

County Commission Tables Election Decision

By Stephen Smoot

The Harrison County Commission conducted its first meeting for the month of December last Wednesday. Susan Thomas, Harrison County Commission president, was not present and Commissioner David Hinkle presided over the proceedings. First, Commissioner Patsy Trecost led the commission and

meeting attendees in prayer, saying “thank You for the opportunity for the people of Harrison County to do their business.” Next, the commission led the room in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. First, commissioners took up the issue of MuniCap Inc, a public finance company. The county last month decided to retain the company “for services related to the

Senior Tax Increment Refunding Bonds Series 2021,” as well as other bonds under county purview. Additionally, MuniCap was retained “for services related to the administration of the Tax Increment Revenue and Refunding Bonds” as well as other bonds related to TIF funding. Hinkle brought up the matter of a Memorandum of

Understanding written between Harrison County and the City of Clarksburg. The MOU states “the intergovernmental agreement for the County to administer the City’s regularly scheduled elections concurrently with the statewide primary elections.” West Virginia Code 3-1-31 states that “beginning July 1, 2022, *See “Election” on Pg 3*

LHS CTE Business Students Light Up the West Fork River Rail Trail

Lincoln High School – Shinnston, WV. - Lincoln High School CTE Business students have been working to bring more visitors to the Shinnston and surrounding communities through their EPIC Tourism Grant efforts. As part of their Christmas with Shinnston event in collaboration with the Shinnston Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 2nd, students created a magical experience for visitors

by working for over 8 hours stringing lights and adding holiday music along the West Fork River Rail Trail as well as hosting vendors at a Christmas Market in the green space. Special thanks to the Mountaineer Hydraulics and Machine for letting the students use their electric to light the trail and to Harrison County Schools (Mr. David Oliverio, Communications Specialist) for the use of their sound equipment.

Lincoln High School Students of the Month For October



Kaitlynn Drainer is the daughter of Joseph and Charlotte Drainer, and the granddaughter of Charles and Eleanore Richards, and Everette and Delores Drainer. Throughout her four years at Lincoln, Kaitlynn has earned a spot on the perfect honor roll due to her exceptional grades. She is ranked number 3 out of her entire senior class, and has been the recipient of several Top Scholar awards. Kaitlynn has the highest SAT score of the 12th grade and is an AP Scholar. Additionally, she received College Board’s Rural and Small Town recognition. Kaitlynn is a three-year member of the soccer team, where she lettered and was a key

player in their successes. She is also a two-year member of the Concert Band and the Key Club. In her spare time, Kaitlynn enjoys art and traveling. Kaitlynn has plans to attend college to obtain a degree in Engineering and would like to continue playing sports.



Aleisa Hayhurst is the daughter of Leslie and Shiho Hayhurst of Lumberport, and the granddaughter of Nancy and James Hayhurst of Fairmont and Haruhiro and Katsuko Homba of Tokyo. Throughout her four years at Lincoln, Aleisa has earned a spot on the honor roll due to her exceptional grades. She is

ranked #3 in her entire class, and has been the recipient of several Top Scholar awards. Aleisa was inducted into the National Honor Society her sophomore year, where she serves as Secretary. Aleisa has taken nine math classes and seven Advanced Placement classes, and is one of the top 10 ACT and SAT scorers in the entire school. Aleisa has been a member of the Student Council and Key Club. She has spent countless hours volunteering in her community to local businesses and programs. Some of these include: Angel Luv, Feed-a-Family, LHS junior class, and Special Olympics. Most notably is her dedication to the Lincoln High School Marching Band. She has been a member for four years and now serves as Drumline Captain. Athletically, Aleisa has excelled within the track team where she has lettered and was a two-time state qualifier and medalist. Aleisa has plans to attend West Virginia University to major in Astrophysics and Aerospace Engineering.

Vandalism, Improper Use Forces to Removal of Recycling Trailer

By Stephen Smoot

“A few idiots ruined it for everyone else,” Richard Barnett, executive director of the Harrison County Solid Waste Authority, said in explanation of why the organization had to remove the recycling trailer from the Price Cutter Parking Lot. The trailer has served the needs of those trying to unload recyclable materials for 17 years,

but accelerating damage and improper use have cost the taxpayers of Harrison County and forced its removal. “Over the last six months to a year, things are getting worse,” Barnett said. Part of the problem historically has been issues with individuals leaving unsorted bags of garbage at the trailer. Additionally, some who bring recyclable goods occasionally fail *See “Recycling” on Pg 3*

Arts Foundation Eyes Even More Impact In Second Year

By Stephen Smoot

It started last year with a community meeting and ever since has “galvanized as a focal point to the spearhead projects in the community.” So says Brendan Gallagher, one of the founders of the Shinnston Arts Foundation. Last Thursday evening, the group held an open community meeting. The agenda

lay wide open, but generally covered the accomplishments of the first year, lessons learned, and crafting plans for next year. Appropriately, the meeting took place in The Soapbox on Pike Street, attendees surrounded by the products of local and state artists. “We’re trying to beautify the city in the best possible way,” Sarah Benson, president of SAF, shared with the *See “Arts” on Pg 3*

Bowling for Fun

By Jim Hunt for the News and Journal

Of all the sports that are played in the United States, one of the longest lasting is the sport of bowling. While some

might think that bowling was a sport enjoyed by one’s grandparents, there is still a good bit of interest and parking lots are filled in many bowling alleys across the country. I can

remember going to Compton Lanes and Jewel City Bowling on several occasions in my youth, but I never became a devotee of

the game. It might have been the complicated scoring that seemed to be a variation of algebra and hieroglyphs. My uncle was a prolific

See “Bowling” on Pg 6

Student Aid Applicants to See Important Changes in Application Process This Year

By Stephen Smoot

For many families struggling to send children to college, applying for student aid has become a rite of passage. Whether one seeks

grants or loans, the first stop for most students lies with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA. Jessica Freeman, guidance counselor at Lincoln High School, explained that “for

families that have done this before, they will see differences. One of the most significant changes involves setting up an identification. In the past, Freeman stated “you could do the

FAFSA ID on the spot.” Now one must set this *See “Aid” on Pg 3*



“Election” From Pg 1.

all local municipal elections may be held concurrently with a regularly scheduled statewide primary or general election.” It goes on to say that municipalities exercising this option “may negotiate an agreement with the county commission to establish the election date, election officials, registration books to be used, and other matters pertaining to changing the municipal election to be held on the same day as a regularly scheduled statewide primary or general election.”

F u r t h e r m o r e The MOU also states that “the County has aligned the County voting precinct boundaries with the City boundaries pursuant to West Virginia Code.”

With Thomas absent, Hinkle elected to propose tabling the MOU until the meeting to be held the following Wednesday.

Much of the meeting time was spent by the commission in hearing a request for the removal of William G. Kehrer as the executor of the estate of Dorothy Kehrer. Family members and a lawyer made the case for each side.

After the conclusion of testimony, Hinkle said “I hate these kinds of issues” and suggested that a third party is usually the right answer in such disagreements. He proposed that the current executor be removed and replaced by the Sheriff of Harrison County. The two commissioners voted to affirm it, then, with all business conducted, adjourned the proceedings.

“Recycling” From Pg 1.

to place the materials inside of the trailer. Instead, they are left on the ground.

This fall, however, that waste was joined by a deer carcass. Also “just this week people vandalized it,” cutting brake lines and other expensive parts. “They did a lot of damage,” Barnett said.

The damage from the vandalism alone cost \$1,100 damage, but dealing with materials that cannot be recycled has added to the bill over the years.

Barnett explained that the Solid Waste Authority has tried to use cameras and other tactics to discourage abuse of the privilege of using the trailer. “Nothing has ever worked,” he stated.

“It’s frustrating,” Barnett said, adding that “The entire service is free to citizens. For us it costs a couple of thousand dollars a month.”

And that is before costs related to damage and other abuses.

He also said that he recognizes that most individuals use the trailer properly, but the costs associated with keeping the trailer in place have gotten too high to continue offering the service.

Tory Drainer, interim city manager for Shinnston, noted that “they have to do what they have to do. If that happened to us, we’d do the same thing.”

Barnett advised that those who have questions may contact ESI for details.

Residents who wish to continue to recycle properly are encouraged to take those materials to the Harrison Recycling Center in Hepzibah.

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



Paid internships and college scholarships of up to \$4,000 available for 2024

Interested in being a journalist or working in the media industry?

The West Virginia Press Association Foundation is accepting student applications for 2024 Summer Internships and 2024 Scholarships

If awarded, the WVPAF provides paid and unpaid internships at West Virginia newspapers and college scholarships up to \$4,000. Programs are open to journalism majors and students in related fields such as business management, human resources, advertising, social media and marketing, with preference given to students in at least their sophomore year of college.

Application deadline is Dec. 31, 2023.

Applications available on wvpress.org

For information or to have the applications mailed, contact Executive Director **Betsy Miles** at bmiles@wvpress.org, at 304-342-1011 or write to: WV Press Association Foundation, 3422 Pennsylvania Ave., Charleston, WV, 25302.

Newspapers with a candidate for an internship or interested in having an intern should contact Betsy Miles.

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holding the election, but which costs shall not exceed the municipality’s pro rata share of voters registered in the municipality compared with the total voters registered in the county.”

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“Arts” From Pg 1.

group.

Kent Spellman represented the Cultural Foundation of Harrison County suggested that the meeting have two major goals, recount “what it has done in the past year since it’s been created,” and plan ways to “build on what’s happened in the past year.” In addition to working on projects, Spellman suggested that the group focus on ways to attract donors and volunteers.

Also, the group agreed that SAF stood for both beautifying the community and creating conditions that encourage “the arts to flourish.”

Group members agreed that arts efforts relied on the support of a number of groups and individuals in Shinnston. Spellman counted among “groups willing to step up,” the DECA club at Lincoln High School. Their efforts earned an EPIC grant that they used for two purposes, to beautify the West Fork Trail and also create events to bring more people in to use it.

Trail based activities during both Hallowe’en and Christmas drew hundreds.

Additionally SAF works closely with the Shinnston Community Band, some of whose performers attended the meeting. The band has entertained locals and visitors since 1996 with performers sometimes coming from as far away as Tucker and Pocahontas counties.

Spellman said “Shinnston has a reputation with that community band.”

Kathleen Panek, city clerk and owner of the Gillum House bed and breakfast, shared that the Aristotle Jones segment on Dave Weekly’s statewide radio broadcast has brought attention to the overall music scene. She said “quite frequently Shinnston is mentioned. Shinnston is mentioned a lot. And I like that!”

Recently another group has formed to provide live music to the city, the Brass Rhythm and Sax Orchestra.

One major decision early on shaped the nature of the organization. At first, members intended to create an independent non-profit. With its mission so closely aligned to the Cultural Foundation for Harrison County, however, leadership decided to “focus on projects instead of paperwork. SAF functions under the aegis of the county foundation as a result.

Over the past year, SAF has served as a part of several arts programs for the community. This includes the art walk, the Shindy Music Festival, and a number of other projects.

Perhaps the most successful lay in putting together The Palette, located on Pike Street. The Palette, whose curator is Bethany Nuzum, serves as a hub for artistry in Shinnston. It is an art gallery, but also holds a variety of types of art classes and looks for creative ways to focus on art.

Spellman noted that “Shinnston has the only community based art gallery in the county.”

Gallagher discussed an ongoing effort to create murals on the sides of various buildings in downtown. Many smaller cities have used these to brighten and improve streetscapes. SAF has already started working to place one on the side of City Hall, but a water line broke while workers tried to power wash the wall.

He added that “the people want this. If you build it, they will come.” Gallagher also stated, however, that the group must “identify ideas that make sense.”

Member Wesley Benson suggested a holding a “mystery theater,” a concept successful elsewhere. Michelle Stover added that current trivia based activities are popular in town and that SAF could use the idea for fundraising.

Gallagher also suggested that SAF work together and with other groups to create a positive narrative around efforts to improve the town across the board. Spellman added “it’s up to all of us and others to provide content.”

“Aid” From Pg 1.

up three days prior to working on the form.

Additionally, the manner in which the online form accepts tax information has changed. Previously, applicants had the option to select an automatic population of information from the IRS 1040 form. They could choose to manually enter the information. Now, Freeman says “it has to do it itself. It will save families some time.” She also said that the program will automatically pull from the last available filing of the 1040.

Another change in the application comes in the fact that, as Freeman explains “now both parents or guardians have to create FAFSA IDs” instead of just one. She added that questions on the application can help students with different circumstances to establish who has to sign alongside the applicant, if necessary.

Changes have also occurred in the manner in which the federal government decides on distribution of aid.

Freeman shared that “if there is more than one student in college at the same time, it used to count. That will not play as a factor any longer.” Though the federal government no longer considers multiple children in college as a deciding indicator, many institutions will. “You will have to file for special circumstances,” she said.

Applicants have seen a delay this year in the starting date. Normally, the first date is Oct 1, but the site has not yet opened. Applications normally must be completed by Dec 30. Freeman shared that “they’re doing a complete overhaul of the website. It’s not ready yet.”

Many of these changes came as a result of the FAFSA Simplification Act of 2021. Changes have taken place yearly since then. For 2021-22, the federal government eliminated limitations on eligibility related to Selective Service registration and drug convictions, as well as subsidized usage

limitations on eligibility.

In 2023-24 it enabled changes to the statutory definition of cost of attendance, professional judgment requirements, determination of independence, the application process for unaccompanied homeless youth and foster care youth. The ban on Pell Grant eligibility for confined or incarcerated applicants was also dropped.

Freeman said that since she has not yet seen the form, she could not say if the changes will make applying easier or not. To help her Lincoln High School families, she schedules FAFSA completion nights to give all the best chance possible to submit a successful application.

Cougar Girls Basketball Preview

“It’s Almost a Complete Turnaround in One Year”

By Bill Nestor

Last year was a difficult one for the Lincoln girls basketball team. The Cougars have spent more time in Charleston in recent years than most politicians. There is one thing for sure. If you had to vote for a coach to make a return to the state capital, it would be veteran mentor Rob Hawkins. Hawkins has been the driver of the bus for several postseason

runs and they are ready to put last season’s 12 and 13 record in the rear view mirror and move forward. A lack of experience and size were just too much to overcome.

The return of four starers (one of which happens to be one of the best players around) and an infusion of talent has Hawkins back in the driver’s seat. “It’s almost a complete turnaround in one year,” explained Hawkins. It is almost a storybook

scenario that has taken place in Shinnston that has hoops fans excited.

Senior Ashlyn Riley is back and is one of the most dominating forces in North Central West Virginia. Riley averaged 19.7 points, eight rebounds, three steals, and two blocks a year ago. Senior Brooklyn Davisson returns to run the show from the point guard position. Davisson averaged six points and three assists last year. Senior Aliyah Elder and sophomore

Sadie Adams round out the returning starters. Elder, a forward and Adams, a guard, were key contributors and will be counted on heavily this season.

There are several players that are in the mix for the final starting spot and for playing time as well. Junior Riley Pearlman is a Liberty transfer that plays in the post. Senior Alexis Williams returns after missing all of last year due to injury. Williams can play guard

or forward. Freshman Aundrea Rockwell provides power in the paint. Junior Hope Blackwell played a ton of minutes last year and will play both small and power forward.

Sophomores Gracey Fortney and Ali Haught, freshman Adriana Elder, and junior Sylvie Salerno (when she returns from injury) will all be in consideration for playing time.

“Early in the season, the biggest thing

is to acclimate the new players into the system,” Hawkins stated, adding that “hopefully, by the time 2024 rolls around, we can get everything ironed out and we are comfortable playing together. We want to play our best basketball at the end of the season.”

If Hawkins can achieve that goal, he might have to prepare for yet another road trip down south.



It’s that time once again to acknowledge the efforts of Harrison County’s student-athletes. Each week we review the performances of the athletes from the six schools (Bridgeport, Liberty, Lincoln, Notre Dame, Robert C. Byrd, and South Harrison) in our county.

The Shinnston News & Harrison County Journal’s Athlete of the Week award is an avenue to promote the youth of our county while bringing attention to their athletic accomplishments.

Harrison County Athletes’ Spotlight

By Bill Nestor

The Harrison County athletes in the spotlight this week are Liberty’s Emma Elliott and Notre Dame’s Brayden Helmick.

Mountaineer basketball player Emma Elliott scored a team high 19 points in a loss to Grafton this past Wednesday in Bearcat territory. Elliott also had five rebounds, five steals, four assists, and a pair of blocked shots.

Fighting Irish basketball player, Brayden Helmick, helped his squad to its first win of the season over Parkersburg Catholic. Helmick recorded a double-double with 21 points and 11 rebounds.

He also blocked three shots in the triumph.

Congratulations to Liberty’s Emma Ellitoo and Notre Dame’s Brayden Helmick for shining bright in the SN and HCJ spotlight!

Get Out of the Gutter! It’s Time to Go Bowling!

By Bill Nestor

After a brief hiatus, West Virginia University’s football team is going bowling once again! The good news is that because the Mountaineers had such a great season and received some postseason breaks, they were able to garner an upgrade to a bowl with a little extra zing. WVU agreed to do battle with North Carolina in the Duke’s Mayo Bowl.

The game will be played on Dec 27 at 5:30 in Bank of America stadium in Charlotte. It’s the 40th bowl in school history and 19th in the last 22 seasons. It will be the fifth time the Mountaineers will have teed it up at this venue and they will be looking for their third victory.

Heading into “Selection Sunday,” none of the experts picked a trip to North Carolina for West Virginia, but loopholes led to opportunities that were just too good for the Mayo Bowl to pass

up. The spot opened when the Southeastern Conference (SEC) could not fill all of its bowl tie-ins. Since there wer enot enough teams that were bowl eligible, the Mayo Bowl was able to look outside the SEC for a quality replacement. WVU head coach Neal Brown can thank Alabama, since the Crimson Tide qualified for the College Football Playoff.

This marriage made sense to both parties involved. Brown and his squad get to lock-up with another Power Five opponent in the Tar Heels. At the same time, fans from the Mountain State can make the easy drive to Charlotte to catch the tilt while the large fan base in the North Carolina area can catch the Mountaineers as well.

The Mayo Bowl has been several other bowls previously, the Belk, Continental Tire, and Meineke Car Care. Last year’s matchup between Maryland and North Carolina State drew a

less than impressive 38,000. With these two teams squaring off, this contest is guaranteed to be a success. This bowl has only been sold out three times in history and all three have involved either West Virginia or North Carolina.

Both teams, unfortunately, will be playing without one of their superstars. West Virginia will be without the services of standout center Zach Frazier. The All-American center (6’3 311) was injured on the game-winning drive against Baylor. The Fairmont native hadn’t planned on ending his Mountaineer career this way, but it doesn’t take away from the accomplishments that filled Frazier’s time in Morgantown.

North Carolina will be without starting signal caller Drake Maye. Maye decided to take the bowl game off to avoid potential injury ahead of the NFL Draft. Maye completed 63 percent of his passes for 3,608 yards. He tossed 24

touchdown passes with nine interceptions and a 149.0 passer rating.

Both players look to have promising futures, as Frazier is listed as the second best center in the draft by several scouts and is predicted to be picked up in the third round. Maye is one of four quarterbacks thought to go in the first round and many feel that he could be the second thrower selected because of his pro potential.

Even with the loss of star power, both squads are still stacked and this should be an epic battle. West Virginia opens up as a 3.5 point favorite and the over/under is 56.5 points scored by both teams. That number shows the confidence that oddsmakers have in both teams’ abilities to score points, even without the above-mentioned players in uniform.

Brown would love to see one point more than the Tar Heels and get win number nine. That would be a nice ending to a great year!

LHS Boys to rely on Experience and Leadership

By Bill Nestor

The Lincoln boys basketball team was just one win away from a trip to Charleston last season. Cougar head coach Jordan Toth had his team knocking on the door a year ago, and with four returning starters and several additional talented players poised to make an impact, this year’s group is ready to kick the door down.

The four returning starters are all upperclassmen and include three seniors and a junior that will also provide leadership to the talented newcomers. Senior Brayden Edgell is the point guard. Dell, last year’s team captain, will be the floor general in charge of getting Lincoln into its offensive sets. Senior guard David Burdette

had an impressive 2022-23. Burdette really came on last year and he can shoot and drive the ball to the basket. The third returning senior starter is Noah Sears. Sears is flexible defensively, with the ability to guard point guards to big men. He runs the floor well and worked hard in the off season to improve his shot. Junior Aidan Rice is a low post presence. Rice started every game for the Cougars last season and is a great scorer underneath.

Currently there are three players in a battle for the final starting spot. Senior Nate Swiger is a great hustler with the ability to slash to the basket. Senior Riley Lanham came on late last year and can stretch the defense. Senior Maddox Perine is a strong player that made

valuable contributions last year.

Juniors Wyatt Finch and Landon Swiger, along with sophomore A. J. Bart, round out a gifted rotation. Toth had high words of praise for all of the above mentioned players and is excited for the upcoming campaign.

The saying “Rome wasn’t built in a day” comes to mind in Shinnston. Out of the 16 players Toth has, all but two of them played football. He knows that it will take some time for his players to transition to the hardwood. Toth talked about his players getting their basketball legs, getting reps, growing all year, and being ready for the postseason.

If his players follow his plan, look for this team to make its fair share of noise in March.

Attorney General Morrisey Files Suit Against NCAA

CHARLESTON — West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey, working with a coalition of seven states led by Ohio, has filed a lawsuit against the NCAA that challenges the association’s Transfer Eligibility Rule.

The lawsuit, which was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia Clarksburg Division, comes on the heels of the NCAA’s decision to deny RaeQuan Battle a transfer waiver so he can play basketball for West Virginia University.

“The NCAA’s transfer policy, for far too long, has been flawed. The Association has failed to maintain a consistent and defensible transfer

rule,” Attorney General Morrisey said, writing in the lawsuit that “the connection between the Rule and academic well-being or athletic amateurism is tenuous at best and is outweighed by the harm it does to college athletes and consumers of college athletics.”

The coalition contends the NCAA’s transfer rule “artificially deters players and teams from achieving optimal matches by forcing college athletes to weigh the one-year ineligibility period against the benefits of moving to a better matched school. It is ironic that this rule, stylized as promoting the welfare of college athletes, strips them of the agency and opportunity to optimize

their own welfare as they see fit.”

The lawsuit alleges the NCAA violated Section 1 of the Sherman Act.

In a separate filing, the Attorney General asked the court to issue a temporary restraining order and bar the NCAA from enforcing the transfer rule. The motion explains: “Division I college athletes subject to the Transfer Eligibility Rule will suffer irreparable harm by continuing to be barred from competing this season in their respective collegiate sports and by facing transfer decisions burdened by the risks of ineligibility that the Rule imposes on second-time transferring college athletes.”

Featuring news from the Harrison County Senior Citizen Center

**All buses ADA service accessible.
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WV Homeowners Hazard Mitigation Grant Opportunity

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Emergency Management Division, in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is proud to announce the launch of a Public Service Announcement (PSA) aimed at encouraging West Virginians to apply for Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants.

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants are designed to reduce the risk and impact of natural disasters in our state by providing funding for eligible projects that enhance resilience and mitigate potential hazards. These projects can include home elevation or rebuilding a more resilient home. By actively participating in hazard mitigation, residents, local governments, and organizations in West Virginia can take proactive steps to protect their communities and help build a safer, more resilient state.

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants play a vital role in strengthening our

state’s ability to prepare for and respond to natural disasters, ultimately saving lives and reducing property damage.

West Virginians who wish to apply for Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants must do so by contacting their County Commission, local emergency management agency, or county Floodplain Manager before December 31, 2023.

WVEMD Director GE McCabe highlights the crucial role played by Gov. Justice’s

administration as well as West Virginia’s FEMA partners.” Preparedness and mitigation are essential in safeguarding our communities from the impact of disasters. We’re pleased to collaborate with Gov. Justice and FEMA in encouraging West Virginians to take advantage of the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants. By doing so, we are investing in a safer and more resilient future for our state.”

FEMA Region 3 Administrator MaryAnn Tierney echoed McCabe’s sentiments. “Flooding is the No. 1 disaster that hits West Virginia nearly every year. Participating in the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program can enable residents to make their homes less vulnerable to flood damage or help whole communities reduce the path of destruction caused by high water. We’re pleased and proud to support West Virginia Emergency Management in their efforts to help West Virginians write their own mitigation success stories.”

To learn more about the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants and how to apply, please visit fema.gov/grants/mitigation.

For further information, please contact the West Virginia Emergency Management Division: 304-558-5380 WVHMGP@wv.gov, or the Federal Emergency Management Agency: 215-931-5597

Capito Responds to Kerry Call to End Coal Fired Power Plants

“John Kerry says ‘no coal plants shall be permitted anywhere in the world.’ He’s in Dubai telling everybody that he, himself, and this administration will shut down and no longer permit—which there’s no coal fired power plants being built anyway—but won’t be permitted, but they will be shut down by 2030. There’s no plan

to replace. These are empty promises that he’s taking to the world community in the name of being the ‘climate czar’ for our great country.

“And even nuclear, which could replace some baseline-baseload desires across this country power, power needs can’t get permitted, isn’t being moved, and there’s

no new nuclear plants online at this point.

“So, you say to yourself, ‘who does this really affect?’ It affects a heck of a lot of our states. So, my state of West Virginia, no surprise here, 90% of our electric generation-power generation is from coal. Missouri? 74%. Kentucky? 73%. Wyoming? 73%. Utah? 61%. Indiana? 57%. Nebraska? 49%. Montana? 43%. Colorado? 41%.

“Basically, what the administration is saying: that in five and- in six years, over half of the energy production that are- that you have in your state for power generation will be stopped under this administration’s policies and Clean Power Plan 2.0.

“This is unrealistic, it’s unachievable, and it makes absolutely no sense at all. Much like their EV car mandate. Nobody here is against electric vehicles, none of us, but you know what? We put \$7.5 billion into the IIJA to make sure that we have electric charging stations to meet the mandate of the new EVs. In two years, how much of that money has been spent? Zero. How many electric chargers have been put all across our country? None. These are empty promises and unachievable goals.

“So, I would say to you that while they hope, and John Kerry is hoping, that this occurs and is trying to lead the world into believing it will occur, hope is not a strategy Mr. Kerry.”

“Bowling” From Pg 1.

bowler and bowled in a couple of leagues and I can always remember the shiny bowling ball that he would proudly show off. We would go to the bowling lanes to watch him on a few occasions, and he had the colorful bowling shirt, along with his own bowling shoes. The sound of the ball hitting the pins still rings in my ears.

We recently went to the new “Alley 304”, in the old Compton Bowling Lanes building for a birthday party for my granddaughter, Sadie. I had seen the

advertisements for this new bowling facility in the paper and online and I would note that there were a lot of cars in the parking lot when I would drive down old Bridgeport Hill. As we walked in around 5:00PM, there were only a few people there and we got some shoes and went over to the area where they had set up for the birthday party. With a four-year-old and a mixture of other ages, I wasn’t really thinking about bowling but soon everyone got in on the action. They have a plastic ramp that the

younger kids can use to roll the balls down the alley and that allowed everyone to experience the joy of bowling.

As I went to pick out a ball, I figured that I should get a heavier ball than the kids and opted for a sixteen-pound ball. This quickly proved to be a mistake, and I realized that bowling requires some strength and control of the ball and hefting a 16-pound orb was more than I had bargained for. The scoring is

much simpler than the days of my youth and modern technology has automated this once complicated task. As I looked around the building, I could see more and more people coming in and soon, every lane had a group of bowlers and the noise level increased dramatically. My older granddaughter, Ali and her boyfriend, Eli, were really getting into the game and both showed some real talent. Ali rolled three

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WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Division of Highways

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia, until January 09, 2024 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project(s):

Call	Contract	State Project	Federal Project	Description
025	2022840003	S384-REC/AL-24 00	STBG-2024(005)D	PAVEMENT MARKINGS D-4 RECALL STRIPING 2024 DISTRICT WIDE COUNTY: DISTRICT 4

DBE GOAL: 10% OF CONTRACT BID AMOUNT. BIDDER MUST PROVIDE WRITTEN ASSURANCE OF MEETING GOAL ON FORM IN PROPOSAL.

REMARKS:
Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractors' license is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin. Registration is required with the Department of Administration, Division of Purchasing, in accordance with Chapter 5A, Article 3, Section 12 of the West Virginia Code. All contractors submitting bids on project(s) must submit electronically with their bid a Proposal Guaranty Bond for \$500.00 or 5% of the total bid, whichever is greater.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways reserves the right to defer, delay or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement. The deferment, delay, postponement, and the date that proposals will be received and publicly opened will be available on www.bidx.com

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award.

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Call	Contract	State Project	Federal Project	Description
018	2021000707	S384-STR/IP-24 00	STP-2024(048)D	PAVEMENT MARKINGS ROADWAY STRIPING DISTRICT WIDE COUNTY: DISTRICT 4

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LEGAL NOTICE

December 1, 2023

The West Virginia Health Care Authority announced that it has received a Letter of Intent from Essential Needs Homecare, CON File #23-6-12835-PC, to provide personal care services in Marion, Harrison and Monongalia Counties in WV. Capital Expenditure \$1,500.

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

(2021-S-00000106 - Harrison County - APPCOM, LLC C/O KARR LAW OFFICE)

To: DALE W. STEAGER, COMMISSIONER WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, CITY OF CLARKSBURG, OCCUPANT, ESTATE OF CHARLES H AKERS C/O CHARLES D AKERS, CHARLES D AKERS, CHARLES D AKERS, ESTATE OF CHARLES H AKERS, BRIAN S AKERS, INTERNAL REV-ENUE SERVICE, 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 CLARK CLARKSBURG CORP MAP 1 PARCEL 0116 0000

You will take notice that APPCOM, LLC C/O KARR LAW OFFICE, the purchaser of the tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2021-S-00000106, 1 LOT 178 HARTLAND, located in CLARK CLARKSBURG CORP, which was returned delinquent in the name of AKERS CHARLES H ESTATE, 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 January 17, 2024, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount you will have to pay on the last day, January 16, 2024, will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to January 16, 2024.	\$ 2,244.39
Amount of subsequent year's taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to January 16, 2024.	\$ 1,998.65
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 January 16, 2024.	\$ 1,408.96
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to January 16, 2024.	\$ 653.06
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.	\$ 6,305.06
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 January 16, 2024, 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

LEGAL

(2022-C-000376 - Harrison County - PATRICK ESCHERT)

To: SALVATORE A. CLEMENTE, JAN M. CARLSON CLEMENTE, SALVATOR P. CLEMENTE ESTATE C/O ANTOINETTE KOJSSZA, CITY OF CLARKSBURGH, SALVATORE P. CLEMENTE ESTATE, ELIZABETH R. SAMPESA C/O ANTOINETTE KOJSA, IMMAEVLATE CONCEPTION ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, ANNETTE M. CLEMENTE, MARK A. CLEMENTE, ANTOINETTE M. CLEMENTE, 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 COAL CLARKSBURG CORP MAP 9 PARCEL 0121 0000

You will take notice that PATRICK ESCHERT, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No. 2022-C-000376**, located in COAL CLARKSBURG CORP, District, 2 LOTS 4 & 1/2 3 SEC 33 N VIEW (RENTAL) INC PAR 75, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of CLEMENTE SALVATORE P ESTATE and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of HARRISON County at the sale for the delinquent taxes made on April 27, 2023. PATRICK ESCHERT requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after May 1, 2024, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before April 30, 2024 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2021 - 25175.	\$ 1,214.41
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	\$ 0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2022 - 25310.	\$ 761.16
Additional taxes with interest.	\$ 0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$ 212.15
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$ 904.13
Additional Statutory Fees with interest.	\$ 0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$ 3,091.85

You may redeem at any time before April 30, 2024, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

Given under my hand November 15, 2023

G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.
G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of GREENBRIER County, State of West Virginia

Please return this letter and payment to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East Building 1, Room W-114 Charleston, West Virginia 25305 Questions please call 1-888-509-6568

Attorney General Morrisey Warns About ‘Grandparent Scam’

CHARLESTON — West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey urges residents to be wary of calls especially during the holiday season claiming grandchildren need help.

The advice comes as part of the Attorney General's Holiday Consumer Protection Week.

Scammers have been known to call senior citizens pretending to be their grandchild. Others claim to be law enforcement with news about a loved one. They often indicate the grandchild in question is in another state or country and in dire need of money due to an emergency.

Thieves have also been known to use the holiday travel season to scam senior citizens with calls that their loved one is stuck somewhere en route to visit and needs money. This scenario often surfaces during the holiday break.

“Most grandparents would do anything to help a grandchild in trouble because they are incredibly generous to family members in need,” Attorney General Morrisey said. “That’s why it’s so important to exercise caution when receiving such calls. Think carefully before handing over money in

these situations.”

Scammers rely on the goodwill of grandparents to shield grandchildren from potential punishment. This may result in those receiving such calls deciding not to check with the child’s parents.

Consumers can follow these tips to avoid becoming a victim:

- Stay calm and don’t react out of immediacy.
- Get a call back number.
- Call the grandchild’s known number or other family members to see if there really is an emergency.
- Ask a question that only the grandchild would know the answer to such as a pet’s name, the child’s nickname or where they attended school.
- Never give bank routing numbers or credit card numbers to anyone via phone.

Be skeptical of any request for a wire transfer or to use a prepaid debit card, regardless of who the requestor says they are.

Anyone who believes they have been the victim of a scam should contact the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division at 800-368-8808 or visit the office online at www.ago.wv.gov.

Humanities council seeking grant proposals

Charleston – The West Virginia Humanities Council announces its upcoming February 1, 2024, grant deadline for three grant categories: Major grants, which are awarded twice a year for projects requesting up to \$20,000; Fellowships of \$3,000, which are awarded annually for scholarly research projects; and Minigrants, which are awarded four times a year for projects requesting \$2,000 or less.

The Humanities Council, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, serves West Virginia through grants and direct programs in the humanities. A variety of matching grants are offered by the Humanities Council year-round to nonprofit organizations in West Virginia that support educational programming. See below for complete descriptions of grant applications due February 1:

Major grants. This category supports public programs including, but not limited to, lectures, school projects, symposia, panel discussions, reading and discussion series, exhibits, reenactments, and conferences. Major grant proposals may request up to \$20,000. Applicants must allow twelve weeks between the deadline and the start of the project.

Fellowships. Stipends of \$3,000

are awarded once a year to West Virginia college and university humanities faculty and independent scholars for research and writing projects. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, the study of interpretive archaeology; the history, theory, and criticism of the arts; ethics; history; jurisprudence; modern and classical languages; linguistics; literature; philosophy; comparative religion; and philosophical and

historical approaches to the social sciences.

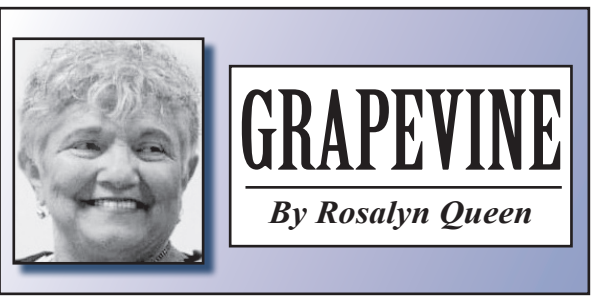
Minigrants. Humanities Council Minigrants support small projects, single events, lectures, small museum exhibits and brochures, consultation needs, and planning for more complex projects. Minigrant deadlines are February 1, April 1, June 1, and October 1 for projects requesting \$2,000 or less. Applicants must allow six weeks between the deadline and the start of

the project.

For more information about the West Virginia Humanities Council grants program, contact Humanities Council grants administrator Erin Riebe at (304) 346-8500 or via email at riebe@wvhumanities.org. Grant guidelines and applications are also available on the Humanities Council website, www.wvhumanities.org.

Shoe Horns As a Little, But Meaningful, Detail of Days Gone By

My latest episode of shock came this past week after I received several pairs of shoes that I had ordered. As I get older I am having a hard time walking without falling and my doctor advised me that I had to be choosier about the type of shoes I was wearing. No more thongs or ballerina flats. Having a shoe fetish my whole life I knew it would be for my own good if I quit wearing three inch high heels. Still knowing that a broken bone was not something I wanted to face, I decided to throw away the ballerinas and thongs and switch to a good support shoe. So



GRAPEVINE
By Rosalyn Queen

I found a pair of shoes with good support and a sequin trim that I thought suited me. When the shoes came I was pleased with them and ready to make the change. I suppose any of my readers who are approaching 80 and who have put on a few pounds realize how hard it is to reach down and slip on a shoe. The thing is these shoes are

made for individuals who really need support and the rim around the top is tight fitting. I was having a problem slipping my foot in the shoe. After some thought I came up with a solution. Many of you will remember Wonder Shoe Store or Pettreys or Martins. What great service we got. We were seated and waited on like royalty, while the

sales person brought the shoes out and put them on our feet. Now if they seemed a little tight our foot slipped in with a “shoe horn.” Well that was my solution, a shoe horn. After searching my house, I could not come up with one, so I started asking around. Most people thought I was crazy and just walked away from me. Was I wanting a desert or a part of a deer? I approached the subject with my son in law Andy, and sure enough he came up with one. I had previously asked. Fray for one and he came up with two, a short handled one and a long handled

one. My problem is solved. I don’t know how to explain this to our younger folk but if you have any questions about a shoe horn help me out.

With all the holiday craziness I decided to take time out to read a book. Julia Todd from the Clarksburg Library called to tell me that Danielle Steel’s latest book had arrived. I hurried to the library and picked it up. The Ball at Versailles turned out to be a good read. I was particularly interested in it as one of my trips to Europe I visited Versailles and that was when I was convinced that in my former life I

was a queen. Pick it up at the library and guess what, it is in large print. This past week we celebrated another milestone; Mike and Marty’s 61st birthday. We had a lovely dinner for the family and enjoyed each other. Belated birthday wishes to Holli and Hunter Queen. And happy birthday to Miranda Lang.

The Senior Citizens had a very nice Holiday luncheon this past week. The food was delicious. The PWA will hold their holiday dinner on December 19 at 5:30 at the Center. We invite all members and their guests to attend. RSVP at 304 624 6881.

United Way’s Gift of Results

Bridgeport, WV - 12/7/2023 - United Way of Harrison and Doddridge Counties is thrilled to announce the opening of its gift wrap booth at Meadowbrook Mall. The booth will be open through Christmas Eve, offering the best paper, ribbon, and boxes in the area. All donations received at the booth will support 22 local programs that serve our friends, families, and neighbors.

As a volunteer-driven initiative, the United Way gift wrap booth exemplifies the spirit of community and collaboration. United Way of Harrison and Doddridge Counties is dedicated to supporting the community like no other organization can, driving positive change at an unprecedented magnitude.

Since 2021, United Way has invested a remarkable \$2.5 million to help friends, families, and neighbors in need. This year alone, United Way’s contributions have made a significant impact:

- 238 grandfamilies have received personalized support from social workers, ensuring their well-being and stability.
- 449 homebound seniors have been provided with a nutritious meal each day, combating food insecurity and promoting their overall health.
- 100 veterans received dental services.
- 175 kids in 4-H and at the YMCA received scholarship assistance to participate in camps and youth sports programs.
- 1,500+ children have received comprehensive care, counseling, education, and love, fostering their growth and development.
- 74 children with social, physical, and cognitive disabilities received mental health support through equine therapy.
- 70+ children received tutoring services through United Way’s Education Services Program.
- 400+ abused and sexually assaulted Harrison and Doddridge County children had a community and support network to care for them during the most horrific time of their life.
- 4,500+ adults received primary healthcare services, promoting a healthier community.
- 2,000+ local referrals were made through United Way’s 2-1-1 information hotline

service to Harrison and Doddridge County residents, connecting them to vital services to meet their needs.

Thanks to the United Way’s direct service, The Resilience Collaborative, 49 Harrison County residents, including 8 children, are no longer homeless.

These results demonstrate the tremendous return on investment that United Way and its donors have made in our community, however, United Way of HDC needs more community members and business to join in donating, whether it’s \$2 per pay period, with one-time gifts, or corporate donations.

“Beyond meeting immediate needs, United Way programs empower individuals by teaching them how to ultimately achieve self-sufficiency and sustainably,” Brad Riffée, Executive Director of United Way of Harrison and Doddridge Counties, said. “If people are looking to support an organization who is feeding people, clothing people, and teaching them how to live better lives, please call me, because we are providing these exact services and doing so much more.”

Riffée emphasized that every citizen is the face of their organization, and their voices hold significant power. United Way listens to the community and encourages active participation, envisioning a community where collective action can reclaim and revitalize our neighborhoods. He would like to see more citizens get involved and support their cause so they can strengthen this model.

“Our donors and volunteers speak, and we listen,” Riffée continued. “That’s the power of a community driven organization.”

United Way is currently at 40% of their \$780,000 goal.

This holiday season, we invite everyone to support United Way’s long-term solutions for our community’s needs by donating to the gift wrap booth at Meadowbrook Mall or by visiting www.unitedwayhdc.org. Your contribution will make a lasting impact and help create a brighter future for all.

For more information and to stay updated on United Way’s initiatives, visit United Way of Harrison and Doddridge Counties Facebook page, website, or call 304-624-6337

Treasurer condemns Biden’s international pact to eliminate coal

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – State Treasurer Riley Moore today condemned comments made by Biden Administration Special Envoy for Climate John Kerry at an international United Nations climate change summit, where Kerry announced the United States would begin a phase-out of all existing coal-based power plants and called on coal use to be eliminated across the world.

Treasurer Moore also urged Congress to exert its authority to block the international agreements made at the summit.

“John Kerry has made the Biden Administration’s position crystal clear: they want to eliminate the coal industry worldwide regardless of the economic destruction or inflation it will cause,” Treasurer Moore said. “For the past three years, Kerry – on behalf of the President – has been working behind the scenes on an unrelenting campaign to pressure private companies and global elites to eliminate

fossil fuels and now he’s no longer hiding their efforts to destroy this critical sector of our economy.

“Not only will this weaken the United States, but it will also embolden China – which is continuing to build up its coal-fired infrastructure,” Treasurer Moore said. “China will not abide by any of these international agreements because they know coal is an affordable, reliable source of energy. This agreement will be an unnecessary, self-inflicted wound to the American economy.”

Over the weekend, Kerry announced at the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) that the United States would join the international Powering Past Coal Alliance, which would commit the U.S. to building no new coal-fired power plants and to phase out existing plants.

“We will be working to accelerate unabated coal phase-out across the world, building stronger economies and more resilient

See “Biden” on Pg 10

Light for People in Darkness

By Abraham Skorka
From L'Osservatore Romano

According to the rabbinic tradition (b. Rosh Hashanah 17b), God has thirteen attributes. The rabbis derived them from Exodus 34:6ff: “The Lord! the Lord! a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.” The Hebrew word translated here as “steadfast love” is hesed, which does not have direct cognates in other languages. It has been rendered in many ways, including steadfast love, lovingkindness, mercy, grace, unexpected gift, and covenantal love.

We find in the Talmudic text b. Sukkah 49b: “The Sages taught that for three reasons acts of hesed

are superior to those of charity [tzedakah, which can also be rendered righteousness or fairness]: Charity can be performed only with one’s money, while acts of hesed can be performed both with one’s body and one’s money. Charity is given to the poor, while acts of hesed are done for both the poor and the rich. Finally, charity is given to the living, while acts of hesed are performed both for the living and the dead.”

The rabbis also described the character of a person who seeks to embody God’s hesed. Such a person is called a hasid. Rabbeinu Yonah Gerondi in his Talmudic discussion of the Pirkei Avot (2:5:1; 2:8:5), as well as Rabbi David Kimchi in his exegesis on Psalms (4:4), explains that a hasid is someone who

relates to everyone beyond the bounds of rote justice and seeks to imitate the divine virtues of goodness and mercy. According to the opinion of another sage, to be a hasid means to obtain the highest of the attributes of God (b. Avodah Zarah 20b). Thus, in Jeremiah 3:12, the prophet, speaking for God, declares: “I will not look on you in anger, for I am compassionate [hasid] — declares the Lord; I do not bear a grudge for all time.”

Jesus as a Jew understood the importance of hesed as a divine virtue. This is evident, for example, in the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18:21-35), in his saying, “Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48), and in the phrase he

instructed his disciples to pray, “Forgive us our trespasses as we have forgiven those who trespass against us (Matthew 6:12). These thoughts come to my mind as I see my Christian friends preparing to commemorate the birth of the one who, according to their faith, brought the Good News of the hesed of God to the wider world.h

Dreadfully, neither hesed nor tzedakah — lovingkindness nor charity/fairness — characterize our world today. Hatred and violence blind the minds and spirits of many, and attitudes of peace and reconciliation do not prevail over destructive madness. The savagery of our times poisons minds and desensitizes hearts. After a painful pandemic that killed millions, a pall of

darkness and pessimism seems to have descended on humanity. Nature itself seems to protest the lack of human care and respect for it.

I believe we live in a time that demands everyone who cherishes the divine attributes of hesed and tzedakah to join together to herald a world in which weapons are set aside and justice and peace are the pillars of existence.

There is a passage in the prophet Habakkuk that the later rabbis in b. Makkot 24a thought was the ethical essence of the Hebrew Bible. That verse, which also informs the Christian New Testament, reads, “the righteous person [tzadik, from tzedakah] will live because of his faith” (Habakkuk 2:4). The prophet Isaiah also speaks of “The people that walked in darkness have seen a brilliant

light; on those who dwelt in a land of gloom light has dawned” (9:1[2]). These cries of the ancient prophets remind us who are living in a time of darkness of the importance of following in the ways of the lovingkindness and merciful justice of the ever faithful One who gives us life. The light of God illuminates our way, if only we will turn to it.

May the lights of Hanukkah and Christmas lighted this month inspire our respective peoples to renew our dedication to the world of hesed envisioned by the prophets and proclaimed by Jesus.

Merry Christmas!
* Georgetown University, Washington D.C.

Lincoln High School NJROTC Rifle Team



Photo courtesy of Lincoln High School

Lincoln High School NJROTC Rifle Team competing in the San Benito Rifle Competition. Their targets will be mailed to San Benito, Texas for scoring and competition with participating units throughout the world.

Wisdom from Poor Richard’s Almanack

By Benjamin Franklin

An egg today is better than a hen tomorrow.
An empty bag cannot stand upright.
A new truth is a truth, an old error is an error, though Clodpate won’t allow either.

“Biden” From pg 13

communities,” Kerry would be impossible said. to achieve these goals

Later at the conference, Kerry said coal should be eliminated across the world, telling those gathered, “There shouldn’t be any more coal power plants permitted anywhere in the world.”

Treasurer Moore said if the goals of Kerry and President Joe Biden are achieved, it would not only devastate the West Virginia economy, but that of the entire United States.

“Our economy is already reeling from the rampant inflation suffered under the Biden Administration, and if we allow them to achieve their goals of destroying coal and other fossil fuels like oil and gas, it will literally be ‘lights out’ for West Virginia and United States,” Treasurer Moore said.

“Even the head of the COP28 summit has said there is ‘no science’ behind this fossil fuel phase-out, adding it

‘unless you want to take the world back into caves,’” Treasurer Moore said. “We cannot allow these radical elites to destroy our economy in the name of fake science.”

Treasurer Moore called on Congress to take steps to block any international anti-coal commitments made by Kerry at the U.N. summit.

“Just because John Kerry and his fellow jet-setting global elites made a few speeches in between cocktail parties at some international soiree does not mean the United States is bound to his promises,” Treasurer Moore said. “I urge Congress to exert its authority and reject any attempts to commit the United States into an international climate cabal that would destroy our nation’s energy sector and overall economy.”

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