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Lincoln High School Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Members Got to Exclusive Leadership Academy, Train to Serve the Community



Lincoln High School NJROTC cadets Grayson Guthrie, Isaiah Martin, and Carter Batson pause from their busy Leadership Academy schedule for a group photo. LHS was the only school permitted to send more than two cadets

By Stephen Smoot

Many young people see summer as a time to play and relax. Others see it as a time to develop their character and skills, preparing to be the leaders of the future.

Cadets Grayson Guthrie, Isaiah Martin, and Carter Batson represented Lincoln High School at a summer leadership academy for JROTC members Guthrie, who serves as cadet commanding officer at Lincoln High School, described the academy held at Camp Atterbury, an Indiana National Guard base used for training. He said of the experience, “we were always moving. We didn’t have much down time.” Even down time, he related, was devoted to the academic study of the concepts taught in the academy.

“We were always going somewhere, always doing something,” Guthrie shared.

The academy curriculum “was like a mini boot camp,” that included helping the cadets to learn military drills and other skills, while also attending classes. Despite the hard work, “we didn’t want to leave, but we accomplished what we were supposed to do.”

Guthrie had the ambition to join NROTC for years, saying “when I was in middle school, I’d see cadets on the bus, wearing the uniform,” adding that those students “had a commitment to something other than themselves.”

Like for most teenagers, joining up “was scary at first, coming out of COVID.” Guthrie stated, though, that

“the commanding officers were really prestigious. They had a high role and everyone looked up to them. I tried to get up to where their standards would be.”

Petty Officer First Class Aaron Deaton modeled the commitment to community expected of NJROTC by stepping up when the school needed a leader for the program. Deaton explained the deep traditions established by the program at the school, saying that, “Paul Cast was this program for so long. I feel like I need to fill his shoes and keep going.”

“My key word is integrity,” Deaton said, “doing the right thing, no matter what.” Under his direction, the NJROTC program intertwines the teaching of military science and positive community values through leadership.

He took pains to explain that participation in NJROTC does not mean that the student has committed to military service. Rather it teaches military virtues, such as honor, duty, and work ethic as part of a “citizenship development program” to “contribute to your local community and your country,” as Deaton states.

The program also helps to give cadets context about the United States and its role in the world. “We want to teach the value of the Navy,” as well as “what is a national strategy” and “being prepared as a nation.” Deaton often cites the example of great Americans, such as President Theodore Roosevelt. It’s likely no coincidence that “TR” had a great passion and understanding of the United States Navy and its courageous tradi-

See “LHS NJROTC” on Pg 6

Area Online Gardening Guru Sets World Record For Live Lesson



Sherry Weaver, a local gardening expert, helped West Virginia University Extension Service smash the former world record for attendance at a gardening lesson (Photo Courtesy of WVU Extension Service)

By Stephen Smoot

This summer, West Virginia University Extension Service, the West Virginia Black Bears baseball team, and area online gardening expert Sherry Weaver got together for a record breaking performance.

The garden path that led to Weaver standing on a dugout roof giving instructions on how to sustainably grow cucumbers in recycled materials was long on fun, but not necessarily time. “I won a contest that WVU extension put on,” she said, then added, “I had a couple of weeks to prepare.”

The contest asked participants to share an example of a 60 to 90 second microlesson in gardening. Weaver had already put together a video demonstrating how to harvest “sucker” stems from tomato plants to grow new ones. “You can grow entire plants from suckers and there’s no need to buy seeds or new plants.”

She explained that tomato plants have three types of stems. Some support leaves, others the fruit grown by the plant (yes, tomatoes are fruits!) Leaving sucker stems, which Weaver says grow from the “armpit” of the two other stems, on

shall channel growth toward more numerous, but smaller tomatoes. Removing them allows for larger tomatoes, but in fewer numbers. Sucker stems, when placed in water or soil, will start growing new root systems almost immediately.

Weaver was named one of three finalists, which then went to an online vote “I won by a landslide,” she exclaimed.

Next, she had to put together her live

lesson. Approximately 1,300 fans attended the game to see her teach between innings. The previous record came from Turkmenistan with an attendance of 569.

“I had plenty of time to get nervous,” she shared. Once it was time to go, the attendant told Weaver “it’s time,” then, “shoved me up there.”

The extension service posted tables by the gates to provide information and materials for the

See “Weaver” on Pg 6



BUILDING AMAZING CITIES

By JIM HUNT
author, speaker, consultant

Advice on How to Handle Those Long Flights to Amazing Destinations

After returning from Tacoma, Washington on a four-and-a-half-hour flight on Alaska Airlines, I had plenty of time to reflect on this column. While it was a long flight, I have had many long flights over my lifetime and a couple that lasted twelve or more hours. I’m often asked, “What do you do during that long of a flight?” The advances in technology have eased a lot of the boredom of long flights, but even with your iPad or iPhone, it is best to have a strategy to endure these long flights.

One thing that you should be sure to do is get up often. As someone who survived a Deep Vein Thrombosis and a Pulmonary Embolism, I get up often and walk the entire distance of the airplane, to keep my blood flowing and not sit in a cramped seat for hours at a time. This is often not easy, with your seatmates sleeping or using a computer, that makes it difficult to get up on a regular basis. This is why it is advisable to get an aisle seat or an exit row, where you can get up without having to crawl over the seats. You can also exercise your legs by “pumping” your feet back and forth. This keeps the blood flowing and helps prevent cramps and swelling.

I try to break the long flight up by doing little tasks and then listening to music or resting. If you bring a book or magazine, spend about 30 minutes at a time and then have a beverage or get up and stretch your arms and legs. If the flight has a meal service, time your break to just before they start serving the meal. This way, you can spend twenty minutes or more, eating and then get back to your reading or relaxing. I also like to do some work

See “Hunt” on Pg 3

Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center Awarded 5-Star Hospital Quality Rating

CLARKSBURG, W. Va. - On July 27th the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center (LAJVAMC) received a 5-star rating in the Overall Hospital Quality survey released by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

The CMS uses 5 categories - mortality, safety of care, readmission, patient experience, and timely and effective care - to award a quality

rating for each hospital. The more stars (out of 5), the better a hospital performed on the available quality measures. This is the first year that the CMS included VA Healthcare facilities, and 67% of Veterans Health Administration hospitals received either a 4 or 5-star rating.

LAJVAMC, located just south of downtown Clarksburg, W. Va., also received a 4-star patient survey rating, which

measures the patients’ experience of hospital care, such as provider communication, hospital staff responsiveness, and cleanliness and quietness of the hospital’s environment.

“Whenever a Veteran entrusts us with their care, they deserve to know that they’re getting the very best,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “That’s what we strive for in every hospital across the na-

tion, and we will never settle for anything less.”

The LAJVAMC rating can be found on the Medicare’s Care Compare Clarksburg, WV page.

Click here to learn more about how the VA performed as a whole in the CMS Overall Hospital Quality Survey.



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

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OPINION

Seven Ugly Cows

In the Book of Genesis 41, Pharaoh dreamed of “seven cows, sleek and fat, and they grazed among the reeds.” Then seven other cows “that were ugly and gaunt, ate up the seven fat, sleek cows.”

The next night, Pharaoh dreamed of “this heads of grain swallowed up” seven healthy heads of grain.

According to the Bible, Pharaoh called upon Joseph to interpret his dream. Joseph replied “I cannot do it . . . but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires.” Joseph informed Pharaoh that the seven good cows and stalks of grain represented prosperous years for Egypt, “but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all of the abundance in Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will ravage the land.”

God’s message to Pharaoh was clear. During the “fat” years, exercise due diligence in preparing for the inevitable cycle of lean years.

The closure of Alderson-Broadus University should be treated as a canary in a coal mine. The staple of many colleges and universities, four-year degrees, have been in decline. From 2011 to 2022, enrollment dropped 12.3 percent nationwide according to Bestcolleges.com. Much of the drop has come from male students, whose attendance dipped to 41 percent in a time when many colleges saw increased attention paid to concepts such as “toxic masculinity.”

If an institution (not that this necessarily was part of the problem at AB, but is nationwide) tells young men they are inherently bad in classrooms and social settings, why on earth would they be excited to go to college?

In the 2022 -23 academic years, according to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, overall undergraduate enrollment dropped 0.2 percent and those pursuing four-year degrees dropped by 1.4. Community and technical colleges are seeing gradual gains in enrollment, however.

Some issues that have affected colleges, such as the increased negative attention to race and gender issues, were preventable, as has been increased spending on “diversity, equity, and inclusion” programs and offices on many campuses. The impact of government shutdowns due to the pandemic, however, was not.

Another issue for traditional higher education is that the trades offer better opportunities for larger numbers of young adults to cash in on higher salaries, advancement, and entrepreneurship. For students who start their studies in high school or join the military, skills training can be free or even put paychecks into pockets.

AB’s struggles and closure have helped to mask the fact that the flagship university of the state, West Virginia University, has seen significant enrollment and budget issues emerging. These problems are not uncommon, afflicting traditional higher education institutions across the country.

West Virginia needs its entire system of higher education institutions to look at students and instructors as their first priority. Too many distractions have left faculty and the student classroom experience too close to the end of the line when it comes to improving higher education and making it relevant to the changing job market.

What higher education in the Mountain State and across America needs is common sense leadership that gets back to the meaning of what colleges and universities, especially land grant schools, should do to carry out their core missions. Land grant schools, such as West Virginia University and West Virginia State University were created by, as Senator Justin Morrell of Vermont, explained, an “Act Donating public lands to the several States and [Territories] which may provide colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the Mechanic arts”

Higher education nationwide needs leadership to return them to a Promised Land of better educational outcomes, more reasonable tuition rates, streamlined bureaucracy, focus on priorities, better preparation for work opportunities within the states they serve, and a lot less fluff, including, where it occurs, spending on athletic programs that takes funds from academic core functions.

Additionally, stop taking advantage of the fact that students receive too easy credit through student loans. Then, step up and do their part to solve the student debt issue that they themselves contributed to creating.

Finally, colleges and universities need leaders who take a sensible viewpoint when preparing for the future, both for prosperous and lean years.

“And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt.”

Super Crossword

UNTHEMED

- ACROSS**
- 1 Upside-down-sleeping mammal
- 8 Economizes to a fault
- 14 Untrustworthy sort
- 20 One way to serve apple pie
- 21 Very solitary sort
- 22 Monkey (with)
- 23 Frigid-weather readings
- 26 Military missions, in brief
- 27 Old Ford div.
- 28 Tennis great
- 29 Classic Coca-Cola slogan
- 39 “Son of,” in Arabic names
- 40 Thurman of “Kill Bill” films
- 41 Volcanic flow
- 42 Watershed draining dozens of U.S. states
- 53 Busy crawler
- 54 Make sport of
- 55 Cocktail party spread
- 56 School in England’s East Midlands
- 61 The Emerald Isle
- 62 Play — in (contribute to)
- 63 Heap
- 64 Graduate student’s position that might include conducting experiments
- 74 “Give — ring”
- 75 Plantain lily, familiarly
- 76 Actress Ward of “Sisters”
- 77 Polite cut-in words
- 86 Drains of color
- 87 Heaps
- 88 Tulsa-to-Topeka dir.
- 89 Metropolises, e.g.
- 94 Climb
- 95 — pro nobis
- 96 Flight guess, in brief
- 97 “In time the reason shall be made clear”
- 109 Furnish with new weapons
- 110 Mean Roman emperor
- 111 Kung — chicken
- 112 “The Magic Flute” composer
- 121 Stylish filmmaker
- 122 Made giggle
- 123 Active, as a law
- 124 Out of sight
- 125 San Fran football team
- 126 Music scorer
- DOWN**
- 1 Explorer John or Sebastian
- 2 Letter before bath
- 3 Triple-time dance, in France
- 4 Broody rock subgenre
- 5 Bend at a curtain call
- 6 Woodworking tool
- 7 Swarms (with)
- 8 Not at all tall
- 9 Mustard alternative
- 10 Cholera
- 11 “Delicious!”
- 12 One of 11 in a Christmas song
- 13 Carell of “The Office”
- 14 Knighted Ringo
- 15 Cappuccino alternative
- 16 Ostrich relative
- 17 Mo. in spring
- 18 Final letter
- 19 Hosp. triage sites
- 24 Riddle-me- —
- 25 KO counter
- 30 Some sorority letters
- 31 Grab — (eat quickly)
- 32 AI who won four Indy 500s
- 33 French buddy
- 34 Driveway-topping goo
- 35 Stinging hits
- 36 Lays into
- 37 Something to RSVP to online
- 38 More stable
- 42 Longtime Twins catcher Joe
- 43 Navel type
- 44 Swizzles
- 45 Airline to Oslo
- 46 Basketball — Thomas
- 47 2014 Wimbledon winner Kvitova
- 48 Sickly
- 49 Compete (for)
- 50 “Don’t Cry for Me Argentina” musical
- 51 Military mission, in brief
- 52 Spinner of “Star Trek” films
- 57 Neckline shape
- 58 Dinosaur in Nintendo games
- 59 Actress Kaitlin
- 60 Singer with the 2007 hit “1234”
- 65 Whac- — (reflex-testing game)
- 66 Of kidneys associated with MSG
- 67 Slyly spiteful
- 68 Engraved stone pillar
- 69 Divining card
- 70 Old JFK jet
- 71 “Die Lorelei” poet Heinrich
- 72 Actress Massey
- 73 Window segments
- 77 Baseballer Martinez
- 78 Stayed home for a meal
- 79 Washer cycle
- 80 Gave two pills to, say
- 81 Cool, in jive talk
- 82 That, in Peru
- 83 Singer Carly — Jepsen
- 84 A cow milker tugs on it
- 85 H.S. juniors’ exams
- 90 Campaigning pro
- 91 Net address
- 92 Wash clothes
- 93 Untrustworthy sort
- 98 Have a spat
- 99 Pine (for)
- 100 “— Can Cook” (old culinary show)
- 101 Brain, for one
- 102 Food taste associated with MSG
- 103 Must have
- 104 Actress Joanne
- 105 Red lab dye
- 106 Divided
- 107 Drug dealer
- 108 Overly fond sort
- 112 Baby’s cry
- 113 Yes, to Gigi
- 114 British “Inc.”
- 115 Govt. agent
- 116 Of city govt.
- 117 Enzyme suffix
- 118 L-P center
- 119 Frequently, to poets
- 120 Suffix meaning “animals”

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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. 10, 1920: General Frank Kendall “Pete” Everest Jr. was born in Fairmont. Everest was a military aviator and a pioneer in U.S. rocket plane flying. In 1956, he flew the X-2 at Mach 3, exceeding 1,900 miles per hour and breaking the record of Chuck Yeager, his rival and close contemporary.

Aug. 11, 1844: Emanuel Willis Wilson was born at Harpers Ferry. He served as the seventh governor of West Virginia from 1885 to 1890.

Aug. 11, 1994: The Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge became the 500th refuge in the National Wildlife Refuge system. It is one of the largest and most diverse freshwater wetland areas in central and southern Appalachia.

Aug. 12, 1937: Author Walter Dean Myers was born in Martinsburg. In January 2012, Myers was named the National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature by the Library of Congress. He died in 2014.

Aug. 12, 1997: The Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel strike ended when 79 percent of the workers approved a new contract. The 10-month walkout was the longest steel manufacturing strike on record when it concluded.

Aug. 13, 1900: Railroad mogul and founder of Huntington, Collis Potter Huntington, died.

Raised in poverty, Huntington went west when gold was discovered in California. There he became rich, not from mining but by selling supplies to miners.

Aug. 13, 2018: The House of Delegates adopted articles of impeachment against all sitting justices of the Supreme Court of Appeals.

Aug. 14, 1894: Entertainer Ada Beatrice Queen Victoria Louise Virginia “Bricktop” Smith was born at Alderson. She performed in Paris in the 1920s and opened her own club, called the Music Box, in 1926.

Aug. 14, 1943: Astronaut Jon Andrew McBride was born in Charleston. McBride became an astronaut in 1979 and piloted the space shuttle Challenger on an eight-day mission in 1984.

Aug. 15, 1867: The cornerstone for the first building of the Fairmont Branch Normal School was laid at the corner of Adams and Quincy streets in the heart of town. The first class of students occupied the new building in April 1869. That school became Fairmont State University.

Aug. 15, 1906: The Niagara Movement began a five-day meeting at Storer College in Harpers Ferry. The organization was founded in 1905 by a group of Black intellectuals, including W. E. B. Du Bois.

Aug. 15, 1946: The first FM radio station in the state, WCFC of Beckley, began regular programming.

Aug. 16, 1851: William Hope “Coin” Harvey was born in Buffalo, Putnam County. Harvey, a social reformer, was nominated for president of the United States by the Liberty Party in 1932.

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

Thursday, Aug. 17, 2023 there will be an American Legion Auxiliary Unit 31 monthly meeting. 7 pm at Post 31, Bridge St., Shinnston. All members welcome.

“Hunt” From Pg 1.

on these long flights, and this has the added benefit of taking time while accomplishing some work items.

I like using my iPhone to do work tasks instead of a laptop computer for several reasons. One of the best reasons not to use a laptop, is that your seatmate or those behind you, might be reading some sensitive information or seeing account numbers or other information that should be kept private. It is also hard to handle a laptop when being served coffee or drinks and more than one time, have I seen someone’s prized laptop become soaked with an errant coffee cup. It is surprising how much you can do with an iPhone, and

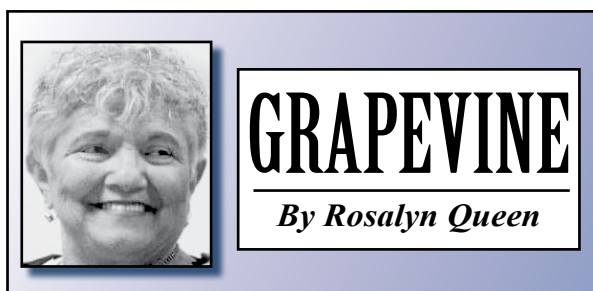
I have become skilled at typing and editing on my phone, so I rarely take my laptop on flights anymore.

One thing that I do on long flights is to go through my phone and delete old contacts or clear out messages. This is helpful and it is a job that most of us don’t do when we are on the ground. I also find that editing and deleting pictures can occupy hours in the air. I often take ten pictures of the same shot and they just take up a lot of room on my phone. In two hours or more, you can go through a lot of photos and improve the speed of your phone in the process. While these tips work most of the time for me, I had one flight several

years ago that really through me a curve ball. I was going to South Africa and when I got on the plane in Washington, DC, they said it was a fourteen-hour flight to Dakar, and then another flight to Johannesburg. As the plane landed in Dakar for fuel, I figured that we had another hour or two to go. When I got on the plane after an hour break, I asked the flight attendant how long until we arrive in Johannesburg. She smiled and said, “Oh, about ten more hours!” It was then that I learned that South Africa is a really big country! Needless to say, that was one loooooong flight!

Have an Amazing day!

Looking at Local Authors and Remembering Barbie



Today’s column is a little bit of this and a little bit of that. This week I have been able to return to reading. Jeannie McNabb sent me a few books and I have been reading two of them. I do not usually do this but one book is Friends, Lovers and the Big Terrible Thing. This is sort of an autobiography by Matthew Perry. And it tells about his trip with drugs. It is a very heart felt story and I sometimes have that deep down feeling from my own experiences and then I have to put the book down and go to my other one. The second book is Future FLOTUS? This book is by Amy Denson. she happens to be a local author. I am not half way through it but I find it most interesting.

The other thing I am concerned about is the popular hairstyle that most women are wearing these days. I watch a lot of television and I notice that most of the female broadcasters have blond hair and sort of look like Barbie. I have noticed that lately hairstyles are much longer which is fine but the style seems to dictate that the hair is pulled forward over each shoulder. This may sound ridiculous but each time I see this style I think of a Cocker Spaniel dog. Mike had one when he was in college and those long hairy ears remind me of today’s styled. I truly hope that this style changes and the long hair will be styled in a more beautiful style.

One of the most popular movies now showing is Barbie. I have so many memories of Barbie.

With two young daughters our house was full of Barbies and all of her accompaniments. I made hundreds of outfits and even sold them at Christmas. I want to remind you that our favorite knit designer, Nicky Epstein has three books out with Barbie outfits to knit or crochet. Nice project for the granddaughters for Christmas.

My last little bit of this and that, of course, refers to my garden. My deck is just covered with plants. With the hot weather it does require me doing a bit of watering but it is worth it to see my plants flourishing.

The PWA will be hosting a luncheon to celebrate Carrie Davis, National First Runner Up for Ms. Amazing. Carrie brought home the title from Chicago and we are certainly proud of her.

Summer is almost over and school will soon be starting. Plan a getaway weekend with the family to end the summer.

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

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Alderson-Broaddus Is Set to Close



The Bottom Line

By Bill Nestor
Sports Editor



This beautifully manicured Alderson-Broaddus Battler football field on the borderland between the Appalachian Plateau and Allegheny Mountains stands empty.

By Bill Nestor

This past week was heartbreaking for Alderson-Broaddus University. The Battlers have been a mainstay in Philippi since 1932. Unfortunately, members of the higher education board voted unanimously to revoke Alderson Broaddus's authorization to confer degrees in West Virginia effective the last day of December. In other words, if a student isn't graduating this upcoming semester, they would need to find a new home because the university will be forced to close its doors.

Faculty, students, and staff have been thrown into scramble mode because the first day of class was set for August 21. Alderson Broaddus had initially been granted temporary approval from the higher education board to continue awarding degrees through next June. The changes in direction caught everyone off guard and changed the lives of nearly 900 students and nearly 80 staff. It will also adversely affect the town of Philippi that depended on the university in many different ways.

I've been blessed to have broadcast football, men's and women's basketball, softball, and baseball for the last six years at Alderson-Broaddus.

Athletic Director Carrie Bodkins had always done an excellent job of creating a family atmosphere at her alma mater. Bodkins was a standout during her playing days that led her into the Battler Hall of Fame. She took that "team first" attitude and it became infectious at the university. Coaches who were out of season would pitch in and help the programs that were in season. They would do this without hesitation because they knew that others would be quick to jump in to help them down the road.

Bodkins and her staff did the work of 10 times the people and they did it because of their unwavering love for this special institution. They were integral to my job and without them, I would have struggled. Each and every one of them went out of their way to provide everything that was needed for the next broadcast.

The coaches were gracious with their time when they didn't need to be and that made me realize the type of people that I was working with. The conversations before and after interviews helped me to gain perspective into their lives. Each and ever one of them had a tremendous love for their players and the university. My time in Philippi was never looked at as a job, It was a privilege because of all of these special individuals.

No matter what it is, there is always an ending. We are fortunate when we know that it is coming. You can brace for it. When the ending is foreseen, it can bring about emotional closure.

A player or a coach that is preparing for that final contest knows that no matter what happens, win or lose, that is it. This feels like a tragedy and that is exactly what occurred. The empty feeling of loss, while knowing that things will never be the same again, stings in an indescribable way that you have to experience to understand. It is times like these when we need to look to God for guidance. Instead of asking "why" ask "what is next?"

I know there is a plan in place for everyone in the Alderson-Broaddus family. I'm looking forward to the great work that will be done by these individuals. I've been privileged to see some huge wins over my time in Philippi and I'm looking forward to seeing some even bigger ones in the future from the AB family.

Thank you for all of the memories!



Quoth the Raven: Golf Here More

The Raven Golf Course is located in the mountains at Snowshoe. This Gary Player designed course has a tremendous combination of scenic beauty and 18 incredible golf holes.

The Raven offers four sets of tees that range 7,413 yards from the tips. The distance variations ensure a fun and challenging round for every golfer that visits this gem. There are very few courses in the Mountain State that offer such a drastic elevation change. It provides breathtaking views, while providing challenges to even the best golfers. At the same time they, along with some extreme doglegs, provide multiple risk versus reward opportunities. The aggressive golfer can take shortcuts that can lead to lower scores.

Each side has an equal amount of par fives (two), par fours (five) and par threes (two.) This track is a par 72 and it provided consistent play from number one through number 18. The Raven requires quality shots from tee to green which will test every golfer's focus.

The pro shop is where you can find the friendly and knowledgeable staff. After the round, the 19th hole affords golfers a special spot to reminisce about the day.

Stay and play packages are available and there are many quality activities on the mountain in which the entire family will have a great time. Remember, a getaway here is a trip worth taking.

News From Bocce World

By Lori Belcastro

The 2023 Spring Bocce League games ended at the Ferguson City Park at East Shinnston. The first place winners were Lou Belcastro, Jeff Swiger, and several subs used due to the quitting of two members. The main sub was Joe Skelley.

Placing second was the foursome of Stanley Gaston, Rudy Durci, Gary Pastorial, and David Greaver.

The squad of Joe and Andrea Skelley, Tino Felosia, and John Kendall ended up in third place.

The annual Italian Heritage tournament will be on Saturday, August 19, beginning at 9 AM. The fee is \$100 for a four man team. It is a double elimination tourney with cash prizes going to the three top finishers.

There's always good food there! See you there!

Golden Eagles Announce New Baseball Coach

Charleston, W.Va. – The University of Charleston Vice President and Director of Athletics Dr. Bren Stevens, announced the hiring of Dean Peterson as head coach of the baseball program today, July 14th. The former Boston Red Sox pitcher will be taking over at the helm of the Golden Eagle program that is coming off a 43-12 record in 2023.

"It is a true privilege to announce Dean Peterson as the next head baseball coach for the University of Charleston," said Stevens. "Dean's playing experience at the professional level, along with his work experience as an officer with the Secret Service and his leadership as a Pastor, simply makes him an incredible hire. It is my expectation that Coach Peterson will emphasize the importance of having an inclusive platform in which everyone feels valued and appreciated as part of the squad's ethos. Dean is incredibly talented as it pertains to teaching and refining skills, but more impressively, is how he has embraced the process of developing the entire student-athlete, which includes areas such as emotional intelligence, academic success, service to others, and program integrity. Under Dean's leadership, I would expect our baseball team to continue to enjoy success at the regional and national levels."

Puerto Selected to Represent Honduras Women's National Soccer Team

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras -- Alejandra Puerto of Fairmont State women's soccer has been selected to represent the Honduras Women's National Soccer Team in a pair of friendly matches, the team revealed on Monday (Aug. 7). The matches will take place in Honduras from August 8-14.

Puerto was named to the United Soccer Coaches All-Atlantic Region Second Team and received All-Mountain East Conference Second Team honors following an impressive freshman campaign. The sophomore from La Ceiba, Honduras chipped in seven goals, including four game-winning goals, and six assists during her first collegiate season. Puerto was voted to the MEC All-Tournament Team after scoring the game-winning goal in the semifinals versus West Virginia State and helping lead the Falcons to their first MEC Championship.

Puerto and the women's soccer team will begin the 2023 season on Aug. 31 at Seton Hill.

100 Falcons Receive D2 ADA Academic Achievement Award

CLEVELAND – 100 Fairmont State athletics student-athletes earned the D2 ADA Academic Achievement Awards, the Division 2 Athletics Directors Association (D2 ADA) announced on Thursday (Aug. 3). The Academic Achievement Awards, in its 16th year, is a program that recognizes the academic accomplishments of student-athletes at the Division II level.

In total, there were a record breaking 19,646 student-athletes from 196 institutions recognized for the 2022-23 Academic Achievement Awards. This is the most student-athletes being recognized since the inception of the awards program.

To qualify for this honor, the following must occur:

The athletic director must be a dues-paying member of the D2 ADA.

Student-athlete must have ... a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale have attended a minimum of two years (four semesters) of college level work have been an active member of an intercollegiate team during his/her last academic year

Harrison County to Host State Parks and Recreation Association in September



From The World of Parks & Recreation

By Doug Comer

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the West Virginia Recreation Parks Association and Harrison County will play host to all the park directors, superintendents and staff who will attend this year's convention. Expected turnout will range from 150-200 participants.

Convention participation also includes vendors, speakers and others who deal with the parks departments on a daily basis. Playground manufacturers, maintenance supplies and recreation companies come and present the hottest new products for the upcoming seasons. In order to make these events a success, the WVRPA rely heavily on sponsorships and almost all vendors step up to make it work.

Joe Shuttleworth, Director of Bridgeport Parks and Recreation, has been the point man on this project with help from other departments here in the county including Clarksburg City Parks. With most parks related conventions, a lot of play

time is included as well as keeping up with newer ideas involving parks and rec. Shuttleworth has put together a package that will offer the best of both worlds.

Besides the speakers, work sessions and vendor meetings, the conference will offer plenty of recreational activities including golf at Clarksburg Country Club, Pickleball classes, Clip and Climb at the Bridge in Bridgeport and even entertainment from a local music band following the dinner and awards presentation.

Now, a ton has to go into this event and while we technically do not have a convention center like Charleston and some major cities throughout the states, we had to be a little creative in producing a facility that can handle the amount of participants all while keeping things pretty close to housing, food and other points of interest.

The Bridgeport conference center will be the hub for most of the activities involving work sessions and breakouts as well as vendor interaction. Again, other activities will be off property at the Bridge Sports Complex. Hotels at Charles Pointe near the conference center will host those travelling from afar.

Mayor of Bridgeport Andy Lang will be the opening speaker for the event who will later pass

the mic to Mark Hornberger who will start off the Wednesday sessions with his presentation – "Let's Get Squirrely. From there, groups will shuttle to the Bridge Complex to partake in recreational activities mentioned above as well as Archery Tag and later meet with vendors during lunch.

Following lunch, the remainder of the afternoon sessions will stay at the Bridge before we break for the day and prepare for dinner and awards back at the conference center.

With this being the 50th anniversary, vendors normally have gift baskets to auction off to raise money for the WVRPA. Also, one recipient will receive a turn-key installed playground donated by Cunningham Recreation. Value of the prize is over \$50,000.

Once all has been wrapped up, local band Josh Folmsbee and the Crooked Roots will perform.

The final day will be a half-day session with educational sessions including team building, grant resources and discussion with the state department of highways. Around noon, there will be an awards luncheon and then dismissal for the day. The RPA board will meet following to discuss future events, vote on board members and old business points.

HCSCC SPOTLIGHT

Featuring news from the Harrison County Senior Citizen Center

Shinnston Garden Club Hears presentation on the Declaration of Independence



By Debra Herndon

The Shinnston Garden Club met at the Bice-Ferguson Memorial Museum on Thursday, July 28th with Vice-President Wanda Ashcraft presiding. Ashcraft gave devotions, "Because You Prayed" and then led the group in prayer. The pledge to the United States flag was said in unison. Secretary Letha Stutler gave the minutes of the last meeting. Treasurer Debra Herndon gave current balances and reported on investment activity. Those ill or in distress were Remembered.

Ashcraft gave a program outlining the formation and passage of the Declaration of Independence. President Dorothy Rota arrived and led a short business meeting. It was decided to help with a project to clean up the neglected landscaping in front

of the Municipal Building on Bridge Street and to ask Rocky Romano to speak with the group at a future meeting. It was also decided to have a presence at the September Wind Down Wednesday in honor of the Club's 94th birthday. The Shinnston Garden Club's original mission was the beautification of the community, but the group has donated to many educational and youth causes during its 94 years in existence.

While the group enjoyed hot dogs and snack cakes, films were shown of Shinnston in the thirties and fifties. A time of reminiscence and fellowship was enjoyed by all. Present not previously mentioned were: David Harbert, Donna Post, Marjorie Jackson, Pam Pumphrey, Juanita Pumphrey, Beth Linn, Virginia Livingston, Paula Harrison, Chad Edwards and Sharon Myers.

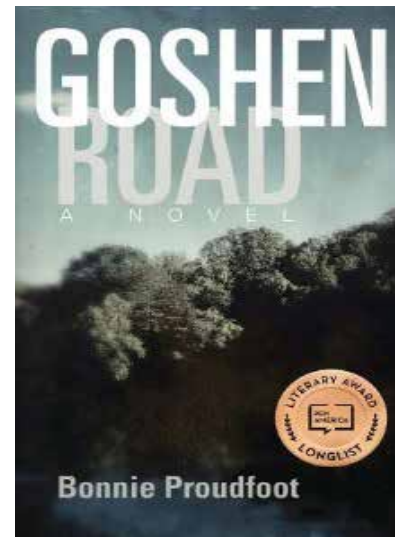
HCSCC Board of Directors News

There was no board meeting in July. The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, September 28, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. in the boardroom in person and on Zoom. Remaining board meeting dates scheduled for 2023 are: September 28, and October 26.

2023 - 2024 Board Officers & Members

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

Book Talk in the Café to feature Appalachian Author Bonnie Proudfoot



According to the Goshen Road book cover, "Bonnie Proudfoot moved to the Appalachian region in 1979 and has lived there since, teaching for many years at Hocking College in Nelsonville, Ohio. She is a fiction writer, a poet, and a glass artist." Goshen Road is her first book, and it was recognized as the "Book of the Year" by the Writer's Conference of Northern Appalachia.

She will do a short presentation

her book and will be available for questions and book signings on Wednesday, August 16, 2023, 10:30 am, in the Kinley Café, at Harrison County Senior Center located at 500 W. Main Street, Clarksburg, West Virginia. This event is presented by HCSC Book Club and sponsored by the Harrison County Senior Center and the Cultural Foundation of Harrison County. For more information call Bill O'Field at 304.623.6795.

Harrison County Senior Center Seniors Participate in Lewis County Senior Center Senior S.K.I.P. Day



On Friday, July 21, 2023, four seniors from HCSCC competed in Lewis County Senior Center S.K.I.P. (Still Keeping It Physical) Day. Shown L-R are participants Carol E. Brown, Virginia Harding, Margaret Davis, and Cliff Marshall. The 2-minute basketball free throw contest was won by Carol E. Brown shown accepting her trophy from Lewis County Activities Director Belinda Lewis.



County Assessor Rocky Romano visits Senior Center and Satellites

County Assessor Rocky Romano has been visiting senior center satellites to share important information on the recent legislative changes to WV personal property taxes, how to pay your 2023 taxes to obtain the 2024 refund, and some new information on WV real estate tax credits for veterans with a 90 percent or greater VA Combined Disability Rating. Rocky is shown sharing this information at the Mt. Clare satellite meeting on July 18, 2023, as the Mt. Clare officers look on from the head table (L-R: Margie Vincent, President, Harley Jeffries, Vice President, Ruth Jeffries, Secretary, and

Sharon Bragg, Treasurer.

This summer, the Assessment and Tax Satellite Office locations have been at various places in the county, including the Harrison County Senior Center. Shown L-R: Leslie and Jan Childers, customers, Jim Terango, Chief Tax Deputy for Sheriff Robert G. Matheny of Harrison County, Ivan George, Tax Deputy, Deanna McNemar, Data Entry Supervisor, Rocky Romano, Harrison County Assessor, Randall Glaspell, Appraisal Supervisor, and Denise Hyman, Deputy.



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“LHS NJROTC” From pg 1

tions. One of the rituals cadets follow during the school year is “Motivational Monday,” where Deaton plays clips, such as speeches from Denzel Washington, to inspire cadets to dream bigger and reach farther. He said that students considering NJROTC should “give it a try. It’s not always about winning, but get in the ring. Dare to do something.”

Also important is the personal development of skills and confidence. Guthrie said of NJROTC, “it brings you out of your shell. When I got to high school, I was very shy. Most think it’s a military commitment, but it’s not.

“You come out a better person and you learn leadership roles,” Guthrie said.

Cemetery Fundraiser
Coming to Robinson
Grand Theater

Clarksburg, WV – The Robinson Grand Performing Arts Center, in partnership with the Historic Clarksburg, WV Cemetery Preservation Alliance (HCWVCPA), is bringing a fundraising performance from Thrillusionist David DaVinci to downtown Clarksburg on Saturday, September 23, 2023, at the historic Robinson Grand Performing Arts Center located at 444 W. Pike St. in Clarksburg, WV.

David DaVinci is a world-class illusionist who has completed multiple world tours, starred in and co-produced “Magical Flight” at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, headlined on five Ringling Brothers & Barnum and Bailey productions, headlined at theme parks and on Disney, Holland America Princess, and Norwegian Cruise lines all over the globe. He has won multiple national and international awards including the Pacific Rim Professional Stage Championship, and the Masters of Magic Award.

“David DaVinci is the real deal who has sold out our venue before,” said Jason A. Young, the Robinson Grand’s program manager. “The pre-show VIP meet and greet offers an awesome complete experience at an affordable price.”

DaVinci’s career started when he performed his first show in the 5th grade. By high school he was a local celebrity with performances at local restaurants in Spokane, WA. His career continued to explode and eventually took him to more than 50 countries, on six continents. His illusions have been seen on multiple television specials; Masters of Magic, Magic Planet, OTV in Shanghai and many others. DaVinci has performed for international royalty and celebrities such as Rod Stewart, Shaquille O’Neal, Jennifer Garner, and Vanilla Ice just to name a few. From theme parks to casinos, his shows are always a hit.

“We love the opportunity to host a really good show for a really good cause,” said Young. “The HCWVCPA does important work for our community and this fantastic show is a fundraiser for them.”

The HCWVCPA’s mission is to honor and commit to the perpetual care other organizations have once guaranteed but are no longer able to provide. “Our organization takes extreme pride in honoring the memories of those no longer living by caring for their final resting places as if it were on of our loved ones,” said Shaun Jedju, the non-profit’s president. “We do vast research into the history of each marker and make publicly available what information we find.” This research not only helps resort history by identifying markers, it plays a significant role in restoring peace of mind to living relatives.

By maintaining and restoring the grounds and markers of historic cemeteries the community at large gets the chance to celebrate these testaments of the rich heritage West Virginia has to offer citizens and visitors alike. The goal of the HCWVCPA is to ensure that all of their locations are well maintained for generations to come so that those who are laid to rest at their locations are never forgotten.

Tickets for Thrillusionist David DaVinci start at only \$25 and are currently one sale to Friends of the Robinson Grand. The general public can purchase tickets on Friday, August 4, 2023, at 12:00p.m. All tickets can be purchased online at tickets.therobinsongrand.com or by calling the Robinson Grand ticketing center at (855) 773-6283.

Super Crossword

Answers

Grid of crossword puzzle answers with black squares indicating non-letter positions.

“Weaver” From pg 1

lesson. As Black Bear fans streamed into the stadium, they picked up all they needed to learn how to plant cucumbers in recycled containers.

Weaver shared that her family, knowing she would be teaching from a dugout roof, purchased tickets near the home dugout. Weaver, unfortunately, had to instruct from the away side. “I was facing a small section of crowd,” she remembered, “but it was very exciting. They were definitely going through the lesson with me.”

She felt gratified to see that most fans took the materials with them as they left, saying “It was a nice surprise to see them involved.”

After she completed the lesson, “there was a little bit of ‘it’s over and I didn’t mess up!’” Weaver also expressed her “overwhelming gratitude” for the opportunity to share, but also shared “this was a dream for me. I have always loved public speaking.”

This isn’t the end of Weaver’s contribution to fresh produce and fresh ideas on how to grow and use it. “I’m selling some produce at the Farmers’ Market in Shinnston this year and doing some baking to go along with that.” Also, she shared “I’ve been volunteering with the community garden and that has been an incredible opportunity there.”

Overall, she explained that “I want the people of our neighborhood to have a resource as they are trying to be more practical” about food production and consumption, emphasizing sustainability.

Through her You Tube videos, volunteering, and meeting people through her work, Weaver is sure to harvest a bumper crop of followers who admire her pluck in teaching 1,300 students, as well as those looking for more efficient and effective ways to save while growing their own food.

West Virginia Airport
Managers Association
Honors Two WV
Aviation Hall of Fame
Inductees

Davis, W.Va. — The West Virginia Airport Managers Association is honored to announce the induction of two distinguished individuals into the West Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame. An installment ceremony to celebrate the 2023 inductees was held July 31, 2023, during a private event at Canaan Valley Resort during the annual West Virginia Aviation Conference with family, friends, and colleagues in attendance.

The West Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame recognizes pioneers and leaders within the industry who have made significant contributions to the development, advancement, or promotion of aviation and have close ties to the state. Nominations may be made by any individual or organization familiar with the nominee’s achievements or actions. More information and criteria to nominate individuals for the WV Aviation Hall of Fame and/or WV Aviation Wall of Valor can be found here: <http://www.wvama.org/>

The 2023 West Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame inductees include:

Thomas E. Cochran and Perry E. Dillon

The West Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame is located in the terminal building of the North Central West Virginia Airport (CKB) in Clarksburg, WV. Each Inductee will be honored by having a descriptive plaque dedicated to them praising their contributions to West Virginia aviation.

August is National Immunization
Awareness Month

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – As part of National Immunization Awareness Month, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), Bureau for Public Health joins partners across the country to highlight the importance of routine vaccination for people of all ages.

Governor Jim Justice also proclaimed August as Immunization Month in West Virginia.

“Children and adults are encouraged to keep vaccinations up to date to protect themselves and vulnerable populations from vaccine preventable diseases,” said Dr. Matthew Christiansen, Commissioner for DHHR’s Bureau for Public Health and State Health Officer. “Vaccines are the safest way to protect against preventable illnesses, and routine well-

visits with your physician help ensure you or your child do not fall behind on vaccines.”

On-time vaccination throughout childhood provides immunity before children are exposed to potentially life-threatening diseases. Vaccines are recommended for adults based on age, health condition, job, lifestyle, travel, and other factors. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Adult Vaccines Self-Assessment Tool helps users determine when vaccines are recommended.

Learn more about vaccines for children and adults at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/index.html. To view and apply for careers in the public health field, visit dhhr.wv.gov/Pages/Career-Opportunities.aspx.

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OBITUARIES



Jeffrey Todd Cumberledge

Jeffrey Todd Cumberledge, 60, of Wallace, passed away on August 1, 2023 at his home in Wallace. Todd was born July 8, 1963, a son to the late William Cumberledge and Bernadine Cumberledge.

He was preceded in death by his parents; four sisters, Ruthie, Brenda, Robin, and Scherri; and three brothers Kenny, Pete, and Rusty.

He is survived by three sisters, Rosie and husband Bill of PA, Barb and husband Brian of KY, Becky of TX; brother Steve of TX; and 33 nieces and nephews (including step) and several great nieces and nephews.

Per his wishes, he will be cremated. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

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

A service of Harmer Funeral Home, Shinnston.

(Rikki) of Clarksburg, WV; Justina Riley and companion John Michael of Wallace, WV; and her great-grandchildren, Derek Gifford, Brynna Greathouse, Thomas Gifford, Isaiah Greathouse, Alex Gifford, Hunter Shears, Hailey Gifford, Skylar Gifford, Emilia Gifford, and Logan Riffle. Also she had a special great-nephew, Justin Morgan that she considered a grandchild. She considered all of her nieces and nephews to be very special. She loved spending time with all of them.

She worked for various companies throughout her life. A railroad, glass manufacturers, a nursing home and a bank. She was active in the union, politics, non-profit organizations, various clubs and trying to have her community, Gypsy, WV declared a historical place. She was a member of Gypsy Community Church and Gypsy Ladies Aid. She helped orchestrate the 100th Anniversary of the Community of Gypsy.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the employees of Pierpont Center at Fairmont Campus for the wonderful care she received and to Harmer Funeral Home for all of their assistance.

Friends will be received at Harmer Funeral Home, 300 Pike St., Shinnston for a Celebration of Life on Saturday, August 26, 2023 from 1-5 pm.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Harmer Funeral Home.

Online condolences may be sent to www.harmerfuneralhome.com



Sonia Arlene (Bennett) Whitehair

Our beloved mother, Sonia Arlene (Bennett) Whitehair, sadly passed away on July 30th, 2023, at 10:22 p.m. at the age of 64, surrounded by family at United Hospital Center. She was a wonderful mother, daughter, wife, grandmother, sister, and aunt. She was born in Clarksburg, WV, on August 4th, 1958. She was the daughter of the late John Russell Bennett and Norma Grace (Swiger) Bennett. She married her husband, Paul Larry "Tex" Whitehair on June 18th, 1973.

Surviving are her two sons; Jonathon and Amy Whitehair of Clarksburg, Brandon and Lauren Whitehair of Bridgeport; four daughters; Sonia Jo and Robert Parks of Clarksburg, Alexandria, and Matthew Starkey of Shinnston, Audriana and Aaron Baker of Fairmont and Sarah Whitehair and Dusty Williams of Bridgeport; 10 grandchildren, Austin, Nathaniel, and Emily Parks, Jonathon and Sydney Whitehair, Mekalea, Crislynn, and Jalynn Whitehair. Landon and Grayson Starkey and Colton

Whitehair; two great-grandchildren, Bentley Pritt and one on the way: Jonathon Whitehair III; Two brothers, Norman "Leroy" and Elizabeth Bennett of Baytown TX and Darrell and Melissa Whitehair of Clarksburg; many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband Paul Whitehair, her mom and dad, Norma and John Bennett and Mother and father-in-law, Mary, and Porter Whitehair. Her Grandparents Archie Earl and Estella Mae Bennett, and Leslie and Ruth Evelyn Swiger. One brother; Ronald Bennett, and two brother in laws Porter Whitehair Jr. and Jess Whitehair.

Sonia was a stay-at-home mom and worked alongside her husband Tex at his business, Whitehair's Auto Garage. She was a faithful member of Holy Trinity Chapel. She loved the Lord; he was her strength. Over the years of being a member, she served the church as being a Sunday school teacher, youth leader, and pianist. Her talents ranged from crocheting, cross stitching, sewing, playing the piano, singing, baking/decorating cakes, cooking, photography, and making floral arrangements. She enjoyed spending time with her family playing cards, board games, and Farmville. Most importantly she was never more than a phone call away.

She battled a long-term illness, but that never stopped her from showing love, compassion, and giving to others around her. Even at her weakest moments, she was strong-willed. No matter her state of health she always had the energy to spend time with the ones she loved the most. We are very appreciative of the Doctors, Nursing Staff, Home Health, and Staff at UHC who became a very special part of her life.

Friends will be received at Perine Funeral Home, 1348 S. Pike St. Shinnston, on Wednesday from 5-8pm. A funeral service will be held at the Holy Trinity Chapel, Filbert and Fleming Sts. Summit Park, on Thursday at 11:00am with Rev. Rebecca Lafferty officiating. Interment will follow at Elkview Cemetery in Clarksburg. Online memories and condolences can be shared with the family at www.perinefunerals.com

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

Intermediate Court Celebrates First Anniversary

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Recently the Intermediate Court of Appeals of West Virginia (ICA) celebrated its first anniversary.

Since its opening, the ICA has received over 670 appeals and issued 226 decisions, including 17 signed opinions. "We, as a Court, are pleased to be able to implement a new level of judicial review. We will continue to strive to make the administration of justice efficient and accessible for all West Virginians," said Chief Judge Daniel Greear. The ICA began operations on July 1, 2022. The overall breakdown of case type is roughly 33% workers' compensation appeals; 29% civil appeals; 22% family court appeals; and 16% administrative appeals.

"The most significant aspect of the intermediate court is going to be the effect it has had on family law," said Chief Judge Greear. "There will be more uniformity and predictability in the family law system that was not there before." Judge Thomas Scarr added, "Hopefully that will result in a reduction of disputes or make it easier to decide these cases on the lower level." While the court's three judges render decisions in every case, they do not hear oral argument in every case.

In its first year of operation, the ICA heard 34 oral arguments, including several that utilized the ICA's satellite courtrooms. Litigants can choose to use one of the satellite courtrooms or to attend oral argument in Charleston. "We had an opportunity to create something we haven't had before—the ability to have your appeal heard even though you are not physically present at a courtroom in Charleston, West Virginia," said Judge Charles Lorenson. "Hopefully that will make access to justice more attainable to people who can't or don't want to travel to Charleston."

Out of the Past

Memorable photographs from around Harrison County



Old house by the well at Big Elm Farm, Shinnston. Photo courtesy of West Virginia and Regional History Center, originally donated by Mrs. Mary Lee Swiger

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IN THE SHINNSTON
NEWS JOURNAL**

West Virginia Honey Bee Colonies Charleston, West Virginia

Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in West Virginia as of January 1, 2023 totaled 5,000, up 9 percent from January 1, 2022. The number of colonies in the State on April 1, 2023 was 5,500. During 2022, honey bee colonies on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 4,600, 5,000, 8,000 and 7,500, respectively. Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies from January-March 2023, were 600 colonies, or 10 percent.

The number of colonies lost during the quarter of April-June 2023 was 350 colonies, or 5 percent. During the quarter of October-December 2022, colonies lost totaled 1,100, or 14 percent, the highest of any quarter surveyed in 2022. The quarter surveyed in 2022 with the lowest number of colonies lost was April-June, with 260 colonies lost, or 3 percent. Honey bee colonies added for operations with five or more colonies from January-March 2023 were 40 colonies. The number of colonies added during the quarter of April-June 2023 was 1,400 colonies.

During the quarter of April-June 2022, 2,400 colonies were added, the highest number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter surveyed in 2022. The quarter surveyed in 2022 with the lowest number of colonies added was October-December 2022, with zero added colonies. Honey bee colonies

renovated for operations with five or more colonies from January-March 2023 were 40, or 1 percent.

The number of colonies renovated during the quarter of April-June 2023 was 1,000 colonies, or 15 percent. The quarter surveyed in 2022 with the highest number of colonies renovated was April-June with 2,600 colonies renovated, or 35 percent. The quarter surveyed in 2022 with the lowest number of colonies renovated was January-March, with 200 colonies renovated, or 4 percent.

Renovated colonies are those that were requeened or received new honey bees through nuc or package. Varroa mites were the number one stressor for operations with five or more colonies during all quarters surveyed in 2022. The quarter of October-December 2022 had the highest percentage of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites at 33.4 percent. The percent of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites during January-March 2023 and April-June 2023 was 14.5 percent and 31.1 percent, respectively.

United States - Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in the United States on January 1, 2023 totaled 2.68 million colonies, down 7 percent from January 1, 2022. The number of colonies in the United States on April 1, 2023, was 2.71 million colonies. During 2022, honey bee

colonies on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 2.88 million, 2.91 million, 3.11 million, and 2.89 million colonies, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies from January through March 2023, was 373,880 colonies, or 14 percent. The number of colonies lost during the quarter of April through June 2023, was 237,350 colonies, or 9 percent. During the quarter of April through June 2022, colonies lost totaled 363,570 colonies, or 13 percent, the highest number lost of any quarter surveyed in 2022.

The quarter surveyed in 2022 with the lowest number of colonies lost was January through March, with 331,480 colonies lost, or 12 percent. Honey bee colonies added for operations with five or more colonies from January through March 2023 was 384,790 colonies. The number of colonies added during the quarter of April through June 2023 was 596,360.

During the quarter of April through June 2022, the number of colonies added were 573,160 colonies, the highest number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter surveyed in 2022. The quarter of July through September 2022 added 152,640 colonies, the least number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter surveyed in 2022.

Honey bee colonies renovated for operations with five or more colonies

from January through March 2023 was 113,440 colonies, or 4 percent. During the quarter of April through June 2023, the number of colonies renovated were 478,440 colonies, or 18 percent. The quarter surveyed in 2022 with the highest number of colonies renovated was April through June 2022 with 494,890 colonies renovated, or 17 percent.

The quarter surveyed in 2022 with the lowest number of colonies renovated was October through December 2022, with 147,950, or 5 percent. Renovated colonies are those that were requeened or received new honey bees through a nucleus (nuc) colony or package. Varroa mites were the number one stressor for operations with five or more colonies during all quarters surveyed in 2022.

The period with the highest percentage of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites was April through June 2022 at 47.5 percent. The percent of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites during January through March 2023 and April through June 2023 are 39.7 percent and 50.9 percent, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost with Colony Collapse Disorder symptoms on operations with five or more colonies was 107,630 colonies from January through March 2023. This represents a 25 percent increase from the same quarter in 2022.

Capito, 38 Other Senators Call on EPA to Withdraw Harmful Power Plants Regulations

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), Ranking Member of the Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, led 38 other Republican senators, including Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), in calling on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to withdraw its latest set of proposed power plant regulations that will force the closure of coal and gas-fired power plants.

“In direct conflict with West Virginia v. EPA, this proposal requires generation shifting from fossil-fuel power to other types of energy. While the Agen-

cy falsely claims this does not run afoul of the Supreme Court’s decision, it is undeniable the proposal would require generation shifting that the Court has definitively found Congress has never granted EPA the authority to require under the Clean Air Act,” the senators wrote in a letter.

Cosigners of Ranking Member Capito’s letter include U.S. Senators Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), John Thune (R-S.D.), John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), Steve Daines (R-Mont.), John Boozman (R-Ark.), Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), Mike Braun (R-Ind.), Katie Britt (R-Ala.),

Ted Budd (R-N.C.), Bill Cassidy (R-La.), Tom Cotton (R-Ark.), Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), Ted Cruz (R-Texas), Deb Fischer (R-Neb.), Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), Bill Hagerty (R-Tenn.), John Hoeven (R-N.D.), Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.), James Lankford (R-Okla.), Mike Lee (R-Utah), Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.), Roger Marshall (R-Kan.), Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), Markwayne Mullin (R-Okla.), Pete Ricketts (R-Neb.), Jim Risch (R-Idaho), Mitt Romney (R-Utah), Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), Rick Scott (R-Fla.), Tim Scott (R-S.C.), Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska), Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala.), J.D. Vance (R-Ohio), Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), and Todd Young (R-Ind.).

In May, Capito announced plans to lead efforts through the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to overturn the proposed regulations, which is a clear attempt by the Biden administration to revive the illegal Clean Power Plan.

Delegate Doug Skaff, Jr. Stepping Down as Minority Leader of House of Delegates

Charleston, WV – House of Delegates Minority Leader Doug Skaff Jr. of Kanawha County will step down as Minority Leader of the House of Delegates at the conclusion of Legislative interim meetings on Tuesday August 8th, 2023. Delegate Skaff expressed his gratefulness to colleagues for the opportunity to serve in this capacity, but he feels it is time to turn the leadership over to someone else.

“I have enjoyed working with Republican Speaker of the House Roger Hanshaw to deliver common sense solutions for the people of West Virginia,” Skaff stated. “In my role as Minority Leader, I worked with Speaker Hanshaw to focus on

attracting businesses to our state and creating jobs here as we traveled the country to encourage companies and major corporations to Choose WV.”

In stepping down as Minority Leader, Delegate Skaff plans to spend extra time focused on his businesses and coaching his three boys on the soccer fields.

House of Delegates Minority Leader Pro Temp Sean Hornbuckle of Cabell County will assume the role of Minority Leader immediately following the August interim meetings of the Legislature. On Delegate Hornbuckle, Leader Skaff said, “Sean is a strong leader, delegate and friend- I know that he will lead the caucus well.”

Congressman Alex X. Mooney (WV-02) Statement on Biden DOJ’s Politically Motivated Indictment of President Trump

WASHINGTON, DC – Rep. Alex X. Mooney issued the following statement on the politically motivated indictment of President Donald Trump by Joe Biden’s Department of Justice (DOJ):

“President Donald Trump has faced unprecedented attacks by Democrats. He was subjected to two sham impeachment trials, fake prosecutions by an extreme liberal New York prosecutor, had his home raided, and now the Department of Justice is again coming after Joe Biden’s leading political rival.

Joe Biden’s administration is run by left-wing political activists and this indictment of Donald Trump is the most recent example. Jack Smith is the latest swamp dweller that will do anything it takes to ensure that President Trump is kept out of the White House. Congress must hold the rogue DOJ accountable, and I support withholding funding to the DOJ until the department ceases pushing its blatantly partisan two tiers of justice. These disgusting abuses of power will fail, and Donald Trump will be elected again in 2024.”

LEGAL

(2021-S-00000331 - Harrison County - WVTJ, LLC)

To: JOHN RUDOLPH CHRISTINA, OCCUPANT, IRS, ATTN: ADVISORY CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS, WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT CLAY SHINNSTON CORP MAP 1006 PARCEL 0190 0000

You will take notice that WVTJ, LLC, the purchaser of the tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2021-S-00000331, 1 TRACT (LOTS 4 5) PARRILL ADD, located in CLAY SHINNSTON CORP, which was returned delinquent in the name of CHRISTINA JOHN RUDOLPH, and for which the tax lien(s) thereon was sold by the sheriff of Harrison County at the sale for the delinquent taxes made on the 4th day of November, 2021, has requested that you be notified that a deed for such real estate will be made to him or her on or after October 1, 2023, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount you will have to pay on the last day, September 30, 2023, will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to September 30, 2023.	\$ 1,374.72
Amount of subsequent year’s taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to September 30, 2023.	\$ 1,235.19
Amount paid for the Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest from January 1, 2022, following the sheriff’s sale to September 30, 2023.	\$ 1,100.30
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff’s sale to September 30, 2023.	\$ 270.71
Total Amount Payable to Sheriff - cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable Robert Matheny, Sheriff and Treasurer of Harrison County.	\$ 3,980.92
Cost of Certification of Redemption - cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable John B. McCuskey, State Auditor.	\$ 35.00

You may redeem any time before September 30, 2023, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

Return this letter and both certified funds to the
WV State Auditor’s Office,
County Collection Division
1900 Kanawha Blvd East, Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305.
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568 option 2

“A Newspaper The Whole Family Can Read”

Shinnston Harrison County
The News & Journal

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Secretary of State Mac Warner to host biennial County Clerk’s Election Conference to Prepare for 2024 Elections

More than 150 county clerks, deputy clerks, and election staff members from throughout West Virginia are scheduled to attend a three-day conference at Canaan Valley in Davis, WV focused on cybersecurity and preparation for the 2024 elections. The conference is scheduled to begin on Sunday, August 6, and runs through Tuesday, August 8.

According to WV Secretary of State Mac Warner, his office and the WVSOS Elections Division host the conference every other year to help prepare county clerks for national and state elections.

“West Virginia leads the nation in safe and secure elections,” said Secretary Warner. “My office works closely with our county clerks before, during, and between elections to

make sure that we’re doing all we can to provide voters with safe and fair elections.”

The WV County Clerk’s Election Conference is one of the most respected election preparation conferences in the nation. This year, Christy McCormick, the federal chair of the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission (EAC), will be one of the keynote speakers. She will be joined by Sara Hedland from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) and Sarah Kuzniewski, a program specialist for the federal Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing & Analysis Center (EI-ISAC).

“Confidence in the West Virginia elections is at an all-time high,” said Secretary Warner. “That’s due in great part to the training and transparency found in our election process.”

WVU Medicine United Hospital Center is nationally recognized for its commitment to providing high-quality cardiovascular care

The American Heart Association presents United Hospital Center with three Get With The Guidelines awards for the fifth consecutive year due to proven dedication to best practices and life-saving care

Bridgeport, WV—WVU Medicine United Hospital Center (UHC) has received three American Heart Association Get With The Guidelines achievement awards for demonstrating commitment to following up-to-date, research-based guidelines for the treatment of heart disease and stroke, ultimately leading to more lives saved, shorter recovery times and fewer readmissions to the hospital.

Every 40 seconds, someone in the U.S. has a stroke or heart attack, and heart disease and stroke are the No. 1 and No. 5 causes of death in the United States, respectively. Studies show patients can recover better when providers consistently follow treatment guidelines.

Get With The Guidelines put the expertise of the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association to work for hospitals nationwide, helping ensure patient care is aligned with the latest evidence- and research-based guidelines. As a participant in Get With The Guidelines programs, UHC qualified for numerous awards by demonstrating how their organization

has committed to improving quality care.

This year, UHC received the following achievement awards:

- Get With The Guidelines—Stroke Gold Plus with Stroke Honor Roll Elite and Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll

- Get With The Guidelines—Heart Failure Gold Plus with Heart Failure Honor Roll and Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll

- Get With The Guidelines—Resuscitation Gold

“WVU Medicine United Hospital Center is committed to improving care by adhering to the latest treatment guidelines and streamlining processes to ensure timely and proper care for heart attacks and strokes,” said Dr. Mark Povroznik, vice president of Quality and chair of Infection Control. “The Get With The Guidelines programs make it easier for our teams to put proven knowledge and guidelines to work on a daily basis, which helps us ensure more people in North Central West Virginia experience longer, healthier lives.”

For more information concerning American Heart Association Get With The Guidelines, please visit: <https://www.heart.org/en/professional/quality-improvement/get-with-the-guidelines>.

Women’s Basketball Season Ticket Renewals Now Available

By Chris Coombs

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. – West Virginia University women’s basketball season ticket holders can now renew their season tickets for the upcoming 2023-24 season online at WVUGAME.com.

The priority renewal deadline is Friday, Sept. 15, and ticket renewal statements for the 2023-24 WVU women’s basketball home campaign will be mailed to current season ticket holders in the coming days. Additionally, fans who placed a deposit on new season tickets will receive a statement in the mail with the remaining balance due for their season ticket purchase.

At home in Big 12 conference play the Mountaineers are set to face Baylor, UCF, Cincinnati, Iowa State, TCU, Houston, Oklahoma, Texas and Texas Tech.

Fans who have not previously renewed their tickets online also will receive instructions in the mail. Those who have previously renewed their tickets online can log in to their account using the email address and password they used to create their online account.

New season ticket deposits for \$20 are also now on sale to the general public online, by phone, and at the Mountaineer Ticket Office in the WVU Coliseum. Season tickets for padded lower-level seating in sections C1-C6, and C12 cost \$85, \$65 for reserved lower-level seating (sections 105-109) and \$50 for general admission. To order 2023-24 women’s basketball season tickets, visit WVUGAME.com or call 1-800-WVU GAME.

All 2023-24 women’s basketball season ticket holders will receive a reserved parking pass for all Big 12 weekend home games.

West Virginia Airport Managers Association

Shawn Stewart and Shawn Tucker Memorial Scholarship Ceremony

Davis, W.Va. (Aug. 2, 2023) — The West Virginia Airport Managers Association is proud to announce six students were first year recipients of the Shawn Stewart and Shawn Tucker Memorial Scholarship. The students were invited to the scholarship awards ceremony July 31, 2023, at Canaan Valley Resort while attending the WV Aviation Hall of Fame dinner at the annual WV Aviation Conference.

Shawn Tucker, P.E., and Shawn Stewart, P.E, were both employed as Civil Engineers by Chapman Technical Group of St. Albans and Buckhannon, West Virginia.

Shawn Tucker was born in Philippi, West Virginia, and attended Grafton High School and Fairmont State University where he obtained his Associate and Bachelor Degrees in Civil Engineering Technology. He and his wife, Adrienne, became the parents of three children, Madelyn, Brooks and Molly. He was employed as a Civil Engineer by Chapman Technical Group in May 2003 and was the General Manager of the Buckhannon office and was the principal Airport Design and Construction Project Manager. Shawn passed away in 2019 at the age of 37 after a 10-month battle with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML). He loved being an airport engineer and was proud of his work. Shawn was actively involved in the Buckhannon community - especially youth sporting programs - and touched countless lives through his leadership, passion and many contributions.

Shawn Stewart was born in Ireland, West Virginia, and attended Lewis County High School, Glenville State College - earning a degree in Administrative Science - and Fairmont State College where he obtained his Associate and Bachelor Degrees in Civil Engineering. He and his wife, Tonya, became the parents of a son, Zane. Shawn was the Assistant General Manager of Chapman’s Buckhannon office and was an experienced professional Airport Engineer who was responsible for two award-winning projects. The first involved a complex pavement design at the Raleigh

County Memorial Airport in Beckley, WV, and the second was a pile and lagging retaining wall at the Mercer County Airport in Bluefield, WV. One of his greatest accomplishments as an airport engineer was the design and project management of the Appalachian Regional Airport. Shawn died tragically in a turkey hunting accident in 2009 at the age of 32, leaving his wife and 9-month-old son. Shawn lived by a simple code, centered around family, respect and good deeds. He lived his life with a degree of professionalism and common sense that went well beyond his years. He was respected by his peers and clients alike. Shawn was also an accomplished bass fisherman and hunter.

This Scholarship Program was developed to honor the lives of Shawn Stewart and Shawn Tucker. It is designed to provide financial assistance to students who demonstrate financial need in the pursuit of a career in the aviation industry at an accredited institution of the student’s choice.

The 2023 Shawn Stewart and Shawn Tucker Memorial Scholarship recipients are:

- Caden Ball, Marshall University - Commercial Pilot: Fixed Wing BS
- Alec Calloway, Fairmont State University - Aviation
- Cole Cogar, West Virginia University - Civil Engineering
- Noah Hobson, Fairmont State University - Aviation-Professional Flight/Pilot Training
- McKinzie Quintrell, Marshall University - BS, Professional Pilot, Aviation Science
- Kristen Sayre, Marshall University - Professional Pilot, College of Science

Applications for the 2024 program are due by March 31, 2024. For application forms and program information, email: info@wvama.org

The WV Airport Managers Association is an association of airports, aviation professionals, and partners that support the aviation, aerospace, and airport industry in West Virginia. Find more information here: <https://www.wvama.org/>.

YCF Accepting Grant Applications

Morgantown, WV – Your Community Foundation of North Central West Virginia, Inc. (YCF) is currently accepting applications from nonprofit organizations for the following grant programs: YCF Educator Mini-Grants, Stephen D. Tanner Children’s Enrichment Fund, Taylor County Charitable Interest Fund, and the Women’s Giving Circle of North Central West Virginia.

Applications are due by September 25, 2023. Brief descriptions of each grant program are outlined below, with full eligibility criteria and application instructions available at www.ycfwv.org. Awards will be announced and distributed in November.

YCF Educator Mini-Grants
This pilot grant program will provide educators with funding to enhance the student learning experience. The opportunity is open to any PK-12 educator in traditional public schools within YCF’s service area: Harrison, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, and Taylor Counties. Mini-grants of up to \$750 will be awarded to educators who need financial assistance with special projects, materials, or classroom resources that are not covered by school/central office sources or other means. Funding for these grants is made possible by the YCF IMPACT Fund and several YCF donor-advised funds.

Stephen D. Tanner Children’s Enrichment Fund
The Stephen D. Tanner Children’s Enrichment Fund is devoted to providing grants to benefit underprivileged children in Monongalia County. The opportunity is open to all public elementary schools in Monongalia

County with preference given to Title I Schools: Mason Dixon, Mountainview, Mylan Park, and Skyview Elementary Schools. In addition, applications will be considered from Monongalia County nonprofit organizations offering enrichment programs for underserved children. Applicants are encouraged to pursue matching funds to maximize impact. Awards of up to \$2,500 will be made.

Taylor County Charitable Interest Fund
The Taylor County Charitable Interest Fund accepts applications from qualified 501(c)(3) organizations or public institutions, including public schools, operating in Taylor County, West Virginia. Grants of approximately \$500 - \$1,000 will be made.

Women’s Giving Circle of North Central West Virginia
The Women’s Giving Circle of North Central West Virginia, a component fund of YCF, accepts grant applications from qualified charitable organizations in Harrison, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, and Taylor Counties, which address the needs of women and/or girls. Specifically, projects must include one or more of the following goals: Increase life skills of women and girls through education, economic empowerment, physical and mental health, and strategies for prevention of violence and crime; encourage the healthy development of girls; and promote gender equity in our community. Awards of up to \$5,000 will be made.

For more information please call (304) 296-3433, email info@ycfwv.org, or visit YCF’s website at: <http://www.ycfwv.org>.

Harrison County Entrepreneurs Offer New Way for Locals and Tourists to Beat the Heat



Last week, the Harrison County Chamber of Commerce celebrated Tracy and Robert West's Mountaineer Ice and Water Vending offers automatic water and ice service, located just off the Saltwell Road exit. It's the first of its kind in West Virginia, but have appeared in Texas and South Carolina. Jon Griffith, Bridgeport City Council member, said this is a "unique and exciting vending opportunity for the community."

WVU Board of Governors votes unanimously to extend Gordon Gee's contract

By Autumn Shelton, WV Press

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — As West Virginia University (WVU) continues its academic transformation due to budget shortfalls, Gordon Gee will remain in his role as president.

On July 31, the WVU Board of Governors unanimously voted to extend Gee's contract until June 30, 2025, with no increase in his base salary.

"We considered a variety of factors in our evaluation, which is really an ongoing process that spans his tenure," said Taunja Willis-Miller, chair of the WVU Board of Governors.

"We noted that the University also is in a state of transformation," Willis-Miller continued. "We must continue to act boldly. President Gee has shown time and time again he's not afraid to do the difficult work that's required."

Following Willis-Miller's announcement, Gee responded, "I look forward to continuing the important work that we are doing."

"The challenges we are facing are not unique to us, but the manner in which we choose to meet the challenge is, I think, very much unique to us. We are doing it in a much different way," Gee said, adding that he expects both "criticism and acclamation" as the transformation continues.

However, he said, the intent is to make the process as transparent and as data based as possible.

In other business, the Board voted to approve several amendments that clarify Rules 3.9 and 4.7, both relating to a reduction in force (RIF), and the faculty and classified staff severance package.

Amendments to Rule 3.9 discussed during the meeting include:

Clarifying legal requirements related to the RIF notice period.

"Eliminating the requirement that severance packages be paid in installments" to allow for more flexibility in developing the plan.

"Clarifying that voluntary reductions in FTE (Full-time equivalent) or appointment length do not trigger the provisions of this Rule." This includes employees who agreed to voluntarily reduce their FTE earlier this year.

Amendments to Rule 4.7 discussed during the meeting include:

"Clarifying that faculty should be involved in the academic review process, which could lead to a RIF plan for that program, as opposed to the formulation of the actual RIF plan."

Elimination of implied obligation that the University will train faculty members to be qualified for other faculty positions.

determination will be made based upon "performance, knowledge and qualifications and seniority, and will be made by the Dean Office's and the Office of the Provost.

"Clarifying that program reduction may include reducing tenured, tenured-track, or certain faculty positions with multi-year contracts."

Regarding the faculty and classified staff severance package, it was determined that teaching and service-track employees "should receive the same number of weeks in severance pay as tenured and tenure-track faculty members."

According to Rob Alsop, WVU's vice president for strategic initiatives, eligible employees will receive 12 weeks of severance pay beginning on May 9, 2024. Employees will be notified of their pending termination on October 15, 2023.

Alsop added that classified staff could receive from four to 32 weeks of severance pay, "depending on notice period going forward."

The Board also agreed to review the possible severance pay inclusion of 12-month faculty members (librarians and clinical faculty) as more data becomes available.

Mark Gavin, associate provost for strategic initiatives, then provided board members with an update on WVU's academic transformation.

Gavin stated that WVU's goal should be to create an academic portfolio that includes "students demands, career opportunities and market trends that also serves our land-grant and research missions, while retaining our R-1 classification."

Doctoral programs and associated non-terminal master's degree programs that have annual research expenditures of over \$1 million are exempt from a formal review, as are new programs with three or fewer years of enrollment data and pathway and completion programs, Gavin explained.

"Potomac State and WVU Tech programs and WVU Extension are not being reviewed at this time," according to Gavin.

Gavin added that numerous departments have already been slated for formal review including Mining Engineering, the School of Education, the School of Law, the School of Art and Design, the School of Music, Pharmacy, Public Health and more.

Additionally, Gavin explained that 48% of WVU's full-time faculty are within the departments that have been identified for formal review.

For a complete list of programs identified for formal review, visit the Academic Transformation website at transformation.wvu.edu.

The WVU Board of Governors will hold its next meeting on Aug. 22.

Harrison County to Consider Veterans Council Proposal

By Stephen Smoot

"We all come together as a community," was included in the opening prayer of the first August meeting of the Harrison County Commission. Then the commission demonstrated that by hearing a proposal on how to better connect local government with the needs and concerns of area veterans.

Chad McIntyre rose during the time allotted for public comment to deliver a proposal on behalf of Post 13 of the American Legion. He said he "came here about a month ago to discuss the county commission supporting a veterans' council."

The commission responded favorably, saying it "would like all veterans organizations to get with the veterans' council and come back and see us in two weeks," adding that "this is a good program for all involved."

Commissioners went on to say to McIntyre that "as long as you guys are involved . . . it's only good for Harrison County to have that." The commission decided to table the issue for two weeks to allow the various veteran groups to prepare. The final word from the commission on the matter was "Marion County has been very successful, so let's see if we can one up Marion County."

Next, the county commission heard from John Chapman, a representative of the Johnstown Community Education Outreach Service, better known as CEOS. Since before the nation entered World War I,

the state has relied on these local clubs. WVCEOS is a voluntary, nonprofit organization functioning in cooperation with West Virginia University Extension. It is one of the largest educational organizations in the nation.

According to the West Virginia University Extension Service, under whose umbrella CEOS operate, "CEOS program areas of emphasis include preserving the environment, building family strengths, and increasing awareness of our global interdependence."

Chapman came to request \$1,500 to help support a community fair on Sept 9. The funds would support entertainment and some other expenses. The commission approved the request, as it has done for the past five years, excluding the 2020 COVID lockdown year.

Next, commissioners discussed participating in an "online auction site that a lot of municipalities utilize." The county could sell old vehicles, equipment, and other materials. Commissioners approved joining the site at the cost of \$10,000.

They then decided to post the dates, times, and places in which the county assessor's office will hold satellite offices for the convenience of area taxpayers.

Finally, the commission declared that "yesterday was a great day for the county" with the opening of the new sheriff's department. Commissioners said "I want to thank law enforcement in this county. The commission appreciated all they do."

Governor Justice Announces Formation of Summersville Lake State Park

CHARLESTON, WV — Gov. Jim Justice announced today that West Virginia will soon be opening its 36th state park, Summersville Lake State Park. The northern shore of the state's largest lake in Nicholas County will be transformed into a premiere outdoor adventure park in one of West Virginia's most iconic spots.

A bill that will officially designate the land as a state park was sent to the West Virginia Legislature this afternoon by Gov. Justice. Once the bill is passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, new recreational opportunities at the park will be opened to the public. As the state's first new park added in more than 30 years, this designation is symbolic of the recent growth in West Virginia's tourism industry.

"I couldn't be more proud to announce our newest State Park," Gov. Justice said. "Summersville Lake is an iconic place in our beautiful state filled with a lot of special memories that span generations of families. Now, all those who travel to Summersville Lake will be treated to the greatest outdoor adventure park in the country on the shores of our state's largest lake.

"The opportunity to add another State Park is a testament to the major impact that our investments in tourism and in our parks is having in West Virginia. I thank the Legislature for agreeing with me and supporting these investments, and I thank all those that work hard every day to operate our parks and market our state to the world. I can't wait to see people from far and wide enjoying Summersville Lake State Park very soon."

The 177-acre park is perched on the northern shore of the state's largest and most picturesque lakes. The lake has been a national and international destination known for its clear blue waters and unique rock formations since opening in 1966. Estimates show more than 1 million visitors enjoy watersports there each year. The new park, just off US-19, will immediately open the lake to additional recreational activities such as hiking, biking, and picnicking. The new park also includes an additional parking lot for those coming to enjoy the incredible views and world-class outdoor recreation.

The site is slated to be developed through a public-private partnership and the amenities will make it the greatest outdoor adventure park in the country. Planned amenities include additional climbing and bouldering opportunities, hiking and

biking trails, water activities, aerial sports, camping, cabins, and more. The Division of Natural Resources will host a public meeting in the near future to receive input from the public.

This development comes on the heels of a historic investment in our state park system. State Parks are completing more than \$150 million in improvements, which include upgrades at every single state-operated lodge and every cabin across the state. Last year's state park revenue was the fourth year of record-breaking revenue, showing growth both in in-state visitation and out-of-state visitation.

An event will be held in the near future to officially designate the park and open it to the public. In the meantime, those looking to learn more should visit WVstateparks.com/Summersville.

"Our state parks would not be where they are today without Governor Justice's vision. When he came into office, we had tens of millions in deferred maintenance and declining revenues" said Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Tourism Chelsea Ruby. "I'm thrilled to stand beside him today as we celebrate more than 150 million in investments, record revenue, and our first new state park in more than 30 years. We could not be more appreciative of the Legislature's continued support of our investments in expanding and improving recreation in our great state. West Virginia has truly become a national leader."

"Under the Governor's leadership, West Virginia State Parks just finished another record year, and I'm just thrilled to see us add another 177 acres into our state parks system," said Director of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Brett McMillion, who oversees the State Park system. "We are looking forward to adding Summersville Lake as our 36th park and spending the next couple of months hearing from West Virginians on the amenities they'd like to see added in Nicholas County."

"Summersville Lake already has internationally-known amenities, and we are looking forward to greatly enhancing the visitor experience with this park," said Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Commerce James Bailey, who oversees the Division of Natural Resources. "With Governor Justice's vision, we're going to develop this site to make it the nation's premier outdoor adventure park."