragments
- 113 Qty.
- 116 Pi-sigma link
- 117 "I — Say No" (song from "Oklahoma!")
- 118 State flower of Iowa
- 126 Sporting site
- 127 — about (circa)
- 128 Foldaway bed or table, e.g.
- 129 — -arms (old soldier)
- 130 Gps. such as Oxdam and CARE
- 131 Ducted cooling system (and what nine answers in this puzzle have)
- DOWN**
- 1 UV ray-blocking stat
- 2 Sticky sealant
- 3 Cake candle count
- 4 Like some simple questions
- 5 Old anesthetic
- 6 Swindles
- 7 Lingerie top
- 8 Darth Vader, as a boy
- 9 "Juno" actor Michael
- 10 McDonald's honcho Ray
- 11 Suffix with Gotham
- 12 Essential
- 13 Off the hook
- 14 Really baffled
- 15 Lampoons
- 16 Ribbed cloth for dresses
- 17 Option for bitter greens
- 18 Frankfurt
- 19 Jewish feasts
- 24 Nourished
- 29 Ladle
- 30 Runner's pain
- 31 OPEC vessel
- 32 Tours' river
- 33 Dictator Amin
- 34 Average
- 36 Wapiti
- 37 Witness
- 40 "Rhyme Pays" rapper
- 41 Ark "captain"
- 45 Mil. bigwig
- 46 Masters peg
- 47 Fiery felony
- 48 A unified goal for the future
- 49 Mentalist Geller
- 52 GI's chaplain
- 53 Mag. sales stat
- 54 "Leave — that"
- 55 Doesn't delay
- 56 "Well now!"
- 58 Tic-toe link
- 60 Div. of NYC
- 61 Cup's edge
- 62 Minuscule
- 64 — cotta
- 67 Gin flavorer
- 68 Not flustered
- 69 Camera part
- 70 CPR teacher, maybe
- 71 Service cost
- 72 Rainy mo.
- 73 "U can't b serious!"
- 74 Hearer of court evidence
- 75 Fire residue
- 79 Texas capital
- 80 "— be a pleasure"
- 81 Guitar part
- 82 Aquatic bird
- 84 Ocean off Fla.
- 85 A Stooze
- 86 It cuts grass
- 87 Samuel of justice
- 88 Cut again, as lumber
- 92 Star status
- 94 Pounced on
- 95 Lady of Sp.
- 96 Climbing vine
- 97 — funk (sad)
- 98 1978-80 FBI sting
- 99 African desert
- 100 Best Actor winner Brody
- 101 "Pacific Blue" actress
- 102 Like engines in neutral
- 106 Took back, as one's title
- 107 Sticky stuff of court evidence
- 110 Tom Jones' "— Lady"
- 111 Reef material
- 114 Richie's mom, to Fonzie
- 115 Sticky stuff
- 119 John, across the pond
- 120 OR workers
- 121 John, across the pond
- 122 Sales check: Abbr.
- 123 Female cells
- 124 Six, in Italy
- 125 Go astray



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.

Aug. 3, 1897: Fire destroyed much of downtown Lewisburg. The town rebuilt and evolved in the next century into the hub of one of the state’s major farming areas and a center for education and the arts.

Aug. 3, 1907: Harley Orrin Stagers Sr. was born in Keyser. Stagers served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 32 years.

Aug. 4, 1824: John Jay Jackson Jr. was born near Parkersburg. Jackson was a prominent judge who became notorious among those trying to organize labor unions in West Virginia. He blocked an effort by Mother Jones and United Mine Workers leaders to organize the miners of northern West Virginia.

Aug. 4, 1897: Musician William Jennings “Billy” Cox was born near Charleston. Cox, known as the “Dixie Songbird,” ranked as one of West Virginia’s premier country music vocalists and songwriters during the 1930s.

Aug. 5, 1958: Jennings Randolph defeated former governor William Marland in the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate.

Randolph soon became the senior senator from West Virginia and served for 26 years.

Aug. 7, 1864: In what became known as the Battle of Moorefield, Union troops under Gen. William W. Averell attacked the headquarters of Gen. Bradley Johnson. The Confederates were routed and fled south into the town; the Union captured 500 men and 400 horses.

Aug. 7, 1877: West Virginia voters chose Charleston as the state capital over Clarksburg and Martinsburg.

Aug. 7, 1893: Parsons became the county seat of Tucker County. Parsons was named for Ward Parsons, a prominent resident and the largest landholder.

Aug. 8, 1915: Businessman Alex Schoenbaum was born in Richmond, Va. After settling in Charleston in 1943, he went into the restaurant business. His restaurants were named Shoney’s when Schoenbaum’s nickname was selected in an employee contest.

Aug. 9, 1916: A storm front from the northwest dumped nearly six inches of rain in less than five hours on the headwaters of Cabin Creek in eastern Kanawha County; 71 people died, and 900 homes were destroyed in the flood.

Aug. 9, 1954: Don Chafin died in Huntington. As sheriff of Logan County, Chafin was a bitter foe of union organizers and, with financial support from coal companies, used his many deputies to keep labor organizers out of the county.

Got a Great Local News Story?

Tell us about it today!

N&J Briefs

FROM AROUND HARRISON COUNTY
The Shinnston News provides a calendar of events free of charge to churches and nonprofit organizations. Please submit your listing two weeks prior to the event. Send via email to newsandjournal@yahoo.com

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

Tuesday, August 1 – Thursday, August 31 \$2 a bag of books or 25 cents each for single books. \$1 each for audio books. (304) 842-8248 for additional information.

FALL REGISTRATION IS OPEN for the Shinnston Soccer Association. We welcome players born in 2020 or before. Registration will close August 18. We also need coaches and volunteers, as always!

Lincoln Cheer will be selling one line ads for \$1 to be printed in the program. If you would like buy some get in touch with Mandi or one of the cheerleaders. Deadline is August 21st

Organizers for the previously named Clarksburg Music Fest & Block Party have announced changes to the event. Organizers have made the decision to move the event to Ferguson Memorial Park in Shinnston, WV on August 26, 2023.. The new name is The Summer Rock Fest & Dysfunctional Family Picnic.

Wallace VFD announces its Homecoming in the Park of August 4 and 5. Enjoy contests, activities, and live music. Event will be held at Wallace Park, located at the intersection of Ten Mile Road and Main Street

“Hunt” From Pg 1.

deal with heat related injuries, and many are making sure that they have adequate supplies of water available to fans who spend many hours in the sun.

Construction workers and roofers probably have some of the hardest jobs during these record summer days. As dangerous as it is to be high on a roof in regular weather, having the sun beating down on you, seems almost impossible to accomplish much work, yet they prevail. The road paving crews have it doubly

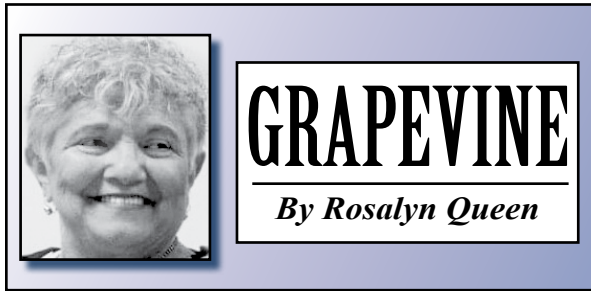
bad, since they are working with steaming truckloads of hot asphalt that they spread on the roadways. I doubt that I could hang with these workers for one day, yet alone, a whole summer.

There is also an economic cost to the rising temperatures. Homeowners are seeing higher utility bills and some areas of the country have experienced power outages, as demands on the electric grid exceed the capacity. Cities throughout the world are creating plans to deal

with rising sea levels and the cost is going to be enormous. A recent study estimated that Miami will spend over \$7.5 Billion dollars by 2050. Sadly, this will lead to higher taxes to deal with these unprecedented costs.

Whether we are experiencing global climate change or not, it appears that we will be dealing with this phenomenon for the near future. Hopefully, we will discover a solution before it's too late!

New Clarksburg City Manager Visits Lions Club



GRAPEVINE
By Rosalyn Queen



The Clarksburg Lions Club met on Friday, July 28 at Brickside at noon for their semi monthly meeting.

The meeting was called to order and the group was led in prayer and the salute to the flag.

Al Cox introduced Tiffany Fell as the speaker for the meeting. Tiffany Fell is the new City manager of Clarksburg. She comes to us from Florida but previously was from Canada. The mother of ten children, the family resides in the Broad Oaks area of Clarksburg. It is anticipated the children will attend Emmanuel Christian school.” After listing changes she would like to see in the city, she feels that the homeless individuals create a problem for the city as well as other problems. She is aware of the need to attract new businesses to the City as well as the downtown.

She currently is heading up a movement to create a water project at the VA park which might include kayaking and a pier for activity.

She is also creating a newsletter for local residents.

Following her remarks a question and answer session opened. She advised the group that she is open to meeting with groups and is open to receiving concerns of local citizens.

For individuals interested in joining the Clarksburg Lions Club contact Al Cox or any member. The group meets twice monthly at the Brickside.

Stay healthy and cool and until next week “Now You Have Heard It Through the Grapevine.”

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Saturday Next Lyfe Jennings, Jon B., Justin Young

Sunday Chrystal Rucker, GapX The Band, Rapper Yung Joc

multifestwv.org

Best Virginia Brings Summer Basketball Excitement



The Bottom Line

By Bill Nestor
Sports Editor

This summer brings the 10th anniversary of TBT. The Basketball Tournament is a 64 team single elimination tournament that awards the winning team one million dollars. That is a nice payday for the last team standing in the “loser leaves town” tourney.

Best Virginia is a team comprised mostly of former West Virginia University players and players who played hoops in the Mountain State. This is their fourth year competing in this event, and they were one of the favorites entering play this past Tuesday. They had a big advantage playing in front of friendly fans, as Wheeling was selected as one of eight first round sites.

On Tuesday, Best Virginia pulled out a hard fought win over the Dubois Dream on a last second three pointer from Erik Stevenson. The 70-68 victory helped the home team avoid a near-upset while keeping their hopes for the big jackpot alive. Kevin Jones poured in a team high 22 points, hauled down 12 rebounds, blocked four shots, and handed out three assists. Stevenson finished with 16 points, pulled in 11 rebounds, and dished out three assists. Teyvon Myera chipped in with nine points, seven assists, and three caroms.

Best Virginia held the advantage in several major categories, including total rebounding, second chance points, bench points, points in the paint, and, most importantly, assists. That showed that the team chemistry was solid and the players were willing to share the ball. Everything was rounding

into form from the top seed in the region. Up next was a revenge game two days later, as “Herd That” was waiting in the wings. The Marshall based squad had knocked off the “Zoo Crew (a Pitt Panther based group) 86-71 in the opening round.

A year ago, “Herd That” bounced “Best Virginia” from the tournament. A crowd of 2,000 fans invaded the Wesbanco Arena to view the much anticipated rematch. Best Virginia was poised to deal a defeat to its opponent, holding an eight point lead with 2:18 left in the third period of play.

“Herd That” answered the bell and responded with a 33-12 run to pull out the 74-61 come-from-behind victory. Cold shooting down the stretch hurt Best Virginia as they would shoot just 17 percent from three point land and 30 percent from the field. Herd That also held the advantage in rebounding (48-51) points in the paint (40-18) points off of turnovers (22-14) and fast break points (27-9)

Jones added a second consecutive double-double with a game high in points (18) and rebounds (13.) Jamel Morris was the only other Best Virginia player to find double digit scoring. Morris added 13 points, five rebounds, and a pair of assists. Stevenson chipped in with nine points and Myers added eight in the loss.

Herd That showed excellent scoring balance with five players in double digits. Jon Elmor and James Kelly each pumped in 16 points to lead the charge. Former Notre Dame standout Jarrod West played just over four minutes for the Marshall based team in his return to his home state.

Former Mountaineer head coach Bob Huggins was in attendance for both Best Virginia games. It was his first public appearance since stepping down after 16 seasons at his alma mater. WVU fans were treated to a trip down memory lane and there is nothing like bonus basketball in the summer!



Getting All Tuckered Out While Teeing It Up at Canaan Valley

This edition of “Tee It Up” provided a welcome break from the dog days of summer. A trip to the mountains and Canaan Valley brought an exceptional day of golf.

This top shelf golf track is an 18 hole, par 72 gem that ranges 6,984 yards from the tips and offers five sets of tees that provide a fun, but challenging, round for golfers of all skill levels.

It’s been a while since I have visited Canaan Valley, but there are some things that never change, and as long as Sherri Harold is running the show, the expectations will be sky high. Harold takes great pride in the course and it shows in the details.

When you arrive at the course, you are greeted by a wide open and inviting venue. But beware to not let your guard down, as there are 65 sand bunkers, eight water hazards, and punishing rough designed to eat up strokes. Some of the largest tee areas in the Mountain State, groomed fairways, and oversized lush greens are found at each and every hole.

Hole number nine and hole number 14 are par fives and they are prime examples of risk versus reward holes. Water is found on both, but at opposite ends. Number nine makes you cross it on your approach with number 14 forces you to clear it off the tee.

Prepare for your round with the driving range, putting green, and sand bunker. The pro shop is where you will find an extremely friendly and knowledgeable staff. Golf apparel, along with anything that you would need for your round can be found there as well. The 19th hole offers a spectacular view of the course and the perfect place to reflect on your round.

Let’s play two! Sometimes just one round isn’t enough and their story and play packages guarantee you will get your fill. Canaan Valley golf, there’s nothing like it!

Dr. Rae Emrick Named West Virginia Wesleyan College’s Next Director of Athletics

BUCKHANNON, W.Va. – Dr. Rae Emrick has been named Director of Athletics at West Virginia Wesleyan College, building on a 25-year career in athletic training and administration at her alma mater.

Emrick, a Harrison County native, completed her post-secondary education and has earned degrees from West Virginia Wesleyan College (1995), Marshall University (1997) and West Virginia University (2018). After graduating with a Master of Science degree from Marshall, Rae returned to WVWC as a member of the athletic training staff and embarked on a 25-year career with the Bobcats.

Dr. James Moore, President of West Virginia Wesleyan College, said, “I’m honored that Dr. Emrick has agreed to take this position at this time in Wesleyan’s history. We have a real opportunity here to redefine and reshape the student-athlete experience in the 21st century in NCAA Division II athletics. Dr. Emrick’s experience at Wesleyan, coupled with her passion for students and her extensive and rich experiences make her an ideal choice for leadership.”

During Emrick’s initial tenure at WVWC, she served the college in a number of different capacities which included staff, faculty, and academic and athletic administrative roles. Dr. Emrick’s professional career has been closely related to WVWC Athletics. Rae served the Department of Athletics and WVWC through the Athletic Training Services Department and Program Director of the Athletic Training Program. For 15 years, she also served in the position as Associate

Athletic Director/Senior Woman Administrator under the tutelage of three athletic directors. After a brief departure from WVWC between August 2022 to February 2023, Rae returned to assist in the position of Senior Associate Athletic Director.

Throughout her career, Dr. Emrick’s leadership has been recognized and honored by her peers. In 2007, Dr. Emrick was named Athletic Training Educator of the Year by the West Virginia Athletic Trainers’ Association (WVATA). The National Athletic Trainers’ Association Intercollegiate Council for Sports Medicine (NATA ICSM) recognized her as the 2018 NCAA Head Athletic Trainer of the Year NCAA DII. Additionally, Emrick received the WVWC Exemplary Teaching Award in the fall of 2018. The WVWC Faculty Assembly elected Dr. Emrick to the position of Vice Chair of the Faculty for the 20-21 academic year and then she subsequently served as Chair of the Faculty and ex officio member of the Board of Trustees for the 21-22 year. Most recently in 2022, she was honored with the WVATA Service Award.

Emrick said, “I want to thank Dr. Moore and the search committee for having the confidence in me to take on the role and responsibilities of Director of Athletics. I am extremely eager to work with Dr. Moore and the administration, the outstanding Athletic Department Staff, the WVWC Community and the Mountain East Conference to continue to make positive progress and create rewarding opportunities and experiences for our student athletes.

A press conference is being planned in early August to formally introduce Emrick.

Fairmont State Athletics Hall of Famer Harry Hall Passes Away

Fairmont State Athletics Hall of Fame inductee Harry Hall passed away on Friday (July 21).

Hall was a two-time First Team All-WVIAC recipient, doing so in 1957 and 1958. The Charleston, W.Va. native set the school record for season scoring average (28.2 points per game) during the 1957-58 season. He tallied 2,113 career points during his four-year Fairmont State career (1954-58).

The visitation will be held on Wednesday (July 26) from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Anderson Funeral Homes in Springboro, Ohio. The funeral service will be held on Wednesday at 1 p.m. at the Anderson Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers memorial donation may be made to the First United Methodist Church of Springboro’s Mission Endowment Fund and to Hospice of Dayton.

Hall was inducted into the Fairmont State Hall of Fame in 2002 and scored 2,113 career points for the men’s basketball team.

Spash Zone plans for August 18th Closing



From The World of Parks & Recreation

By Doug Comer

As most know, summer pool staff usually diminishes around time when kids are leaving for college or those still in high school will take that last week off before school starts back in session for the fall year. There are some things that cannot be controlled and finding a date that best works out for everyone is always a challenge.

This year, the City Parks Splash Zone will close for the final time of the summer on Friday, August 18th for the year. The weekend will be used to pack up, clean up and to have the facility inventoried and projects ready for the fall before winterizing it for the remainder of the year. A ton of work goes into the opening and closing of a pool and having enough on staff is essential in making sure that all

things are done correctly.

Maintenance supervision Bill Riffle has emphasized some projects around the pool property including giving the mini golf a face lift. Through the 20-plus years, trees have grown, bushes have overpopulated the area and the putting surfaces need a little love. The game plan is to remove some shrubs from the area and replace them with some landscape rocks and mulch to help give more openness to the area. Also, plans to work on the fountains are in the works as well.

Once the pool is closed completely, there are a couple of small projects that will need attention as well as the chemicals inspection. If budgeted correctly, we should be finished with liquid chlorine and most of the other chemicals to keep the pool within the state legal requirements. After a complete drainage of the pool, staff will power wash the area and look for items of concern on the surface of the pool. Final winterization will involve clearing out the pipes and pump areas of water, that if frozen, could cause some headaches post winter.

End of year staff meetings will include a survey

on what we do great as a team and what we need to work on in 2024. And it is the staff’s responsibility to find alternative means to improve and make the visit to the pool an enjoyable experience for the customers. Whether it is improving the concessions area or better ways to keep safety in the pool, all topics will be discussed, and an action plan will be implemented.

As a whole, the pool has been a staple in the city for decades. While most private pools have disappeared over the years, the Splash Zone has thrived. And note that revenue streams that come from the park are used for improving the property in the future as you have seen over the years with the addition of the splash pad and other areas over the years.

National Night Out, which was on August 1st, has historically been an evening with close to 1,000 people visiting the pool and is one of the biggest draws of the year and this year was no different. A free evening for Clarksburg to come and enjoy great weather and time in the pool is always a great way to close out the summer.

BUSINESS MATTERS

U.S. Supreme Court Vacates Stays on Mountain Valley Pipeline, Drawing Praise From West Virginia officials

WASHINGTON D.C. (WV News) — The U.S. Supreme Court has vacated stays placed on the Mountain Valley Pipeline, allowing the pipeline’s construction to resume as legal battles continue.

The pipeline developers petitioned Chief Justice John Roberts to lift the orders handed down July 10 and 11 by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. The stays prevented construction from resuming during the course of a lawsuit brought by environmental groups challenging the constitutionality of the law that would allow the project to move forward.

Several West Virginia officials have advocated for the pipeline project and celebrated the court’s decision.

“The Supreme Court has spoken and this decision to let construction of the Mountain Valley Pipeline move forward again is the correct one. I am relieved that the highest court in the land has upheld the law Congress

passed and the President signed,” said U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va.

“All necessary permits have been issued and approved, we passed bipartisan legislation in Congress, the president signed that legislation into law, and now the Supreme Court has spoken: construction on the Mountain Valley Pipeline can finally resume, which is a major win for American energy and American jobs,” said Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va.

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey said, “I am pleased the Supreme Court recognized the importance of this project not only for West Virginia, but for the nation,” Attorney General Morrisey said. “The Mountain Valley Pipeline is vital to the survival of American energy independence and affects thousands of jobs in West Virginia—its completion is also critical to our national security, the urgent need is for it to be completed as soon as possible.”

Attorney General Morrisey Applauds US Supreme Court’s Lifting of Block on Mountain Valley Pipeline

CHARLESTON — West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey on Thursday praised the U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning a lower court’s hold on the construction of the Mountain Valley Pipeline.

“I am pleased the Supreme Court recognized the importance of this project not only for West Virginia, but for the nation,” Attorney General Morrisey said. “The Mountain Valley Pipeline is vital to the survival of American energy independence and affects thousands of jobs in West Virginia—its completion is also critical to our national security, the urgent need is for it to be completed as soon as possible.”

Attorney General Morrisey this week filed an amicus brief urging the Supreme Court to lift the stay.

The Supreme Court decision vacated the order that came down from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit—that order stopped the pipeline construction of a 3.5-mile stretch in the Jefferson National Forest in Virginia, as well as several stream crossings in West Virginia.

The pipeline begins from the gas fields in northwestern West Virginia then heads into interstate connections in Virginia—the Atlantic Coast region.

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

CHARLESTON — West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey announced a representative from his office will meet with north central West Virginia residents in August 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:

- Aug. 1: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Monongalia County Fair, 500 Mylan Park, Morgantown
- Aug. 2: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Monongalia County Fair, 500 Mylan Park, Morgantown
- Aug. 3: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Monongalia County Fair, 500 Mylan Park, Morgantown
- Aug. 4: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Monongalia County Fair, 500 Mylan Park, Morgantown

Aug. 14: 11 a.m. to noon - County Commission Meeting Room, 106 West Main St., Kingwood

Aug. 15: 11 a.m. to noon - Senior Center, 404 Main St., Fairview

Aug. 22: 11 a.m. to noon - Senior Center, 105 Maple Drive, Fairmont

Aug. 23: 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - Senior Center, 500 West Main St., Clarksburg

Aug. 23: Noon to 1 p.m. - Shinnston Library, 40 Bridge St., Shinnston

Aug. 24: 11 a.m. to noon - Senior Center, 52 Trap Road, Grafton

Aug. 28: 11 a.m. to noon - Senior Center, 47 Church St., Philippi

Aug. 29: 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - Senior Center, 171 West Second St., Weston

Aug. 30: 11 a.m. to noon - Senior Center, 28 North Kanawha St., Buckhannon

Aug. 31: 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. - County Commission Meeting Room, 4 Randolph Ave., Elkins

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.

Workers’ compensation insurance rates to drop for 19th straight year, more good news for West Virginia businesses

CHARLESTON, WV — Governor Jim Justice announced today that the National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI), West Virginia’s rating and statistical agent, has filed a proposed workers’ compensation loss cost decrease of 12.7%, effective Nov. 1, 2023.

This premium reduction results in a projected \$20 million in savings to West Virginia employers.

“Today marks another day of great economic news in West Virginia,” Gov. Justice said. “Businesses around the state will again see massive savings and, in turn, reinvest that money into our economy. It’s truly a win for everyone.

“We continue to make this state better as we attract individuals and businesses. This is an incredibly promising time to be part of West Virginia’s story.”

Since the workers’ compensation program was privatized in 2006, the market has experienced approximately \$466 million in premium savings.

This latest filing represents the 19th consecutive year of loss cost decreases.

While the loss cost decrease of 12.7% applies to all standard classifications, a proposed 16.9% rate decrease for the assigned risk market has also been filed with the West Virginia Offices of the Insurance Commissioner.

DHHR Reminds Parents of West Virginia Immunization Requirements for Back-to-School

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) reminds parents of West Virginia students of the importance of remaining up to date with vaccinations as the back-to-school season approaches. Children who are current with their vaccinations will automatically meet school immunization requirements.

All children entering school in West Virginia for the first time in grades K-12 must show proof of immunization against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, and hepatitis B unless properly medically exempted. All children entering school in West Virginia in grades 7 and 12 must show proof of immunization against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, and meningococcal disease unless properly medically exempted.

“As families, students, educators, and county school systems prepare for the upcoming school year, it is important to receive vaccinations in a timely manner to help prevent potentially fatal or severe illnesses, including diphtheria, measles, mumps, rubella, polio, tetanus, whooping cough (pertussis) and others,” said Dr. Matthew Christiansen, Commissioner for DHHR’s Bureau for Public Health and State Health Officer. “Parents are encouraged to discuss their child’s vaccination status with their primary care provider or local health department.”

DHHR’s Bureau for Behavioral Health Announces Evidence-Based Behavioral Health Clearinghouse

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), Bureau for Behavioral Health (BBH) has launched the BBH Clearinghouse, an online database of evidence-based practices to help individuals, families, providers, schools, communities, and other partners make informed decisions about selecting effective prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery services. The BBH Clearinghouse is funded through grants from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Approximately two years in the making, the BBH Clearinghouse was created through extensive research by subject matter experts, graduate assistants, and Marshall University faculty; feedback from a collaborative advisory workgroup; and coordination by BBH staff, Community Access, and Terzetto Creative. Originally commissioned to review behavioral health services for children, youth, and young adults, the Clearinghouse accepts requests to review services for people of all ages at <https://clearinghouse.helpandhopewv.org/request-program-review/>.

“West Virginians deserve knowledge of and access to quality behavioral health services,” said Dawn Frohna, Commissioner of DHHR’s Bureau for Behavioral Health. “The BBH Clearinghouse is a tool to save time when exploring and implementing behavioral health services proven to have positive outcomes.”

BBH also funds several helplines through SAMHSA funding, operated by First Choice Services, to assist West Virginians in need of behavioral health supports. The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and 844-HELP4WV (844-435-7498) are available 24/7 and include call, chat, and text options.

For additional information and mental health resources for children and adults, visit dhhr.wv.gov/bbh. To view and apply for careers in the behavioral health field, visit dhhr.wv.gov/Pages/Career-Opportunities.aspx.



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THANK YOU FOR READING

“Biz of the Month” From pg 1

1988, there were only 2,074 and the number has continued to decline. Only in recent years has the pandemic inspired idea of social distancing, plus nostalgia, helped drive ins to seea renewed interest nationwide. Currently, the Sunset is one of three drive ins currently regularly operating in West Virginia.

Rocky Morgan, current owner of the Sunset and Ellis, seeks to keep beloved traditions alive, while also adding updates for 21st century tastes. He took over from Anthony and John Ellis, who ran the business until last year.

“God blessed us,” Morgan explained, “we were able to work out an agreement, and here we are.” He explained that the Ellises worked hard to keep the theater going despite national trends Morgan explained “you could say it was the passion that they had to keep it open”

The drive in serves as more than just an attraction for locals. Morgan shared that “we’ve had people from Charleston, Huntington, from up in Pennsylvania.”

Morgan remains determined to keep what customers have loved about each for generations, while adding new looks and flavors to attract younger customers as well. “We want to add some stuff,” he

said, “We upgraded the inside. We’re fixing the outside. We want to get the community and families involved. We want to make it more community and family oriented.”

As far as the menu at Ellis’ is concerned, they will keep old favorites like open faced roast beef, American, and Italian favorites. “We make our lasagna homemade, our spaghetti sauce homemade, meatloaf homemade too.” He added that they are adding new favorite flavors like chicken bacon ranch sandwiches and said “we have a different twist on steak hoagies.”

Aware that those who have patronized the restaurant for years may fear changes, he said “we just want them to come and enjoy and have an open mind.”

More importantly, Morgan sees Ellis as an important part of the life of the community and all of their customers as special. “We want to make them feel like they are a part of the family.”

Postscript: This article owes a huge thank you to the “I Like Shinnston” Facebook page. Completely without knowledge of this piece, members last week posted information about the history of the establishment. The page and its users deserve credit for the historical information.

“Networking” From pg 1

coming for 10 or 15 years.” He also stated that the club had a commitment to the community, making the facility accessible to anyone, “not just our private membership.”

After the meeting, Wagner explained that “we feel it is important

“Hope Gas” From pg 1

to replace approximately 1,000 miles of Hope’s 3,246 mile system.

Hope Gas is also part of the ARCH2 group of companies, many involved in natural gas, working to create hydrogen fuel hubs in the state. The acronym comes from Appalachian Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub. The project seeks to create a net zero emission process to use natural gas to produce hydrogen fuel.

Studies in the Potomac Highlands and elsewhere in West Virginia have demonstrated the unsuitability of heavy electric vehicles (EVs), especially heavier ones, in the Mountain State’s temperature

for all leaders throughout the County to work together to maximize our efforts to promote and support local businesses and grow our economy. Only by working together can we all grow and prosper.

extremes and highlands driving. This led to the federal government’s support of developing multiple hydrogen fuel projects in West Virginia.

Hope Gas has pledged to keep Peoples’ 23 West Virginia based employees. Peoples Gas serves more than 12,000 customers in 15 counties with the bulk of them concentrated in Harrison, Taylor, and Marion counties.

According to the PSC, “the commission must still make the final decision on whether to accept the proposal.”

Marshall University to establish rural residency program for internal medicine

A new grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) will support the planning and development of a three-year rural internal medicine residency program at Holzer Health System in Gallipolis, Ohio, in collaboration with the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

The new three-year, \$750,000 grant to the Marshall Community Health Consortium, composed of the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Marshall Health, Cabell Huntington Hospital and Valley Health Systems, will focus on creating a pipeline of primary care physicians trained specifically to care for patients in rural communities. The number of primary care physicians in Appalachia is 21% below the national average. That rate jumps to 40% below the national average in distressed Appalachian counties, according to the Appalachian Regional Commission.

“Marshall is a national leader in rural health, a role we could not fulfill without engaged health-care and hospital partners,” said Paulette S. Wehner, M.D., vice dean of graduate medical education at the School of

Medicine. “Since first partnering with Holzer to establish a family medicine residency in 2017 and successfully launching two other rural residency programs at Logan Regional Medical Center and Rivers Health, we look forward to using our expertise to build a rural internal medicine residency that will provide a high-caliber training experience and retain graduates to serve as primary care physicians for our area.”

As part of separate rural accreditation designation requirements, the internal medicine residents will conduct their first year of training in Huntington and their final two years at Holzer Health System, located 42 miles north of Huntington in southeast Ohio. This model allows trainees to learn firsthand how to address health care barriers in rural communities and treat a wide range of conditions they will experience in practice.

The consortium will work toward achieving initial accreditation in 2025 and welcoming its first residents in July 2026. Stephen A. Roy, M.D., assistant professor of medicine, will serve as the residency program director, and Holzer physician Jennifer Calafato, D.O., has been appointed as Holzer’s

associate rural program director.

In addition to curriculum and program development, the grant will also support expansion of the family medicine residency suite at Holzer and additional simulation equipment. The internal medicine program will be Marshall’s third rural health residency, including the nation’s first separately accredited rural surgery residency, and the fourth program sponsored by the Consortium. For more information, please contact the Office of Graduate Medical Education at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine at 304-691-1823.

Fairmont State University Announces Move-in Dates and Major Welcome Weekend Activities

Fairmont State University has announced the move-in dates for students living on campus during the 2023-2024 academic year and some of the major activities that will take place during the annual Welcome Weekend.

“Move-in and Welcome Weekend are some of the most exciting events here on campus,” said Associate Vice President of Enrollment and Student Life Alicia Kalka. “Not only do we get to welcome our Falcons back to campus for the new school year during Move-in, but we also get to celebrate our new students with fun activities during Welcome Weekend.”

Move-in will begin on Thursday, August 17 from 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. for new students. Upperclassmen will move in the following day, Friday, August 18 from 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. Convocation for new students will occur at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, August 18. After Convocation the Community Resource Fair and Picnic will be held from 4:00 p.m.- 6:30 p.m. The next day the annual Day of Action hosted by Fairmont State and Tygart Valley United Way will take place on Sunday, August 20 at 10:45 a.m. More Welcome Weekend Activities are tentatively scheduled to take place over the weekend.

“Welcome Weekend is such an important time for new students,” said Assistant Director of Student Life Justin Rader. “Not only do we help new students prepare for the upcoming school year, but we also provide them with fun activities that allow them to meet fellow students, make friends and feel more comfortable on campus.”

Questions about Move-in and Welcome Weekend can be directed to the Office Residential and Student Life at StudentActivities@FairmontState.edu or 304-367-4216.

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OBITUARIES



Rebecca "Becky" Kay (Skidmore) Bunnell

Rebecca "Becky" Kay (Skidmore) Bunnell, 56, of Wallace, passed away on July 23, 2023 at Jersey Shore University Medical Center in New Jersey. She was born in Fairmont, WV on December 9, 1966 to the late William Skidmore and Pauline (Barker) Skidmore.

Becky is survived by her loving husband, Donley; six sons: Donnie Skidmore and wife Jennie of Eastview, Dorsey Jones and wife Angela of Shinnston, David Jones and his girlfriend Jane of Wallace, Donley Damien Bunnell and wife Chelsea of Wallace, Brandon Bunnell and husband Scott of Jackson City, NJ and James Bunnell of Wallace; one daughter, Brittney Murphy and husband Justin of Eastview; grandchildren: Michael, Jacob, David Lee, Zoie, Kobe, Makayla, Malinda, Dorsey Jr., Giana, Karilee, Donley Damien Jr., Raelynn, Kaden, Bentley, Maleea, Peyton and Beckley; great grandchildren: Bella and Eliana; four brothers: Danny Skidmore and wife Diane of Shinnston, Anthony Wayne Skidmore and wife Barbara of Meadowbrook, Robert Skidmore and wife Jeanette of Lumberport

and Norman Swiger and wife Diane of Meadowbrook; three sisters: Linda Wilson of Clarksburg, Corbie Lockett and husband Michael of Haywood and Delphia Hammond of Stonewood; many nieces and nephews as well as many more family members and friends she was blessed with.

In addition to her parents she is preceded in death by one son, Michael Bunnell; one sister, Peggy Ann Landis and two brothers: Danny Skidmore and Dorsey Skidmore.

Becky was generous and compassionate. She always spoke her mind and fought for what she believed in. She was an incredible cook and always made sure there was a plate for anyone needing it. Her door was always open for anyone in need of shelter, a cup of Maxwell House or just a laugh. She enjoyed the outdoors ... camping, fishing and riding ATVs. Her greatest love was her family and she always had her peculiar ways of bringing her family together. She cherished her loving endearments "Mom" "Grandma" and "Nana."

Family will receive friends at Dorsey Funeral Home, 701 S. Pike St., Shinnston, on Friday, July 28, 2023 from 2:00pm until 7:00pm, time of service, with Pastor Tim Sandy officiating.

In keeping with Becky's wishes, she will be cremated.

Dorsey Funeral Home is honored to be handling the arrangements for the Bunnell family.



John D. DeMary

John D. DeMary, 89, of Shinnston passed away on Sunday, July 23, 2023, at his residence surrounded by his loving family. He was born June 15, 1934 in Enterprise, a son of the late Salvador and Jo Ann Mundich DeMary. On January 12, 1963, he married Kathryn Ann Beto DeMary and they had two sons, John M. DeMary, Clarksburg, and his children, Ryan, Fairmont, Alex and Anthony, Clarksburg, and Kathryn, Shinnston and his son Mark DeMary and wife Lori and their children, Grace and Sophia DeMary, all of Fairmont; his brother-in-law, Anthony David Tartell, Fairmont; his nieces and nephews, Michael Beto, Morgantown, Michelle Beto, Bridgeport, John and Sheena Beto, Mt. Clare, Jodi Paugh, Clarksburg, Anne and John Aunins, Newton, MA, and Jim Hammons, Cambridge, MA.

He was preceded in death by his sisters, Delores Bernadette Tartell, Fairmont, and Norma Jean Hammons and her husband, James Harvey Hammons, Needham, MA.

John graduated from Shinnston High School in 1952 and Duquesne University in 1956. He served in the United States Army from 1957 to 1959. As a pharmacy graduate, he applied for a direct commission

and was sent to Brook Army Medical Center at San Antonio, TX for 10 weeks before being attached to a field hospital in Fort Hood, TX. As company commander at the 100-bed hospital, his unit was trained and prepared to handle emergency situations if there was need overseas. He was later named the Director of Pharmacy at Fort Hood Army Hospital, where he remained for 2 1/2 years and occasionally ate lunch with Elvis Presley.

As a veteran, John D. DeMary was able to relate to the veterans he served, and he always made a sincere effort to "go the extra mile" to treat everyone he interacted with the respect and compassion they earned and deserved.

John's professional career spanned over 60 years. He was previously employed at Ohio Valley General Hospital, Wheeling in 1957; Wells-Haymaker Drug Store in Clarksburg in 1959 to 1967; owned Lumberport Pharmacy from 1967-1973; owned DeMary Pharmacy; in Shinnston from 1968 to 1991; owned DeMary Sixth Street Pharmacy (partnership with sons) from 1988 to 1991; Staff Pharmacist at the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center from 1993 to 2013; Pharmacy Consultant for St. Barbara's Memorial Nursing Home through 2024.

John was a member of the St. Ann's Catholic Church and served as President of Parish Council; Former President of St. Barbara's Memorial Nursing Home; Former member of the Kiwanis Club; Former President

of Central WV Transit Authority (CENTRA); WV Pharmacists Association Board of Directors; former President of Shinnston Area Development Association (SADA); Board of Directors Shinnston-Lincoln Scholarship Foundation.

In addition to his lifelong dedication to community service, John's passion was his family, he loved to travel, and he was an avid Notre Dame Football fan.

The family would like a special thanks to Dr. Lance Dubburke and the Staff of Shinnston Health Care, Dr. George Shehl and the Staff of the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center, Dr. Richard Vasicek and the Staff of WV Medicine Hospice, and his personal caregivers- Amanda Underwood and Amber Price.

Friends will be received at the Harmer Funeral Home in Shinnston from 2-8 PM, Wednesday. Holy Rosary will be recited at 7:30 PM Wednesday. A Mass of Christian Burial will be at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Shinnston at 11:00 AM, Thursday, July 27, 2023, with Father Akila Rodrigo T.O.R. and Father Deepu Joseph as Celebrant, and assisted by Deacon David Lester. Interment will follow at Shinnston Memorial Cemetery.

Online memories and condolences may be shared at Harmerfuneralhome.com.

A service of Harmer Funeral Home, Shinnston.



Caron Drummond

Caron Drummond, 82, of Spelter, passed away July 20, 2023 at her residence surrounded by family. She was born January 18, 1941, in Wallace, WV, to the late John Henry Lynch and Audra L. Bramer Lynch Strother.

Caron is survived by her husband of over 53 years, Shafter (Brud) Drummond; sister Helen Griffin and husband Don of Clarksburg; sister-in-law Loretta Lynch of Clarksburg; and several nieces and nephews. Along with her parents, she is preceded in death by her brother James H.

Lynch, and sister Mary Virginia Lynch Gray-beal.

She worked at JCPenney and attended the Methodist church.

Friends will be received at Harmer Funeral Home on Monday, July 24, 2023 from 4:00PM-8:00PM. A graveside service will be held at the Shinnston Memorial Cemetery Mausoleum on Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at 11:10AM. due to covid exposure by family members the graveside service will be held outside the mausoleum.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Spelter Volunteer Fire Department, 55 B Street Meadowbrook, WV 26404

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

A service of Harmer Funeral Home, Shinnston.



Kenneth Junior (Pooch) Robinson

Kenneth Junior (Pooch) Robinson, age 69, of Margaret Community of Wallace, WV went home to be with the Lord on July 25, 2023.

He was born March 3, 1954 in Upshur County, WV, a son of the late Mary M. Robinson and Junior B. Riley.

He is survived by his three brothers, Cecil, Roy and wife Janet, and David and wife Angie Robinson as well as several nieces and nephews whom he loved to spend time with.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Marion and Elmer Robinson as well as three brothers and one sister in infancy.

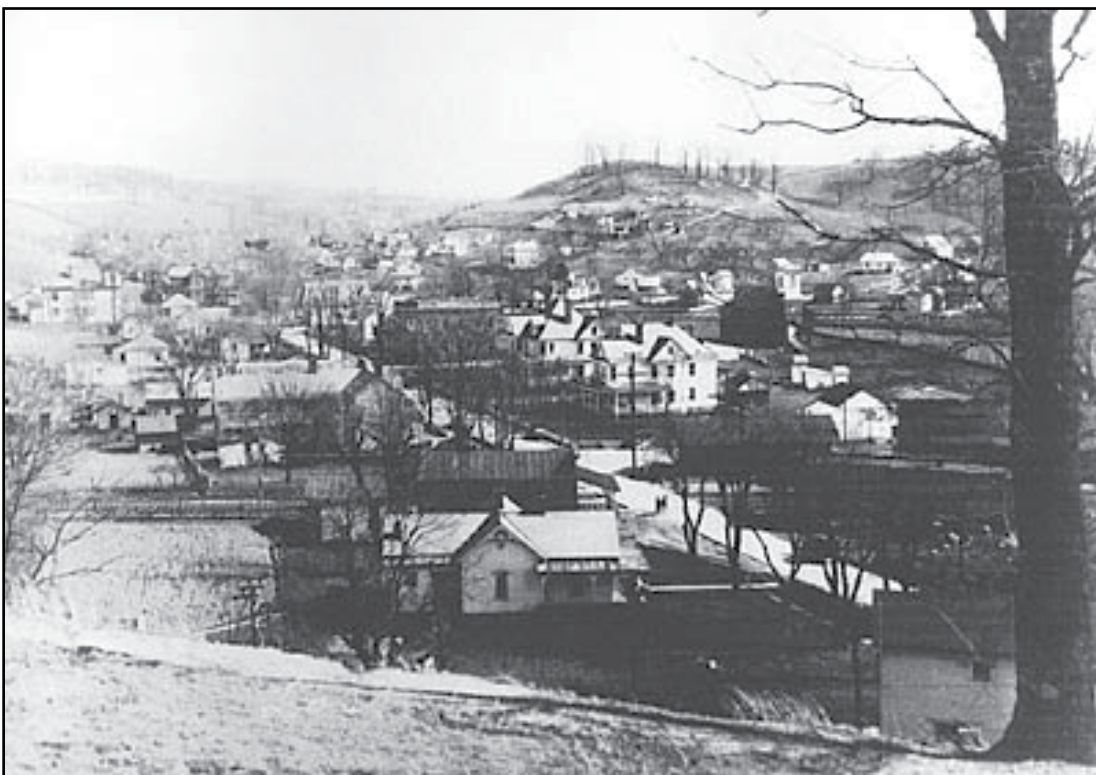
Kenneth (Pooch) enjoyed spending his time "tinkering" on anything with a small engine and he also loved the outdoors. You could find him most any day hunting, gardening, or foraging the woods for Ramps and mushrooms.

He was loved by many because he had a kind heart and never saw a stranger. He will be greatly missed.

Friends will be re-

Out of the Past

Memorable photographs from around Harrison County



A view of Lost Creek in 1915. Photo Courtesy of WV Culture

“Obits” From Pg 7

ceived at Harmer Funeral Home, 300 Pike St., Shinnston on Friday from 11 am to 1 pm with a funeral service to follow at 1:00 pm. Pastor Tim Sandy will officiate and Interment will follow at Lions Club Cemetery, Lumberport. Online memories and condolences may be made to harmerfuneral-home.com. A service of Harmer Funeral Home, Shinnston.

What do you truly seek?

From L'Osservatore Romano

Those who approached the ancient temple of Apollo at Delphi seeking the oracle of wisdom, would first be confronted by the inscription over the entrance: “Know thyself”. The young Solomon in today’s first reading begs the Lord for wisdom, indicating thereby that to some extent he has already found it. This Sunday’s gospel challenges us with the question, “What do you truly seek?”

We have a trio of parables found only in Matthew. They are succinct, balanced in expression and evocative in their imagery. We are moving in the world of agriculture and compact fields, of lightsome beauty from the depths of the sea, of the heaving and creaking of fishing boats. The protagonists in all three parables are resourceful and determined as they engage in their various quests.

At first glance the parables of the treasure hidden in a field and the pearl of great value seem to be saying the same thing, a repetition rather like the parallelism we find in Hebrew poetry. There are, however, two notable differences, namely the symbols of the kingdom of heaven and the identity of the seekers. In the first parable, the treasure betokens the kingdom and the person who finds it is the questing human heart. It is thus a parable of our longing and our investment in what we really desire. In the second, in contrast, it is the seeking merchant who symbolizes the kingdom of heaven and the one who rules there. What then is the pearl? Could it in fact be the human heart that God desires with the intensity of his love? The two parables together suggest a reciprocal search, we for God and God for us.

As we take to the waters in the third parable, we see the almost reckless inclusiveness of the kingdom’s reach but at the same time, expressed in apocalyptic language, the stern expectation regarding the quality of the catch.

Have you understood all this? While seeking the kingdom of heaven, remember that the kingdom is already seeking you; establish your true priorities; hold nothing back; give whatever it takes. And you will have treasure in heaven.

By Fr Edmund Power, osb

Colorado’s Return to Big 12 Latest in Long List Of Conference Switching

By John Antonik

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. – This time, West Virginians are watching and wondering rather than watching and worrying.

On Thursday, Colorado announced its decision to exit the Pac-12 Conference after this season to return to the Big 12, where it once called home from 1996- 2011. The Buffaloes were original members of the Big Eight Conference in 1948 and joined the Big 12 when programs from the Big Eight and Southwest Conference merged in 1996.

“They’re back,” was the brief statement released by Big 12 commissioner Brett Yormark early Thursday evening.

From strictly a football perspective, Colorado’s history includes a national championship in 1990, 26 conference titles, a Heisman Trophy winner (Rashaan Salaam), 29 bowl appearances and 719 victories, which is 42nd among all NCAA programs. Although Colorado has struggled recently on the gridiron, optimism has been renewed with the hiring of coach Deion Sanders. He’s kept the Buffaloes in the news from the moment he was hired on Dec. 4, 2022.

The addition of Colorado, a traditional program from another Power 5 conference, clearly strengthens the Big 12, which is a much different dynamic for Mountaineer fans to process these days.

For years, West Virginians have watched with concern as their conferences got picked apart.

In 1952, after just two seasons in the Southern Conference, West Virginia saw Clemson, Maryland, South Carolina, North Carolina, Duke, NC State and Wake Forest leave to form the Atlantic Coast Conference in 1953.

Virginia Tech, left out with West Virginia when the ACC was formed, eventually dropped out of the Southern Conference in 1965, three years before West Virginia departed in 1968 to become an Eastern independent.

Eastern independence served Mountaineer football well until the late 1980s when Penn State delivered the jolting news that it was planning to transition to the Big Ten Conference in the early 1990s.

For years, Penn State coach Joe Paterno championed an Eastern all-sports conference and former WVU athletic director Leland Bryd recalled three different attempts to form leagues between 1972 and 1981.

But petty differences and a lack of foresight got in the way each time.

“(Former WVU AD) Red Brown was here in ‘72, and Pitt dropped out of that. Pitt would not go along with it,” the late Byrd recalled in 2014. “Walt Cummings, assistant AD from Pitt, and Frank McNerney (athletic director) from Massachusetts were on that committee working on it.

“They wanted to get Syracuse and Boston College to come in as an all-sports conference, but we needed Pitt and Penn State to agree to that. At that time, Penn State agreed but Pitt would not. They had just brought in (coach) Johnny Majors and he was going to do his own thing.”

Byrd said another attempt at forming an Eastern all-sports league was made in the late-1970s right before the Big East basketball conference was created.

However, the most serious attempt at forming an Eastern all-sports conference occurred in 1981 and was championed by Paterno, who was then serving the dual role of head football coach and athletic director. Paterno was also on the College Football Association (CFA) television committee, so he understood the value of locking up the Northeast television market.

“I was covering the meetings in Cape Cod and

what really sticks with me was (Paterno) talking about this future league and potential television revenues, and nobody talked about television revenues back then,” Bob Smizik, retired Pittsburgh Post-Gazette sportswriter, recalled in 2014. “Pitt was definitely a key factor there. Penn State wanted Pitt, and if it could get Pitt, obviously West Virginia would come along, but more importantly, Boston College and Syracuse would come along and that would throw a real wrench into the Big East.”

Smizik continued.

“Pitt thought this over for several months, did a lot of investigating, and I know it was not happy with the way Paterno had stacked the revenue sharing or revenue distribution for the new league, and decided to go with the Big East instead,” he said.

“The problem we had with the Eastern Conference was, at that time, Pitt and Penn State were just like cats and dogs,” former WVU coach Don Nehlen once recalled. “Joe, I think, did this in good faith, but he was monopolizing (Eastern) recruiting and Pitt, at that time, was awful, awful good. At times, when they had (Dan) Marino, Hugh Green, Rickey Jackson and all those guys, they were better than Penn State, so no matter what Joe said Pitt went against it.”

After that, Paterno and Penn State were done with Eastern sports and by the late 1980s were in deep discussions with the Big Ten.

In the meantime, the Southeastern Conference expanded to add South Carolina and Arkansas in 1990, the Big East Football Conference was formed in 1991 and Penn State made room on its schedule to begin Big Ten play in 1993.

The remnants of the Southwest Conference joined forces with the Big Eight to form the Big 12 in 1996, and eight years later, the ACC began picking off Big East teams. Miami and Virginia Tech were the first to go in 2004, and Boston College followed suit a year later.

The Big East fortified itself with the additions of Cincinnati, Louisville and USF, but became vulnerable once again when its television contract was up for bid in 2011. Syracuse and Pitt opted to go to the ACC in response to the SEC adding Missouri and Texas A&M, the Pac-10 adding Colorado and Utah, and the Big Ten bringing in Nebraska.

The Big 12 backfilled its lineup with West Virginia and TCU, and three years later, the Big Ten added Rutgers and Maryland, and the ACC added Louisville.

More recently, Texas and Oklahoma announced in 2021 that they were leaving the Big 12 for the SEC, and the Big Ten countered a year later by picking off USC and UCLA from the Pac-12.

The Big 12 remained intact by adding BYU, Cincinnati, UCF and Houston in 2022, and then renegotiated its television contract ahead of the Pac-12 to create enough stability to entice Colorado to return for the 2024 season.

That’s where we sit today.

Tomorrow?

We’ll see.

Nehlen saw this game of musical chairs coming decades ago when he was serving as president of the College Football Association. He remembers one meeting when Georgia coach Vince Dooley and Nebraska coach Tom Osborne got up in front of the group talking about the need for the bigger programs to separate from the smaller ones.

“They got up and said, ‘Hey, we need to have a league or a group of about 64 or 65 schools and to hell with the rest of these guys who are always telling us how to recruit,’” Nehlen recalled. “I knew eventually we would end up this way.”

Well, we are about there. Stay tuned.

Commerce Committee Advances Capito Supported Legislation to Protect Children and Preserve AM Radio

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), a member of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, last week voted during a committee markup to advance several of her legislative priorities: the Kids Online Safety Act and the AM for Every Vehicle Act. Both pieces of legislation were approved and can now be considered and voted on by the full Senate.

The Kids Online Safety Act:

Senator Capito helped introduce the Kids Online Safety Act, which provides young people and parents with the tools, safeguards, and transparency they need to protect against online harms. The bill requires social media platforms to put the well-being of children first, ensuring an environment that is safe by default. The legislation also requires independent audits by experts and academic researchers to ensure that social media platforms are taking meaningful steps to address risks to kids. This legislation was led by U.S. Senators Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) Learn more here.

“Our children are the future, which is why

it’s important that we do all we can to protect them from online threats that pose a great risk to their development. Online platforms must be responsible for the content provided to our youth and tools must be in place to prevent harm. I’m glad to see the Commerce Committee advance legislation that shields our most vulnerable population from patterned online risks, and encourage my Senate colleagues to support this effort,” Senator Capito said.

The AM for Every Vehicle Act:

The AM for Every Vehicle Act, which Senator Capito co-sponsored, aims to direct federal regulators to require automakers to maintain AM broadcast radio in their new vehicles at no additional charge. This legislation was led by U.S. Senators Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and Ed Markey (D-Mass.).

“In West Virginia, we rely on AM radio for many things from road and weather updates, to high school football games and local broadcasts. It’s important that it is maintained in new vehicles without additional costs burdening consumers. I’m proud to join this effort and look forward to this legislation being considered by the full Senate,” Senator Capito.

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What you need to know about PACT Act deadlines

By Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola, National Commander, American Legion

Dear American Legion Family Members and Friends,

It is abundantly clear that The American Legion-endorsed PACT Act will help connect veterans exposed to toxins with the benefits earned through their service. What may not be clear, however, are the upcoming deadlines and what they mean to veterans and their family members.

First off, the Sgt. 1st Class Heath Robinson PACT Act ushers in a range of VA health care options and benefits for millions of veterans who were exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange and other toxins. It covers those who were exposed in Iraq and Afghanistan, veterans who encountered Agent Orange in Vietnam and others.

Please note: There is no deadline to apply for PACT Act benefits.

However, there are upcoming timelines that will require urgent action by some individuals.

If you file your PACT Act claim — or submit your intent to file — by Aug. 9, 2023, you may receive benefits backdated to Aug. 10, 2022. That's the date when President Biden signed the legislation into law.

There also is a Sept. 30 deadline for some post-9/11 veterans to enroll for VA health care under a special one-year window opened by the PACT Act. The bill automatically assumes those who served in certain locations were exposed. Once they are enrolled, veterans' individual cases will dictate what benefits they will receive.

The important part is to enroll in VA by the end of September. You can start here.

Who is eligible to enroll in this scenario? You are if you meet any of the following criteria:

- You served in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War and were discharged or released between Sept. 11, 2001, and Oct. 1, 2013.
- You served "in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities" after Nov. 11, 1998.
- Post-9/11 combat veterans who exited service on or after Oct. 1, 2013, have up to 10 years after their separation dates.

Here are some additional resources:

- Need help? An accredited American Legion service officer provides free assistance to any veteran or family member. Find one near you by searching here.
- File a claim online through VA's website.
- Submit an Intent to File online form for a VA claim. (Remember, the deadline is Aug. 9.)
- Visit [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT) to learn about and apply for PACT Act-related care and benefits. You can also call 1-800-MYVA411 to apply over the phone.

Even if the PACT Act does not apply to you, it affects millions of our brothers and sisters. Please share this with other veterans so they are aware and can receive the benefits they earned through their service and sacrifice.

Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola
National Commander
The American Legion

Manchin Responds to Mountain Valley Pipeline Resuming Construction

Washington, DC — Today, Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), Chairman of the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, released the below statement on Mountain Valley Pipeline resuming construction.

"I fought to ensure that language to complete the Mountain Valley Pipeline was included in the Fiscal Responsibility Act in June. Congress passed that law, the President signed it, and now the Supreme Court of the United States spoke with one voice to uphold it. Construction of the Mountain Valley Pipeline will now resume, creating 4,500 jobs by the end of August. This is a great day for American energy security and even a greater day for the state of West Virginia.

Manchin Visits Camp Mountaineer in Monongalia County

Morgantown, WV — On Saturday, U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) visited Camp Mountaineer in Monongalia County to hear from Scouting leaders about a recent summer camp session and tour areas where he previously camped as a Scout.

"I fondly remember spending my summers at Camp Mountaineer. The friendships we built around the campfire at Seneca Camp forged unbreakable bonds, and I continue to use the lessons and skills I learned from my Scout leaders," said Senator Manchin. "Because of the positive impact Camp Mountaineer and Scouting had on me, I knew West Virginia was the perfect home for the National Scout Jamboree, and as Governor, I was proud to make Summit Bechtel Reserve a reality. I am thankful for our Scouting leaders and volunteers who have helped shape generations of young people into leaders of tomorrow."

Rep. Mooney Introduces Legislation to Eliminate The House of Representatives Office of Diversity and Inclusion

Congressman Alex X. Mooney (R-WV) introduced H.Res 628 to Eliminate the Office of Diversity and Inclusion of the House of Representatives.

When House Democrats took back the majority from Republicans in 2019, they created the House Office of Diversity and Inclusion. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) offices have become the latest woke liberal method of injecting cultural Marxism into the workplace.

These offices start with the premise that white people are inheritably racist and oppressive. The House of Representatives does not need bureaucrats promoting this divisive ideology.

Representatives Troy Nehls (R-TX), Claudia Tenney (R-NY), Jeff Duncan (R-SC), Bob Good (R-VA), Tom Tiffany (R-WI), Brian Babin (R-TX), Andrew Ogles (R-TN), Chip Roy (R-TX), Lauren Boebert (R-CO), Jack Bergman (R-MI), Mary Miller (R-IL), Andy Biggs (R-AZ) and Ralph Norman (R-SC) have signed on as original cosponsors.

"The House voted to eliminate all diversity and inclusion offices at the Pentagon in the National Defense Authorization Act. The House should abide by the same standards we set for federal agencies across the government, which is why I have introduced this resolution to eliminate the House Office of Diversity and Inclusion," said Congressman Alex Mooney.

Fairmont State to honor third class of U.S. AFJROTC cadets at graduation ceremony

The Fairmont State University Aviation Center of Excellence will honor its third class of United States Air Force Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps cadets at a graduation ceremony to mark the completion of their training. The ceremony will take place on Friday, July 28 at 3 p.m. at the Fairmont State University Hangar B, Robert C. Byrd National Aerospace Education Center in Bridgeport.

The class consists of eight high school and college students from across the United States. These cadets were welcomed to campus in early June for the Summer 2023 U.S. AFJROTC Flight Academy.

"We are very excited to be a part of this exemplary and elite flight training program," said Chief Pilot and Director of the Aviation Center of Excellence. "It's amazing to think that we are helping to train the next generation of United States military aviators right here at Fairmont State."

Fairmont State University launched its U.S. Air Force JROTC program in the summer of 2021. In October of the same year, the Fairmont State University Aviation Center of Excellence was recognized at the United States Air Force Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps and Aviation Accreditation Board International Flight Academy Annual Review in Atlanta and was amongst four universities named notable programs.

Fairmont State is one of 25 universities throughout the nation that has partnered with the U.S. Air Force to provide opportunities to JROTC, Reserve Officer Training Corps, Civil Air Patrol, and Air Force Academy cadets, while also expediting flight training for future airmen. The selection process for the AFJROTC Summer Flight Academy is highly competitive, with all cadets meeting the components required of U.S. Air Force Academy candidates.

In addition to receiving recognition for completion of the Summer 2023 U.S. AFJROTC Flight Academy, several Fairmont State flight students will be presented with awards from the Mountaineer Heroes of Honor Foundation and the Don Judy Commercial Flight Scholarship programs. The graduation ceremony keynote address will be provided by U.S. Marine Corps Colonel (Ret) David W. Bussel.

Colonel (Ret) David W. Bussel

Colonel (Ret) David Bussel is from Indiana and earned his degree from Ball State University. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in May 1991, graduated from The Basic School in Feb 1992, and was designated a Naval Aviator in Dec 1993. He is a graduate of the Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School, the Marine Corps Command & Staff College, the Army War College, and the Senior Strategy and Policy Course.

First Lieutenant Bussel first served with the Gunfighters of Helicopter-Marine-Light-Attack (HMLA) Squadron-369, Camp Pendleton, Calif., flying the AH-1W Super Cobra Attack Helicopter, 1994-1998. There,

he served in Operations, Safety & Standardization, and Maintenance, and deployed twice to Okinawa. After attending Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course 1-98, he served as the Intelligence and Tactics Department Head.

Captain Bussel was then selected as the Aide-de-Camp, Commanding General 3D Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., 1999.

2000-2001, Captain Bussel served with the Stingers of HMLA-267, Camp Pendleton, Calif.. There, he served as the Tactics Officer and deployed with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

Upon return from deployment, Major Bussel was selected as a Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron-One (MAWTS-1) Instructor, 2001-2004. There, he served as the Urban Close Air Support Specialist and the AH-1W Division Head. He also deployed to Operation IRAQI FREEDOM with HMLA-267 and was selected as the Flight Lead to lead the first U.S. Marine Corps aviation strike into Iraq. Major Bussel was selected MAWTS-1 Rotary Wing Instructor of the Year, 2003.

2004-2007, Major Bussel served again with HMLA-267 as the Squadron Operations Officer and Executive Officer.

2007-2009, Lieutenant Colonel Bussel commanded Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Okinawa. There, the Squadron won the National Defense Transportation Association Squadron of the Year.

After attending the Army War College, 2009-2010, Lieutenant Colonel Bussel served on the U.S. European Combatant Command Staff, Stuttgart, Germany, as Team Lead for the largest joint-combined U.S.-Israeli exercise, AUSTERE CHALLENGE. Additionally, he served as the Joint Force Headquarters Branch Chief and the Joint Training, Readiness, and Exercises Division Chief, J37, 2010-2014.

2014-2017, Colonel Bussel served as the Inspector General and Assistant Chief of Staff, Capabilities, Requirements, and Assessments for Fleet Marine Forces, Atlantic | U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command, Norfolk, VA until transferring to the Naval Safety Center as the Director, Aviation Safety, 2018-2019 and Deputy Commander, 2020-2021.

Colonel Bussel retired after 30 years of active-duty service and began government civilian service in October 2021 as the Operations Officer, Naval Safety Center. In April 2022, Mr. Bussel was selected as the Director, Code 60 Assurance Directorate, Naval Safety Command.

Colonel (Ret) Bussel is married to Rebecca Kramm of Pensacola, Florida. They have four children and two grand-daughters: 1st Lt Austin Bussel, USMC-Liberty University Grad | Mandi Joy-Teacher-Liberty University Grad & University of Virginia Masters Student | Luke-Virginia Tech Grad and Virginia Tech Masters Student | and Tyler-Senior, Liberty University.

Philippi CVB Announces Festival to Celebrate Local Actor Who Starred in "The Addams Family"

Organizers of Lurch Fest 2023 say, "Come to Philippi, Saturday, August 5 from noon until 9:00 pm! We are ready to kick off our third annual event celebrating Philippi native son, Ted Cassidy."

This year's Lurch Fest offers live music all day, 14 food vendors, 35 crafters, three craft brew breweries plus domestic beers, a costume contest, a window decorations contest, axe throwing, a fire twirler, photo ops, a chance to meet Ted Cassidy's son Sean and Cassidy's biographer Christofer Cook, a Lurch Fest Paddle

on the Tygart River, and a day filled with fun on Museum Street in Philippi.

A pre-Fest event is scheduled for Friday, August 4 at 17 N on Main Street at 6:30 pm. This evening will include a trivial contest, a Q&A session with Sean Cassidy, and a make-up transformation of Sean into his father's character Lurch, from the TV show The Addams Family.

For more details about the celebration on August 4 and 5, check out the Facebook pages of Philippi Main Street, City of Philippi, and the Philippi Convention & Visitors Bureau.

West Virginia DMV Introduces the Parent's Supervised Driving Program

Making Teens #RoadReady

Charleston, WV— Gov. Jim Justice joined West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Commissioner Everett Frazier today to introduce the Parent's Supervised Driving Program, a new initiative to help parents teach their teens to drive.

"This program is designed to get kids interested in getting their driver's licenses," Gov. Justice said. "I remember counting down the days to get my permit and then my license. That was an important time in my life. Nowadays, kids have so many things going on, and we want to give them a reason to get excited about getting their licenses. This program is one of the innovative ways we're encouraging kids to learn how to drive."

The Parent's Supervised Driving Program offers expert-guided, quality curriculum providing parents and guardians with a simple, easy-to-follow plan designed to help teens develop safe driving habits. In addition, the program includes the popular RoadReady® mobile app for iPhone and Android.

"Keeping all West Virginians safe on the road is a priority to me, and as a parent myself, I value the knowledge and guidance this program provides," said Commissioner Frazier.

Teens who test for their Level 1 or Level 2 GDL across the state will be provided a copy of the guidebook. The program is also available online, via digital curriculum as well as pdf download, at PSDPonline.com. You can download the free app from your phone's app store by searching RoadReady. The RoadReady app logs and manages hours spent behind the wheel so families can easily

keep track before testing for their driver's licenses. Nationally, the app is downloaded more than 1,000 times per day. The guidebook itself is divided into lessons that make it easy to focus on specific skills that become more advanced as time goes on.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), crashes are still the leading cause of teen deaths. The organization recommends that parents become familiar with the restrictions placed on your teen's license and encourages parents to be more involved as their teen learns to drive. Also important is establishing ground rules for teens by restricting night driving and passengers, requiring seat belt use at all times, and prohibiting any use of cell phones or other electronic devices while driving.

"Parents are the key to ensuring the safety of teen drivers," said Safe Road Alliance President Emily Stein. "The more involved the parents are at this important phase when teens are learning to drive, the more likely that these teens will avoid being in a crash once they are driving on their own."

The Parent's Supervised Driving Program, now in use in 24 states (including Washington D.C.) nationwide, features a high quality, magazine-style printed instruction guidebook. More information about Graduated Driver's License (GDL) and the Program is available online. The RoadReady mobile app provides a fun and useful way to track the required 50 hours of behind-the-wheel driving experience; available for iPhones at the App Store and for Android on Google Play.

American Legion Holds 105th Convention in Huntington



Pictured at the convention are Front row: Carla Wilfong, Roxie Nicholson and Margaret Yost. Back row: Parry Jenkins, Dortha Parsons and Kim Mellie.

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of West Virginia held its 105th convention July 7th-9th at the Doubletree by Hilton in Huntington, WV. The Convention is called for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year, amending the Department Constitution, receiving reports of Department Officers and Chairmen, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before it.

Department officers elected and installed for the 2023 -2024 Auxiliary Year are:

President-Debbie Michael; 1st Vice President-Laura Clark; 2nd Vice President-Kim Mellie; Secretary/Treasurer-Susan Brown; Chaplain-Stephanie Handley; and Historian-April Wallace. Election of delegates and alternates for the national convention was also held.

The president's theme this year is With Love and Gratitude We Support Our Military & Honor Our Veterans, the membership theme is Let's Be Patriotic (Stars & Stripes). Debbie's special project is Rhododendron Girls State. The auxiliary colors for the year are red, white, and blue and the flower is the Rose. Our theme song for the year is "God Bless the U.S.A." by Lee Greenwood. The keynote speaker for the convention this year was Vickie Koutz, American Legion Auxiliary National President with comments and greetings by Vincent "Jim" Troiola, American National Commander; Tom Hicks, American Legion Department of West Virginia Commander; and Brian S. Gano, Detachment Commander and Secretary American Legion Department of West Virginia.

Six members of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 31, Shinnston attended the convention, including two past department presidents. Unit 31, Shinnston brought home several plaques and awards in the category of units with membership 151 and over. These included the traveling plaques for Unit Chaplain's Report, Veterans Affairs and Recreation, History, Poppy, and Public Relations. They also received awards for their Chaplain's Prayer Book, Unit Scrapbook, History. They also brought back the award the first unit to make their membership goal in American Legion Auxiliary Department of West Virginia 3rd District.

It was also announced that the annual fall conference for American Legion/American Legion Auxiliary Department of West Virginia 3rd District will be held by Post 7, Buckhannon at the Buckhannon Senior Citizens center on November 4, 2023.

WVU researchers develop hydrogen technology to curtail greenhouse gases from food, beverage industry

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — Engineers and scientists at West Virginia University are developing an advanced hydrogen flexible boiler to help decarbonize the food and beverage industry and eventually eliminate greenhouse gas emissions.

The technology, proposed by Hailin Li, professor in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at the Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources, will supply thermal energy by burning clean fuel rather than traditional fossil fuels. Researchers will also work with Morgantown businesses to achieve those objectives.

The project is funded by a \$3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy and is one of 40 such projects focused on the Biden administration's goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

"The food industry is facing the challenge of how to diminish and eventually eliminate CO2 emissions," Li said. "If industry leaders really want to achieve that goal by 2050, they have to either burn carbon free clean fuel or consume clean electricity."

Traditionally, the food and beverage industry has consumed electricity and heat from fossil fuels — including natural gas — which releases greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane. In response, Li's team has developed a flexible fuel furnace that can burn pure hydrogen, a cleaner alternative, to produce hot water and steam for product processing.

However, hydrogen isn't widely available yet, so the furnace can also run on natural gas or its mixture with hydrogen at any ratio. Li said this flexibility will help bridge the industry's transition from fossil fuels to hydrogen as it becomes more common and economically affordable.

"The goal is to power a flexible operation with energy utilization efficiency up to 98% and nitrogen oxides emissions less than three parts per million," Li said. "So when we burn the hydrogen in the food industry, we are going to have zero carbon emissions when hydrogen is produced by consuming green energy."

In addition, the WVU research team has added to the furnace a component they call the "economizer."

"The economizer is a device that can recover the waste heat from the exhaust gas," Li said. "And that will make the system way more efficient."

For close collaboration with the local food industry, the team has partnered with Morgantown-based Mountaintop Beverage, an aseptic beverage manufacturing facility that extends the shelf life of dairy products and dairy alternatives using a thermal processing technology. Beverages are heated to a high temperature and

undergo rapid heating and cooling, which sterilizes the product and extends the shelf life up to a year. The facility packages and preps products for shipments to schools and retailers.

"We want to help our local industry by developing the technology to mitigate their challenges," Li said.

Mountaintop Beverage will provide WVU with access to their facility for sampling furnace operation data. They'll also perform quality analyses and provide industry input about the hydrogen boiler technology as it's developed and tested.

Kristen Matak, professor of animal and nutritional sciences at the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design, is assisting Li on the project. As a food scientist focusing on value-added foods, food safety and quality control, she's interested in the safety and sensory consequences of alternative processing methods on milk.

"Whenever there are changes in food processing systems, we must ensure the impacts these changes make on the final product will continue to meet relevant regulatory requirements and good manufacturing practices," she said. "My role in this project is to verify the safety and quality of the final product using microbial testing and sensory analysis."

Matak will work closely with Li to optimize the sterilization process and minimize the energy consumption while maintaining and improving food quality.

The products coming off Mountaintop's lines are shelf stable, sterile and don't require refrigeration, so processing has to be efficient.

"All those temperatures and flow rates are very important to achieve that, or you'll have a lot of products wasted," Matak said.

WVU will similarly be partnering with Morgantown's Neighborhood Kombuchery. Researchers will also examine the beverage production process there and identify approaches to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

Other WVU researchers on the project include Slava Akkerman, Songgang Qiu, Kostas Sierros and Xi Yu.

According to Xingbo Liu, associate dean for research at the Statler College, "This is a great example of multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional collaboration. The team includes faculty in both Statler and Davis colleges at WVU, the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, GTI Energy and Convergent Science Inc., as well as their industrial partners. WVU recently committed to collaboration with Oak Ridge in the decarbonization areas and this is the first joint project."

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