



Volume 32 Edition 52 (USPS 494-420) • (304) 647-5724 • newsandjournal@yahoo.com • \$1

Lincoln High School November students of the month

Cheyenne Alexis Nicole Batton

Cheyenne Alexis Nicole Batton is the daughter of Becky and Jacob Batton III of Wallace and the granddaughter of Judy Orr and the late Edgar Orr of Wallace, and Linda and Jacob Batton Jr of Grafton.

Throughout her four years at Lincoln, Cheyenne has earned a spot on the honor roll due to her exceptional grades. She is ranked in Top 25 of her class, and has been the recipient



of several Top Scholar awards. Cheyenne was inducted into the National Honor Society her sophomore year,

where she now serves as President. Cheyenne has taken multiple AP, Honor, and college courses.

Cheyenne has been a member of the Student Council and Key Club. In Student Council, she served as Historian her junior year, and currently is an elected Board Member. She has spent countless hours volunteering in her community to local businesses and programs. Some of

these include: Angel Luv, Feed-a-Family, LHS senior class, and Special Olympics. Additionally, Cheyenne is the two-yearbook editor of the yearbook staff, a task that takes organization, patience, leadership, and creativity.

Cheyenne has plans to attend Fairmont State University to major in Nursing to pursue a career as a Pediatric Nurse.



January 6 is celebrated as Old Christmas in many parts of West Virginia and Three Kings Day in the Spanish speaking world.

Old Christmas and Three Kings Traditions Celebrated on January 6

By Stephen Smoot

extends six days into the new year.

On December 25, Christians the world over gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Kids from one to 92 congregate with family, friends, and the faithful for feasting and fellowship. On the night before, children all over follow the time honored ritual of leaving milk and cookies for Santa Claus as he winds his way through the night.

Much of the modern, especially the commercial, world incorporates Christmas with the more Saturnalia-ish New Years Eve, but few consider that “the twelve days of Christmas”

Christians across the world recognize yet another day as vital in the celebration of Christ’s birth, January 6. Most churches refer to the date as Epiphany.

The reason for the dual dates goes back decades before the birth of Christ. Under Julius Caesar, the Romans switched their calendar from the unwieldy one that had served them for centuries. Caesar decided to instead use the Egyptian based solar calendar.

While ingenious in itself the solar, or Julian, calendar contained a bug in the system. The Julian calendar

See “Christmas” on Pg 3

Ava Belcastro



Ava Belcastro is the daughter of Brandi and Patrick Belcastro of Shinnston.

Throughout her four years at Lincoln, Ava has earned a spot on the perfect honor roll due to her exceptional grades. She is ranked in the Top 25 of her entire senior class, and has been the

recipient of several Top Scholar awards. Ava was inducted into the National Honor Society her sophomore year.

Ava is a four-year member of the volleyball team, and a member of Student Council, where she serves on the Board; Key Club, where she

serves as President; and impressively, is the President of her senior class. Additionally, she has been a member of the Drug Free Club and Caring Cougars.

Ava has plans to attend Fairmont State University’s nursing program.

CWST students earn certifications



Students pictured:

Top row left to right: Zane Blake, Gerald Parado, J. Kenzie Gump, J. Leyon McAtee, Harley Hern, Garrett Schulte, Jeremiah “JJ” Moore, Jerry Nestor, Nick Beatty.

Bottom row left to right: Creeden Jones, David Hyre, Kailynn Sinnett, Marcus Fernandes, Laken Wiles, Cameron Patton, Aurora Dejonghe and Morgan Oldaker.

Lincoln High School’s Career Work Skills Training students have been busy earning certifications in both OSHA 10 safety training and WV Food Handler’s Card in their CWST Training course. They would like to thank Harrison County Schools CTE Department for sponsoring the training.

Roads, Roads, Roads



By Jim Hunt for the News and Journal

I had a meeting in Charleston, West Virginia recently and

the lady I was meeting with was from

Seattle, Washington and had never visited West Virginia before. We picked her up at Charleston’s Yeager Airport and decided to have dinner before checking in to the Marriott Town Center in Downtown Charleston.

As we dined on a wonderful seafood meal at the Tidewater,

See “Huntt” on Pg 6

Harrison County Commission Celebrates Office Decoration Contest Winners and Participants

By Stephen Smoot

by wishing each other a Merry Christmas.

As most of the world counted down to Christmas, the Harrison County Commission held their final meeting of 2023. The commission started the meeting

Commissioner David Hunkle opened with an invocation, saying “Dear God, I end this year with a simple prayer, to heal our broken world.”

Commissioners next

See “Contest” on Pg 9

Candidates Interested In Running In City of Shinnston Municipal Election 2024

Shinnston residents interested in running for one of the three (3) At-Large Council seats in the Shinnston 2024 City Election may file

for candidacy January 8, 2024 thru January 27, 2024.

Certificates of Candidacy must be filed in person at Shinnston

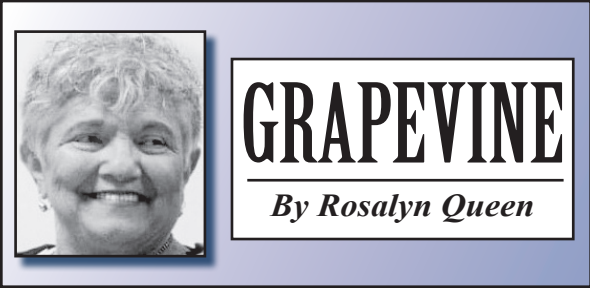
City Hall, 40 Main Street, Shinnston, WV 26431 with a filing fee of \$10.00 during office hours. Candidate packets are available at

City Hall. Contact City Clerk Kathleen Panek by email cityclerk@shinnstonwv.com or 304-592-2126 if there are any questions.



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

UNITED HOSPITAL CENTER, LOUIS JOHNSON V.A. HOSPITAL, HIGHLAND CLARKSBURG HOSPITAL & WV VETERANS NURSING FACILITY



Ideas For More Practical Giving

The question of the season seems to be "What do I need?" Looking deep inside I have chosen to change that to "What do I want?" If you are my age as many of you are or close to it and if you are in the retirement stage and if you are living with one of your family members and if you are still mobile then really consider changing this question. It can pertain to you and it can pertain to your family and friends.

Let's consider the gift giving aspect, whether Christmas, birthdays or whatever else occasion you want to celebrate. If you were to answer the need question you might say well I need a package of Depends or I need a pair of compression socks or I need a can of spot remover for the carpet. I know by now you are getting the jest of what I am saying. Well let's think about it, insurance or Medicare might pay for Depends or compression socks and your grocery budget will absorb the cost of a can of spot remover.

So having solved that aspect let's move on to the want situation. If we are to be honest how many times have we said you really know I do not need anything and no one else I gift "needs" anything. Since the beginning of time we come as gift bearing individuals. To me this is a way of demonstrating our love and our caring. Until we take our last breath there is always something that we may want.

Now we are going to get down to the nitty gritty of the "want." You know what I want? I want gift cards to local restaurants. Do you know why? It gives me the opportunity to stay social with my family and friends over lunch, breakfast or dinner. Would I starve if I did not have these cards; no but I sure do "want" to do this. How about a pretty night gown? I have a drawer full so I do not need one but I want one to wear on Christmas morning. I also want creams from Bath and Body. They make me feel so good. How about a box of candy. Do I need it, no, but it is great to share with a visitor. Let's get creative here and come up with a list of wants. Strike that word "need" from your vocabulary. When asked. Do not be ashamed to say "I really want a new pair of rosaries."

I truly know that there are still needs that we must address but are you going to ask a neighbor to get you a box of Depends? Let's take the time to reassess our giving and receiving patterns and see if it does not make us happier.

Now that needs and wants are out of the way I want you and your family to approach the New Year knowing your needs will be fulfilled and it is ok to want a Happy New Year.

Take care, stay healthy and until next week "Now You Have Heard It Through The Grapevine"

Super Crossword

CALCULATING CHARACTERS

- ACROSS**
 - 1 Pet doc
 - 4 "Come again?"
 - 8 Treats maliciously
 - 14 Tennis player Borg
 - 19 Narcissist's problem
 - 21 Actress Address
 - 22 Ate, as prey
 - 23 Football Hall of Famer Bronko
 - 24 Arrive on wheels
 - 25 Frankie or Cleo of song
 - 26 Start of a riddle
 - 29 Noise in a comic book gunfight
 - 30 Exotica singer Sumac
 - 31 "The Human Stain" novelist Philip
 - 32 Cure-all
 - 37 Race of people in an H.G. Wells novella
 - 39 Some sorority letters
 - 40 Donations to the destitute
 - 44 Riddle, part 2
 - 48 Like much greasy food
 - 49 See 83-Across
 - 50 Corp. leader
 - 51 Skip over, as a vowel
 - 52 World War II film, when tripled
 - 53 Charged bit
 - 55 Place — (be active on eBay, say)
 - 57 Cheap cigar
 - 58 Riddle, part 3
 - 63 Simile middle
 - 66 Chaney of film
 - 67 Song-belting Merman
 - 68 On a pension, maybe: Abbr.
 - 69 Military draft gp.
 - 70 Riddle, part 4
 - 75 ZZ Top album whose name is Spanish for "The Crazy One"
 - 76 Hamm and Farrow
 - 77 Neither's partner
 - 78 Tingly feeling
 - 82 Totally tired
 - 83 With 49-Across, touter of green eggs and ham
 - 84 "Yes" vote
 - 86 Early arcade giant
 - 87 End of the riddle
 - 93 — -Flush (bathroom brand)
 - 94 Architect I.M. —
 - 95 Made angry new
 - 96 Florida fruits
 - 97 R&B great Marvin
 - 99 Not at all
 - 100 Golf club
 - 102 Riddle's answer
 - 111 Stalin-era labor camp
 - 112 Polecat's kin
 - 113 Urge against
 - 114 Muscat native
 - 115 Do over
 - 116 Office squawker
 - 117 Fender dings
 - 118 Mimics a mad mutt
 - 119 Helper of Frankenstein
 - 120 Inventor Whitney
- DOWN**
 - 1 "—, vidi, vici"
 - 2 "The Keep" novelist Jennifer
 - 3 Forum wear
 - 4 Angel's instrument
 - 5 Drunk
 - 6 Writer Gogol
 - 7 Third-largest city in Israel
 - 8 Ride a wave
 - 9 Eighth-brightest star in the sky
 - 10 Like a hajji's religion
 - 11 Second-largest city in Oklahoma
 - 12 Charles Lamb's alias
 - 13 Bay Area California city
 - 14 Equivalent of A sharp
 - 15 Lee Tracy's "Bombshell" co-star
 - 16 Like praiseful poetry
 - 17 Gossipy Barrett
 - 18 Bakersfield-to-Boise dir.
 - 20 Letters before 39-Across
 - 27 Swiss watch brand
 - 28 Clueless
 - 32 Fizzle sound
 - 33 Sleet, informally
 - 34 Hair removal brand
 - 35 Top squad
 - 36 Mooer's mouthful
 - 38 On the — (fleeing)
 - 39 "— say more?"
 - 41 Actresses Vivien and Janet
 - 42 In — res (mid-plot)
 - 43 Clay pigeons to be shot, informally
 - 45 Three x three
 - 46 Frozen spear
 - 47 Eats away at
 - 53 "Were — it all over again ..."
 - 54 "It can't be!"
 - 55 One of the Three Musketeers
 - 56 Nickname for singer Justin, with "the"
 - 57 Derisive smile
 - 59 One of the three Furies
 - 60 R&R alone
 - 61 "— boy!"
 - 62 Pisa's river
 - 63 Nuclear trials, for short
 - 64 Class of antimicrobial drugs, in the British spelling
 - 65 Actress Sorkin who once hosted "America's Funniest People"
 - 71 Like animals that don't roam
 - 72 So-called "fifth taste"
 - 73 Apartment near the super's, perhaps
 - 74 Mesh well
 - 79 Piquancy
 - 80 Ontario tribe
 - 81 Cat's warning
 - 83 Pittsburgh footballers
 - 84 "Chances —"
 - 85 "Catch my drift, bro?"
 - 86 Pie-mode link
 - 88 1974 CIA parody film
 - 89 More lacteal
 - 90 Not cardinal, as a number
 - 91 Plundering
 - 92 Writer Sábato
 - 98 Patronage
 - 99 "— Loompa"
 - 101 Half-diameters
 - 102 Journalist Brit
 - 103 Zing
 - 104 Lucy Liu's "Kill Bill" role
 - 105 Insect traps
 - 106 Exploiter
 - 107 Mongrel mutt
 - 108 Frilly material
 - 109 Shrine figure
 - 110 Moore of "G.I. Jane"
 - 111 Shrine figure

Grid for the Super Crossword puzzle with numbered starting points for across and down clues.

FIND THE SUPER CROSSWORD ANSWERS ON PAGE 6!

THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

December 27, 2023 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.

Jan. 4, 1897: Classes began at Montgomery Preparatory School, a state institution established to prepare students for West Virginia University. The school evolved into the West Virginia University Institute of Technology.

Jan. 5, 1810: The Virginia General Assembly recognized 20 acres of land owned by farmer and trader Thomas Buffington at the confluence of the Guyandotte and Ohio rivers as the new village of Guyandotte.

Jan. 6, 1828: Ward Hill Lamson was born in Jefferson County. Lamson was friend, law partner and unofficial bodyguard to President Abraham Lincoln. President Lincoln was assassinated when Lamson was away in Richmond on business.

Jan. 6, 1931: An underground gas explosion killed eight men at the Glen Rogers coal mine in Wyoming County—eight years after another explosion had killed 27 at the same mine.

Jan. 7, 1955: The Cedar Lakes Conference Center officially opened, though it was not named until 1957. The name was chosen for its two lakes and an abundance of native cedar trees.

Jan. 8, 1866: William Gustavus Conley was born near Kingwood in Preston County.

Jan. 8, 1919: The West Virginia legislature ratified the U.S. constitution's 18th Amendment in the Senate, 26-0, and in the House, 81-3. West Virginia was the 21st state to ratify the amendment. National prohibition went into effect under the Volstead Act on January 16, 1920.

Jan. 8, 1926: Comedian Soupy Sales was born Milton Supman. Raised in Huntington and graduating from Marshall College (now University), he achieved fame as a wacky television personality.

Jan. 9, 1911: Louise McNeill was born on the family farm in Pocahontas County. She was appointed poet laureate by Governor Jay Rockefeller in 1979, holding that title until her death in 1993.

Jan. 9, 2014: Hazardous chemicals were discovered leaking into the Elk River, contaminating the water supply for a nine-county region.

Jan. 10, 1925: Judge Elizabeth Virginia Hallanan was born in Charleston. She was West Virginia's first female federal court judge.

Jan. 10, 1928: Gov. Howard Gore appointed Minnie Buckingham Harper of McDowell County to fill the unexpired term of her husband, E. Howard Harper. She was the first Black woman to serve in a state legislative body in the United States.

Jan. 10, 1940: The Pond Creek No. 1 mine at Bartley in McDowell County exploded. The blast killed 91 miners, with another 47 escaping. Rescue teams worked five days to retrieve the bodies but found no additional miners alive.

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WV State Wildlife Center to close temporarily for inspection

FRENCH CREEK, W.Va. — The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) announced today that the West Virginia State Wildlife Center will be closed for its required annual inspection beginning Sunday, December 31, 2023. The Wildlife

Center is expected to reopen on Friday, January 5, 2024.

"We thank you for your patience and continued support of

the Wildlife Center, and we look forward to experiencing the new year with you all," said WV DNR Director Brett McMillion.

The Gift Shop will maintain the current operating hours of 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The West Virginia State Wildlife Center

is a modern zoological facility in Upshur County, displaying native and introduced state wildlife.

"Christmas" From Pg 1.

undercalculated the official Holy See use year by 11 minutes, in the 1580s. While the rendering it increasingly Roman Catholic world inaccurate over time. embraced the change, By the year 1500, the centers of European calendar was out of opposition to the Pope sync by 10 days. held out longer. The

Pope Gregory XIII British Empire and commissioned Church its Church of England astronomers to rectify adopted the Gregorian the error and the calendar, as it is known, new calendar entered in 1752. Russia and

many Eastern Orthodox adherents did not embrace the change until the fall of the Romanovs in 1917.

The change moved the date that was December 25 to January 6.

Benjamin Franklin, writing as Richard Saunders in Poor Richard's Almanack and who was, ironically, born on January 6, explained during discussion of the change that "yet is the Gregorian year, far from being perfect, for we have shewn that, in four Centuries, the Julian Year gains three Days, one Hour, twenty Minutes: But it is only the three Days are kept out in the Gregorian Year, so there is still an Excess of one Hour, twenty Minutes, in four Centuries, which in 72 Centuries will amount to a whole Day."

American colonists and their settlements trickled west into the ridges, valleys, hills, and creeks of the Appalachian Mountains and Plateau. Settlers and traders, such as John Simpson who settled near what is now Clarksburg in the 1760s, lived far from established settlements on and near the coast. Many had never heard of colonial publications like Poor Richard's

Almanack, nor did they care to follow Acts of Parliament, so long as it fulfilled its duty to protect them.

Over time many, especially those in towns or along trade routes, reconciled themselves to the new calendar. Many that did, however, continued to celebrate Christmas on the same day they always had. In Appalachia, the tradition continued as "Old Christmas," "Little Christmas," or even "Green Christmas."

Even as late as the 1930s, these traditions maintained their strong hold on back country celebrants. David Hackett Fischer in his work *Albion's Seed*, shared that some North Carolina communities regarded December 25 as a "man made" Christmas holiday.

As the Appalachians saw more settlers from the Scottish lowlands and north English border country, they brought their traditions along. Celebrations of Old Christmas by these colonists reflected a more rough and tumble way of life. Conduct resembled better the Roman Saturnalia than a Christian religious holiday.

Fischer wrote "there was a feast even in the poorest houses and

bonfires at night with much gunplay and fireworks." The truly unfortunate had to endure a ritual called "stanging" which was a "sometimes violent ceremony in which a victim was hoisted on a long pole and forced to dangle until he bought himself free."

In modern times, those who celebrate Old Christmas have left behind dangling people from poles. Since the 1800s, the tradition has evolved into a more thoughtful and contemplative holiday. Fruits and nuts found their way into the stockings of children. Families gathered to eat and give hand made gifts or articles of warm clothing.

The day developed its own mythology, including beliefs that elder bushes sprouted on Old Christmas, but did not grow again until spring. Many also believed that animals prayed to the Holy Spirit on this day and that loaning anything out on Jan 6 is bad luck.

Celebrants also marked the day with serenading and caroling. The Amish, who also celebrate the holiday, fast until noon, but eat a large meal afterwards. They do not work or conduct business on this

day. Many in Spanish cultures see January 6 as a day equal in importance to Christmas, but call it Three Kings Day. Traditionally, gift giving takes place on this day in emulation of the Magi described in the Bible as bringing presents to the Christ child. Each gift brought by the Magi represents part of the divine nature of Jesus.

Children await the coming of the Magi anxiously, just as they did Santa Claus 12 days prior. Tradition calls for them to leave shoes by the door. Grass is set out to refresh the Magi's camels. Roman Catholics worldwide celebrate the day with a Kings' Cake, which usually features a figurine or a lone nut to grace the top.

Many Spanish speaking countries have parades and other events to mark it, but most consider it a family centered holiday symbolic of the original Holy Family of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus.

(Parts of this article were adapted from a similar piece written in the Pendleton Times by the same author in Dec 2022.)

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

Lincoln High School Class of 2027 is excited to announce that we will host the annual Father Daughter Dance on Feb 24, 2024 at Jewel City Gymnasium from 6-8pm. Ticket sales information will be sent home closer to the date of the event.



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.

"Contest" From Pg 1.

recited the Pledge of Allegiance and then opened the official meeting. Commissioner Patsy Trecoast joined via Zoom call.

Susan Thomas, Harrison County Commission president, noted that "everyone's sitting at their desks, anticipating" the results of the first annual office and staff decoration contest.

Judges from senior services visited each contestant to judge in seven categories.

The "MacGyver Award," based on the 1980s action drama, rewarded the office that best repurposed existing materials. A "leash tree" and other creative decorations won Animal Control the award.

For interactive fun and games, such as a scented room, a ginger

ale tree, and other fun, the West Virginia University Extension Office won the "Chuck-E-Cheese award."

The Voter's Registration Office earned the D. I. Y. (do it yourself) award for an office decorated with a white coat hanger tree and paper snowflakes.

Inventive and festive ornamentation won the County Clerk's office the Curb Appeal Award.

The Sheriff's Tax Office went old school, festooning their work space with classic Christmas style, which naturally earned them the Bing Crosby Award.

In the Circuit Clerk's office, judges said that every inch of the surface of the room, including staff, was covered in Christmas cheer, earning them the "To Infinity and Beyond Award."

Judges still needed time to sort among the close finalists for best

desk award. Hinkle then said "we decided that everyone did such a great job that we'll supply each location . . . a pizza party." He added that "it's too hard to just choose one" as the best of the bunch, also stating "we want to thank everyone who participated. It put everyone in a great mood."

After the fun, the commission settled in to discuss their work agenda. They discussed the memorandum of understanding concerning City of Clarksburg elections running on the state primary schedule. Laura Pysz, Harrison County Administrator, asked "do you have two different MOU's" referred to as 12 A and 12 B?


The commission did have them, the difference being that 12 B represented an amended version. Hinkle responded "I read through it and I didn't see anything" and

judged it "okay as it is." He then made a motion for the commission to accept 12 B, which it did.

Toward the end of the meeting, the commission approved an ABCA license for the Dollar General in Enterprise to sell alcohol. Pysz then informed the commission that gas cards had started "to trickle out" to county employees who needed them. Cards will prevent the often inconvenient need to use the county gas pump.

Finally Pysz praised those who participated in the office decoration contest, saying that "it surpassed anything we imagined and talked about" and wished all a Merry Christmas. Hinkle added that "I hope it's something that we continue and there might be ideas for other future competitions."

Hinkle and Thomas then wished all a Merry Christmas.



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Mountaineers End Season With Big Bowl Win

By Bill Nestor

West Virginia dominated and decimated North Carolina 30 to 10 in the Duke's Mayo Bowl two days after Santa Claus came to town. The Mountaineers played without a pair of heavy hitters in All-America center Zach Frazier (the Fairmont Senior product) and top rusher C. J. Donaldson Jr., which was a tall task, but the Tar Heels found themselves in an even worse position. North Carolina had a dozen starters out, including standout signal caller Drake Mayle.

Mayle has been projected to be a top five selection in next year's NFL Draft.

Even with the advantage heading into the lock-up, WVU head coach Neal Brown had to have his team ready to play. UNC is just a little over two hours away from Bank of America Stadium in

Charlotte and in terms of comfort for the Heels it would resemble a home game. Ironically, the vast majority of the 42,925 in attendance were Mountaineer fans.

A pair of big plays highlighted the first half as quarterback Garrett Greene connected with Traylon Ray on a 75 yard pass play for the game's first score. Beanie Bishop Jr. returned a punt 78 yards for WVU's second touchdown that came in the second quarter. Michael Hayes connected on both extra points and nailed a 30 yard field goal as time expired in the second frame to give the Mountaineers a 17 to 10 halftime lead.

The third period was a defensive struggle with Hayes providing the lone points on a 34 yard field goal with 2:40 left in the segment.

The defense continued to play inspired football, just as it has all season long when it has been

needed. On the rare occasion that the offense has sputtered, the stoppers have stopped up their play. That has been the recipe for success this season and the main reason that a team that was picked to finish dead last in the preseason standings can wind up fourth out of 14 Big 12 teams.

West Virginia would add some insurance in the fourth quarter. Jahiem White found the end zone on an 11 yard run. Hayes added the point after and a third field goal from 29 yards out to put a bow on Brown's late Christmas present.

Not only did the defense pitch a second half shutout, it played a mean game of sack the quarterback, bringing down North Carolina signal caller Conner Harrell seven times behind the line of scrimmage. The "D" also held Omarion Hampton in check. The Tar Heels running back

had 1,504 yards and 15 touchdowns going into the match-up and finished with 62 yards on 19 attempts.

Greene continues to impress as the leader of the Mountaineer squad. He was 12 of 23 passing for 223 yards and one score. Greene also paced the ground game with 64 yards on nine attempts. His management of the game was impressive. Not forcing plays while committing zero turnovers proves that he is ready for the next level.

There are several returning players that will combine with talented newcomers that look to step in and make an immediate impact. As good as the nine and four record looks now, there might be an even better one waiting for Mountaineer Nation next year. After the Duke's Mayor Bowl win, you can spread the word about this team.



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 In the Spotlight

By Bill Nestor

The Harrison County athletes in the spotlight this week are Notre Dame's Selena Wilson and Lincoln's Nate Swiger.

Fighting Irish basketball player Selena Wilson helped her team to a win over Richwood on December 16. In that contest, Wilson had 23 points and recorded a

game-high five steals in the affair.

Cougar hoopster Nate Swiger had an impressive outing in a win over Preston, recently. Swiger netted a game-high five steals in the affair.

Congratulations to Selena Wilson and Nate Swiger for shining bright in the SN and HCJ spotlight!

WV Devil Dawgs Youth Travel Football League Donates to UHC Pediatrics



Pictured from left: Kaitlyn Layman, LPN, UHC Pediatrics; Brandon Rogers, board member; Landon Rogers, player; Bentley Ruble, player; Easton Hayhurst, player; Ryker Stutler, player; Lawrence Jones, founder and president; Kristen Hayhurst, founder and treasurer; and Julie Carder, RN, UHC Pediatrics.

The WV Devil Dawgs youth travel football league is based out of the

North Central West Virginia and mid-Ohio Valley areas. The group donated more than 50 toys to United Hospital Center Pediatrics.

West Virginia should ban Ranked Choice Voting

by Mac Warner

WV Secretary of State

In West Virginia, we have confidence in our election results and we pride ourselves that every eligible vote cast is counted. Proposals to change the way we conduct elections and count ballots threaten West Virginians' confidence in elections.

In some states, advocates have pushed state and local officials to adopt the Ranked Choice Voting. Recently, U.S. Senator Joe Manchin hinted at his desire to change the American system of voting that has been in place for the last 248

years. I oppose those efforts. To maintain confidence in elections, we should not change the election process in West Virginia.

Ranked Choice Voting is a confusing system that requires voters to rank candidates on the ballot in order of preference. It often results in candidates who may have majority support losing the election. Ranked Choice Voting also routinely leads to legally cast ballots being discarded. This generates confusion, gamesmanship, and apathy as voters arrange their preferences only to learn that, for example,

the candidate who received the most #1 votes came in third in the election.

Ranked Choice Voting also takes substantially longer to determine election outcomes. The delay caused by the elimination of candidates and recounting each time someone drops causes concern in the waiting electorate. Voter confidence wanes over time, and conspiracy theories take hold. Some jurisdictions have taken weeks to produce Ranked Choice Voting results.

West Virginia's election process is recognized nationwide

as one to emulate. Here we deliver unofficial election results on election night. Voters can track additional ballots or corrections during canvassing, and elections are usually certified in the same week.

I have testified four times on Capitol Hill to share West Virginia's accomplishments including removing over 400,000 outdated names from our once-bloated voter registration rolls and producing fast and accurate election results. I struggle to explain any positive outcomes of altering this process besides the obvious political benefits of getting elected by

confusing voters.

Ranked Choice Voting has been used in Alaska to elect a senator who couldn't win her own party's primary. In Maine, the process discarded enough ballots to change the results in a Congressional race in 2018. In 2022 in California, Ranked Choice Voting programming had an error that resulted in a recount and a new winner. In 2022, an At-Large Congressional Special and the General Election had 15,000 editions of ballot counting and recounting prior to determining the winner.

Voting should be easy

and ballot instructions should be simple. Since this country was founded, winners were the candidates who received the most votes. Changes to this process will not happen under my watch. I urge the Legislature to prohibit Ranked Choice Voting in West Virginia.

WV Secretary of State Mac Warner is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and spent 23 years in the United States Army. He retired at the rank of Lt. Colonel. He spent 2011 through 2015 in Afghanistan working with the U.S. State Department.



BUSINESS MATTERS

Making It Their Business to Promote Business

Harrison County Economic Development Corporation Strives for Responsible Growth

By Stephen Smoot

President Calvin Coolidge famously said that the “business of America is business.” While some may debate that a century after his administration, it is certainly true of the Harrison County Economic Development Corporation.

The EDC is led by Amy Haberbosch-Wilson, executive director, and a board composed of local elected leaders, economic development stakeholders, and individuals from the private sector. These include Mayor Rodney Strait of Shinnston, Harrison County Commissioner David Hinkle, Kathy Wagner, president of the Harrison County Chamber of Commerce, and Kylea Radcliff from The Thrasher Group.

Its mission is a simple one. The EDC “develops and advances the economic prosperity and economic welfare of Harrison County for the benefit of all citizens.”

To Haberbosch-Wilson, the mission from the beginning has boiled down to three words: retention, expansion, recruitment. Retain businesses in place. Help those who are willing and able to expand operations. Recruit new members of the Harrison County business community.

Even with those word as guidelines, she said in the EDC’s first efforts

that those involved had to answer the question “what does that mean?” They concluded that meant that “we had to form our own goals.”

Almost any activity could be partly or fully included under the umbrella of the phrase “economic development,” which meant that an organization with limited resources of staff time and funds available must always make the most of what they have and target key priorities.

Haberbosch-Wilson explained that one of the priorities lay in not duplicating efforts from others. One example lays in the different purviews of the EDC and the Harrison County Chamber of Commerce. Chambers of Commerce focus on professional and business networking, as well as supporting the growth of the small business sector.

In some ways the missions overlap in that both have a mission to help to maintain existing businesses. How they do that is where the difference lies. An EDC looks at the business and the context of conditions in which it operates. Haberbosch-Wilson used the example of a locally owned grocery store with 15 to 20 employees.

If the store struggles, the EDC will investigate, asking “what are your issues?

What do you need? How can we help?” Assistance can come in a variety of forms, including expanding opportunities to recruit a better workforce, working with local and state government on transportation issues, or reaching out to utility companies when appropriate.

Haberbosch-Wilson explained that the long term economic malaise that affected the state from the 1960s through the early 21st century shaped economic perceptions in West Virginia.

First, that meant that the state went after and accepted any development or investment available. No effort went into planning or organization because the business communities across the state had all lost so much and needed any infusion of activity.

For almost 15 years, however, the watchword in the state’s economy has been growth. Haberbosch-Wilson said that conditions have improved to the point that economic development officials can ask more specific questions, such as “what do we want here.”

Those efforts first lead to a policy that encourages competition without saturation. Haberbosch-Wilson used the example of pizza restaurants. A few in a town like Shinnston, she said, creates a healthy environment,

but too many can overburden the market and push operators out of business.

“Now, we can be choosy,” she stated, adding that “I want to see more of the planned growth.”

She explained how those efforts are applied practically in terms of the North Central West Virginia Regional Airport, jointly operated by Harrison and Marion counties. The airport, which serves 22 counties, has an economic impact of \$1.2 billion. The EDC has adopted a strategy of trying to recruit additional MRO facilities to the airport. MRO stands for maintenance, repair, and overhaul. Haberbosch-Wilson added that the goal lies in not bringing in so many such businesses that they cannibalize each other.

She shared that “aviation has been a hot topic” in recent years. The EDC focuses on combining the fields of aviation and technology in their approach, which enables them to support the airport and related endeavors, as well as federal agencies in the area, such as the FBI and NOAA. The EDC has focused in many areas, especially going into schools and helping to mobilize the aviation and tech workforce of the future. She points out that many high paying opportunities are “not all degraded

programs.”

In some parts of the state, such as the New River and upper South Branch of the Potomac valleys, counties have created regional economic development organizations to focus on areas of similarity. Haberbosch-Wilson explains that regionalism has grown as an EDC goal, but that the organization would not benefit from physically joining another EDC or EDA.

Regional cooperation, however, makes sense. As Haberbosch-Wilson put it, “they (businesses) don’t care about county lines. Just tell them who they are dealing with - who has a seat at the table.”

The EDC works hand in hand not only with county organizations, but also regional. Harrison County is part of the Region VI Economic Planning and Development Council, one of nine across the state. Each serves as a place to facilitate cooperation and also help counties and municipalities with fewer resources or experience to obtain grants, to plan, and to comply with federal and state mandates related to economic development.

In recent years, the Harrison County EDC has initiated and completed a slate of major projects to help expand development and its impact throughout

North Central West Virginia. This includes a \$2.6 million grant to construct a 50,000 square foot structure, the Harrison County Regional Industrial Park. Two tenants, Blue Rock and Harvest Care Medical currently operate in the space.

The EDC has an inventory of almost 70 different locations that can host one or more thriving businesses.

Haberbosch-Wilson admits that the region has challenges for potential businesses, including the drug crisis, workforce issues, and other problems. She explains that most of the developed world now shares those difficulties. The key lies in showing local and regional efforts to combat problems and improve conditions.

One example of this comes in the partnership with West Virginia University called Healthy Harrison, whose goal for the past six years has been to “measurably improve the health and wellness of the citizens of Harrison County.”

While perceptions die hard, especially those that hold a region back, Haberbosch-Wilson remains stridently optimistic about the future. “We have everything,” she states, then added “It’s time to look ourselves in the mirror and say we can do this.”

West Virginia’s Wealth of Natural Resources Worth the Investment

Kent A. Leonhardt, West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture

Readers of this column undoubtedly have an interest in West Virginia agriculture. I appreciate you reading this column each month. There’s a lot of information that goes into this publication. The Market Bulletin helps us share the highlights and challenges of our industry and has served as an important resource for our farmers for more than 100 years. It reaches tens of thousands of households in the state and some beyond our borders.

The WVDA and the West Virginia Conservation

Agency (WVCA) employees certainly appreciate and respect your love and investment in our state. We are lucky to live and serve a state rich in natural resources with a strong agricultural heritage. Both of our agencies work tirelessly to preserve our state resources, protect animal and forest health, keep our soils and waters clean, and promote and grow our agribusinesses. This work takes vision and willing partners who are equally invested in seeing the agriculture industry grow.

We have forged so many great relationships, including but not limited to, the West Virginia Farm Bureau, the West Virginia Food and

Farm Coalition, the West Virginian Farmers Market Association, various law enforcement agencies, West Virginia University, and West Virginia State University. In the coming months, I hope to write in more detail about how we are working together to reach our goals. Starting in the January Market Bulletin, I will discuss our Vet Start initiative with WVU and WVSU.

As we wind down from a bountiful harvest and head into a busy holiday season, it’s a good time to take stock of our blessings. However, as I write this, the world is in turmoil with two wars and many of our citizens in harm’s way. Please, keep those in

your time.

As the end of the year approaches, it’s a time to reflect on our achievements and set goals for the future. One long-term goal is to continue to shorten the distance from where our food is grown to where it is consumed. Our collaborative efforts appear to be working as red meat production is up over 50 percent. We have also tripled the number of farmers markets over the past five years through promotion and deregulation. In the coming months, you will also see further promotion of our West Virginia Grown Program.

Speaking of West Virginia Grown, do you have a tough-to-buy-for person on your Christmas list? Food is the perfect gift. We have so many West Virginia value-added products that go great on their own or in a gift basket. You hear it every year, “Buy local!” I can’t stress how important this is to our small agribusinesses. Buy a bottle of West Virginia wine or a growler of hard cider to take to a holiday party. Cook with

meats raised and sourced right here in the Mountain State. Choose local jams, honey and maple syrup to sweeten your recipes. Those dollars spent at a local business make a big difference. If you need suggestions on where to shop, please contact our Business Development Division at 304-558-2210 or check out our WV Grown Directory (<https://agriculture.wv.gov/agbusiness/west-virginia-grown/>).

On a personal note, I want to thank my wife, Shirley, and our family for all their support. Without them standing with me, I could not do what I do. My wife has stood by me through a career in the military; she knows what it’s like to have a loved one in harm’s way. She worked with me to build a farm from scratch and has been by my side during some hardfought political campaigns. We wish you a wonderful Christmas and Hannukah season. Relax and enjoy this time with loved ones.

Mike Ross

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Resolve to Be a Man

By Stephen Smoot

It's become tradition to see New Years' Day as the time to recreate or to renew one's vision for life, to resolve to be different, be better, or be fulfilled.

Plainly said, many continue to believe in the power of a resolution kept.

With the exception of women, of course, all others should resolve to be a man in this and the coming years.

One can be born male, but the title of "man" must be earned. Mere ownership and use of an XY chromosome does not automatically bequeath the status. Those who would be men must put in the work.

The first step on the path runs through Socrates, the soldier turned philosopher and moral teacher. His quest for the nature of wisdom

led him to a simple phrase, "Know thyself." This, of course, requires both personal honesty and the candor of those closest.

Marcus Tullius Cicero, the Roman statesman, affirmed the Roman Republic's emphasis on the quality of virtue in a man. He identified four cardinal virtues: wisdom, courage, justice, and moderation. He built on the notion of "know thyself," urging men to follow their natures in personal evolution and growth, should those be for the good.

Not a Roman, but a man who grew up under that Empire's culture, Saint Paul wrote to the Corinthians "when I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things."

In America, George

Washington stands as the primary example of virtue and honor. He repeatedly spoke of exertion, work, and energy being a quality of men engaged in great projects or movements. For him, total dedication was an act of courage. It exposes one to great risk and the possibility of great reward, at least the moral type, and does not allow honorable retreat from commitment.

Our civilization has reached a point of turning. A great absconding from responsibility has started. Jobs go unfilled, or are occupied by uncaring living automatons who do as little as possible. Males create children, then abandon them and their mothers to their fates. Leadership has degenerated into endless races to escape blame.

And males have lost

their way, all too many turning away from faith, hope, and charity, towards soulless lifestyles that emphasize "feeling good" but will always fail to create happiness. They cling to childish things, believing these will make them seem young instead of foolish. The reign of discipline and its useful tool, shame, have been overthrown and seemingly everyone merely does what is right in their own eyes - or does nothing at all.

Being a man requires more strength, fortitude, and courage than simply existing as a male. It takes respect for oneself and others. It requires taking care of ones' own needs and sometimes those who depend on him. Men inspire confidence in others, not because they lack fear or anxiety, but because they first learned from, and second tamed, each one.

It is also the province of a man to fight a battle that seems unwinnable, to pull a burden that seems too heavy, to keep faith in a God that may never reveal Himself overtly, and to take care of responsibilities thrust upon him, rather than those he chose. He must stay confident, but retain enough humility to admit wrong and to listen to others when necessary.

If the game of life does not favor him, a man does not retire to the sidelines and pout like Achilles at Troy. He must remain in the ring and fight through the challenges posed because often more than his own fate is at stake.

A man never feels entitled, except to that which he himself has created or earned.

Unfortunately, the 21st century has worked to purge the best notions of men and

manhood, making them seem ugly, frightening, or ridiculous. The consequences of this are seen in the ever expanding problems of society that have run hand in hand with this development. Society relies increasingly on a dwindling number of men to carry the weight often created by those who are mere males.

This commentary should not be interpreted as an undermining of women, their wisdom and honor, as well as their needed and vital role in the world and society. That remains a story for another day.

Perhaps it is another Roman who best stated the essence of what being a man means. Marcus Aurelius, the greatest of Emperors and a Stoic philosopher, implored "Waste no more time arguing what a good man should be. Be one."

"Hunt" From Pg 1.

she casually mentioned that she hoped to drive by Summers Street. I thought this was somewhat odd, that someone who had never visited our state would want to see, of all things, a street in the city of Charleston. She explained that she was doing some checking online prior to her trip and she learned that Summers Street in Charleston had the first brick paved street back in 1870. They had done only a small portion as a test and when they saw how successful it was, they paved the entire block, and the method of paving was patented in 1873.

Prior to using brick, roads were generally made of dirt and gravel, and it was rough and muddy most of the time.

It is interesting that something that most Americans are on every

day, roads are taken for granted unless they develop a dreaded pothole and then they become the subject of jokes on the late-night television shows. In my lifetime, I have seen roads in West Virginia develop from two-lane, curvy roads into the modern transportation network we have today. And yet, we still hear Hoppy Kercheval's famous refrain, "Fix the damn roads!" shouted from hill to valley. Will we ever be satisfied? Billions of dollars are spent each year and people seem to forget the three-hour trek to Charleston from Clarksburg. We speed to WVU Football games in just over thirty minutes when it used to take more than an hour when I was a student in Morgantown.

And who could forget the windy road in

Southern West Virginia that took close to an hour until

it was replaced by the New River Gorge Bridge in Fayetteville.

Even city streets are in better shape than many years ago. Citizens expect alleys behind their houses to be paved and scraped in the winter. In my youth, alleys were gravel, and you could see a car coming from the cloud of dust trailing behind. Until the EPA prohibited it, cities would pour used oil on the alleys to keep the dust down and the tennis shoes dirty. Some cities in North

Central West Virginia still have remnants of those hundred and fifty-year-old brick streets

that started in Charleston. Stanley Avenue in Clarksburg is one of the few remaining brick streets and more can be found in many cities in the area. They have become harder and harder to repair and cities sometimes just pave over them with asphalt.

Some people wonder why streets and roads seem to fail more often than years ago. The answer is increased traffic and the increased

size of the trucks that travel on our streets and roads. If you look at an old picture, a milk truck was barely the size of a large SUV and now the

UPS, Amazon, and FedEx trucks are many times larger and carry tons more cargo. We often see large concrete and steel structures traveling up the interstate with police cars in front and back.

These excessive loads wear out the pavement quickly and increase weak spots in the roadway that leads to cracking and potholes. Years ago, the rail

lines carried the large containers and smaller trucks were dispatched to deliver in cities and along country roads.

Now, we seem to have traded our smooth roads for the convenience of overnight delivery and instant everything.

Our roads are the lifeline of today's modern society, and it doesn't look like we will change that soon. From the invention of the brick street in Charleston, West Virginia in 1870 to the ribbons of asphalt and concrete covering our nation today, roads are something to be appreciated.

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OBITUARIES**William Ellis Floyd**

William Ellis Floyd, 90, of Wallace, passed away on Tuesday, December 26, 2023 at his residence surrounded by his loving family. He was born on February 23, 1933 in Smithfield to the late Ernie Linzy and Opal Willow (Glover) Floyd.

He worked for WV State Roads as a foreman and mechanic. He proudly served in the United States Army during the Korean War. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather with a heart of gold. He instilled his wisdom, love and fighting spirit in all his children and grandchildren. Through them, his legacy will continue. He fought through and overcame so many battles including war, cancer, several strokes and other health issues. He was our Hero. After all his battles, he continued living a good life. He was a hard worker. Loved mowing grass, working on vehicles, fishing, hunting and really enjoyed spending time with his family and watching his grandchildren play sports. He was a diehard Trump supporter and WVU fan. He was a warrior in this life and now he's an angel in the next one. He will be sadly missed and forever truly loved by his entire family.

William is survived by his soulmate and loving wife of 68 years, Violet Rae (Price) Floyd of Wallace; five children: William and Cynthia Floyd of Wallace, Karen and Brad Moore of Shinnston, Wayman and Sara Floyd of Wallace, Jeannie Evans of Wallace and Marsha Haddix of Owings; ten grandchildren: Johnny and Britney Evans of Wallace, TJ and Kristy McCullough of Flemington, Heather Moore of Grafton, Stephanie and Justin Mayle of Shinnston, Malissa and Derrick White of Wallace, Brittany Evans of Wallace, Lindsay and BJ Adams of Reedsville, Vincent Floyd of Wallace, Julia Jones of Wallace and Leanna and Sam Haddix of Shinnston; twenty four great grandchildren: Chase, Paige, Liam, Trinity, Travis and Brady McCullough of OH, Cierra, Chloe and Talon Evans of Wallace, Zaden and Daxleigh of Wallace, Jake Arbogast and Shianne Moore of Shinnston, Hunter, Elijah, Emmalou, Christopher, Paisley, Derringer and Halleigh of Wallace, Hayden and Kayson Mayle of Shinnston and Madison and Landon Adams of Reedsville and several great great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by four brothers: Ernest, Wesley, Clark and Ardel Floyd; two sisters: Kate Lowe and Alice Dotson; three grandchildren: James and Tasha Floyd and Wayman Floyd, Jr.; three great grandchildren: Braylie Moore, Logan Evans and Gracie May Floyd; one son in law, Richard Haddix and one grandson in law,

Michael Moore.

Family and friends will be received at Dorsey Funeral Home, 701 S. Pike St., Shinnston, on Friday, December 29, 2023 from 11:00am until 1:00pm, time of service, with Pastor Jim Glaspell officiating. Interment will follow to Wallace Lions Cemetery. Military Honors will be provided by United States Army and Marion County Honor Guard.

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

**Nancy Thayer Jarrett**

Nancy Thayer Jarrett, 83, peacefully passed away December 28th, 2023 surrounded by her family. She was born on February 26th, 1940, to the late Ernest Taylor Thayer and Katherine (Coffey) Thayer in Charleston, West Virginia. Nancy is survived by her husband of 62 years, James S. Jarrett, of Shinnston, West Virginia along with two daughters, Nancy Todd (Gary) Romano, of Bridgeport, West Virginia and Janet Lee (Rafe) Snell of Shinnston, West Virginia.

Nancy was a devoted wife and mother. She was an active member of the Shinnston Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary for many years. She graduated from Stonewall Jackson High School, attended

Fairmont State College, and graduated from Center College of Charleston. She was a member of the Queen Esther Lodge of the Order of Eastern Star and a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Clarksburg, West Virginia. Nancy filled her days at Jadewood Farms on Saltwell Road attending to her beloved Schnauzers, along with other pets and farm animals. As an avid reader and amateur bird watcher she loved her daily visits from the crows and cardinals. After moving from the farm to Riverdale Estates, in East Shinnston, she continued reading and claimed to still have her regular visits from the crows and cardinals even though she had limited space to feed them. Nancy loved to shop, especially when she could find a good bargain. Many of these bargains found their way to various individuals like sons-in-law or workers as a token "thank you" or special occasion gift. She had a passion for celebrity fashion trends and enjoyed seeing some of her favorite designers on QVC and other shopping venues. Once Apple released "Facetime" as a feature on their devices it quickly became her preferred method of communication. During her lifetime Nancy had many opportunities to travel to beautiful areas and countries, but especially treasured the smell of the salt breeze in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

There will be a private family memorial service and in lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to the Lord's Pantry (First Baptist Church of

Shinnston, 70 Rebecca Street, Shinnston, WV 26431)

www.firstbaptistshinnston.com

**Donald Lee Jones**

Donald Lee Jones, 86, of Lumberport, passed away on Friday, December 29, 2023, at the United Hospital Center in Bridgeport. He was born, October 5, 1937, a son of the late Harry and Alice McKnight Jones. On April 4, 1956, he married Dorothy L. Keener Jones who survives.

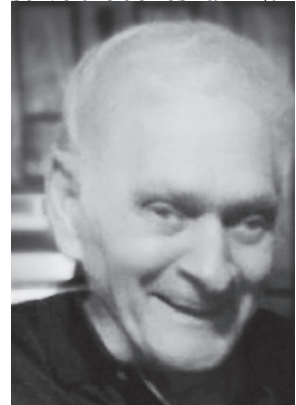
Also surviving are two children: Harry Donald Jones and his wife Debbie, Palm Coast, FL, Sheryl Burr and her husband Joey, Lumberport; six grandchildren: Cassy Dawn Burr, Lumberport, Colton Burr and his wife Jamie, Meadowbrook, Justin Jones, James May, Jason May and his wife Jessica, and Stephanie Barrow and her husband Bobby, all of Palm Coast; great-grandchildren: Makenzie Burr, twins, Mason and Kinsley Jones, Anna May, Bobby Barrow and Aubrie Burr; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Donald was preceded in death by two brothers, Billy Ray Jones and Harry Franklin Jones; and two

sisters, Gladys Jones and Shara Jones Nay.

Donald retired from the United States Air Force with 20 years of service. After his military service, he was employed at the Union Carbide for approximately 20 years. He was an avid golfer and was a member of both the Bridgeport and Sunny Croft Country Clubs. Donald enjoyed square dancing and exercising at the spa. He loved his family, especially attending the sporting events of his grandchildren.

In keeping with his wishes, cremation services were provided, and no public services will be held. Condolences may be extended to the family at www.perinefunerals.com. The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Jones family.

**John Marra Jr.**

John Marra Jr., 83, of Shinnston passed away on Monday, December 18, 2023 at his home with his family by his side. He was born in Shinnston on October 12, 1940 a son of the late John and Janice "Janie" Seamon Marra.

John was preceded in death by his wife, Lula Ellen Trickett Marra.

He is survived by his two sons, John Marra III and his partner Melissa D. Lazorick;

See "Obituaries" on Pg 9

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Out of the Past

Memorable photographs from around Harrison County



Then Congressman and future Governor Arch A. Moore Jr. addresses a crowd at the Clarksburg Engraving Company in 1964.

Listen, discern, journey

From L'Osservatore Romano

On Thursday morning, 21 December, in the Hall of Benedictions, in his annual Christmas greeting to Officials of the Roman Curia, Pope Francis emphasized the significance of humility in listening and said, “there is no better way to listen than ‘on our knees’”. This humble posture, he explained, shows a willingness to set aside preconceived notions and prejudices, allowing us to truly understand the desires and needs of others. The following is the English text of the Pontiff’s address.

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

The mystery of Christmas fills our hearts with awe at an unexpected message: God has come, God is here in our midst, and his light has forever pierced the darkness of the world. We need to hear and accept this message anew, especially in these days tragically marked by the violence of war, by the momentous risks posed by climate change, and by poverty, suffering, hunger and all the grave problems of the present time. It is comforting to discover that even in those painful situations, and all the other problems of our frail human family, God makes himself present in this crib, the manger where today he chooses to be born and to bring the Father’s love to all. This he does in God’s own “style”: with closeness, compassion, tenderness.

Dear friends, we need to listen to the message of the God who comes to us; we need to discern the signs of his presence and to accept his Word by walking in his footsteps. Listen, discern, journey: these three verbs can describe our faith journey and the service that we offer here in the Curia. I would like to share these words with you by considering some of the main figures in the Christmas story.

First, there is Mary, who reminds us to listen. The young woman of Nazareth, who holds in her arms the one who came to embrace the whole world, is the Virgin who listened intently to the message of the angel and opened her heart to God’s plan. She reminds us of the first and greatest of the commandments: “Hear, O Israel” (Deut 6:4), because more important than any precept is our need to enter into a relationship with God by accepting the gift of

the love that he comes to bring us. Listening, in the Bible, refers to hearing not only with the ears, but also with the heart and one’s entire life. Saint Benedict begins his Rule with the words: “Listen attentively, son... and attend... with the ear of your heart” (Prologue, 1). Listening with the heart entails much more than simply hearing a message or exchanging information; it involves an interior openness that can intuit the desires and needs of others, a relationship that urges us to abandon the patterns and prejudices that at times lead us to pigeonhole those around us. Listening is always the beginning of a journey. The Lord asks his people to have this kind of heartfelt listening, to enter into a relationship with him, who is the living God.

That is how the Virgin Mary listens. She receives the message of the angel with complete openness, and consequently does not conceal her questioning and inner turmoil. Rather, she opens her heart to the God who chose her and she accepts his plan. Mary realizes that she has received a priceless gift and on her knees, that is, with humility and awe, she continues to listen. There is no better way to listen than “on our knees”, since this means not thinking, in our pride, that we already know or have understood what others are about to tell us, but are instead open to the mystery of the other, ready to receive with humility what he or she wants to tell us.

Sometimes, even when speaking among ourselves, we risk being like hungry wolves: we can devour the other person’s words, without really listening to them, and then shape them to fit our own ideas and judgements. Really listening to another person, however, requires interior quiet and making room for silence between what we hear and what we say. First, we listen, then, in silence, we appropriate what we have heard, reflect on it, interpret it, and only then are we ready to offer a response. Prayer teaches us how to do this, for it expands the heart, overturns our egocentrism, shows us how to listen to others and awakens in us the quiet of contemplation. Let us learn contemplation in our prayer, as we kneel before the Lord, not only with our legs but

also with our hearts! Even in our work in the Curia, “we need to implore God’s grace daily, asking him to open our cold hearts and shake up our lukewarm and superficial existence... We need to recover a contemplative spirit which can help us to realize ever anew that we have been entrusted with a treasure which makes us more human and helps us to lead a new life. There is nothing more precious which we can give to others” (Evangelii Gaudium, 264).

Brothers and sisters, in the Curia too, we need to learn the art of listening. Even more important than our daily tasks and responsibilities, or even the positions we hold, is our need to appreciate the value of relationships, to keep them simple and straightforward, marked by an evangelical spirit, above all by our ability to listen to one another. With the heart and on our knees. Let us increasingly listen to each other, free of prejudices, with openness and sincerity. With our heart and on our knees. Let us listen to one another, trying hard to understand what our brother or sister is saying, to grasp his or her needs and in some way his or her own life, which lies hidden behind those words, and without judging. As Saint Ignatius wisely advises: “Let it be presupposed that every good Christian is to be more ready to save his neighbour’s proposition than to condemn it. If he cannot save it, let him inquire how he means it; and if he means it badly, let him correct him with charity. If that is not enough, let him seek all the suitable means to bring him to mean it well, and save himself” (Spiritual Exercises, 22). Let me repeat: listening is different from simply hearing. Walking the streets of our cities, we can hear many voices and many noises, yet we generally do not listen to them, internalize them or let them stay with us. It is one thing just to hear; it is another thing to listen, which also means to “welcome within.”

Listening to one another helps us to adopt discernment as a method for our activity. Here we can think of John the Baptist. We are all familiar with the greatness of this prophet, the austerity and forcefulness of his preaching. Yet when Jesus arrives and begins his ministry, John experiences a

dramatic crisis of faith; he had proclaimed the imminent coming of the Lord as that of a mighty God, who would at last judge sinners by casting every tree that bears no fruit into the fire and burning the chaff with an unquenchable fire (cf. Mt 3:10-12). This image of the Messiah shatters before Jesus’ gestures, words and “style”, before the compassion and mercy he shows towards all. Then the Baptist realizes that he needs to discern, so as to receive fresh eyes. As the Gospel tells us, “when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?” (Mt 11:23). In a word, Jesus was not what people had expected, and even the Precursor had to be converted to the newness of the Kingdom. He had to have the humility and courage needed to discern.

Discernment, then, is important for us all. As an art of the spiritual life, it can strip us of the illusion of omniscience, from the danger of thinking that it is enough simply to apply rules, from the temptation to carry on, even in the life of the Curia, by simply repeating what we have always done. And in this way failing to realize that the Mystery of God is always beyond us and that the lives of people and the world around us are, and will always remain, superior to ideas and theories. We need, then, to practise spiritual discernment, to seek God’s will, to be sensitive to the deeper stirrings of our hearts, and then to assess our possibilities and the decisions that we need to take. As Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini once wrote: “Discernment is quite different from the meticulous exactitude of those who live in legalistic conformity or with pretensions to perfectionism. It is a burst of love that distinguishes between good and better, between what is helpful in itself and what is helpful here and now, between what may be good in general and what needs to be done now”. He then went on to say: “Failure to strive to discern what is best often makes pastoral life monotonous and repetitive: religious acts are multiplied, traditional gestures are repeated, without clearly seeing their meaning” (Il Vangelo di Maria, Milan 2008, 21). Discernment ought to

help us, even in the work of the Curia, to be docile to the Holy Spirit, to choose procedures and make decisions based not on worldly criteria, or simply by applying rules, but in accordance with the Gospel.

Finally, our third verb: journey. Here we naturally think of the Magi. They remind us of the importance of journeying. The joy of the Gospel, once it is truly embraced, leads to discipleship, to leaving ourselves behind and setting out towards an encounter with the Lord and with the fullness of life. The Christian faith — let us remember — is not meant to confirm our sense of security, to let us settle into comfortable religious certitudes, and to offer us quick answers to life’s complex problems. On the contrary, whenever God calls us, he sends us on a journey, as he did with Abraham, with Moses, with the prophets and with all the Lord’s disciples. He sends us on a journey, draws us out of our comfort zones, our complacency about what we have already done, and in this way he sets us free; he changes us and he enlightens the eyes of our heart to make us understand the great hope to which he has called us (cf. Eph 1:18). In the words of Michel de Certeau, “Mystics are those who cannot halt on the journey... Desire creates an excess. It exceeds; it passes by; it presses on. It makes us fare forward, to another place” (Fabula Mistica. xvi-xvii secolo, Milan 2008, 353).

In our service here in the Curia too, it is important to keep faring forward, to keep searching and growing in our understanding of the truth, overcoming the temptation to stand still and never leave the “labyrinth” of our fears. Fear, rigidity and monotony make for an immobility that has the apparent advantage of not creating problems — “stay put, don’t move” — but lead us to wander aimlessly within our labyrinths, to the detriment of the service we are called to offer the Church and the whole world. Let us remain vigilant against rigid ideological positions that often, under the guise of good intentions, separate us from reality and prevent us from moving forward. We are called, instead, to set out and journey, like the Magi, following the Light that always desires to lead us on, at times along unexplored paths and

new roads. Let us not forget that the journey of the Magi, and every journey in the Bible, always begins “from above,” with a call of the Lord, with a sign from heaven, or because God himself becomes a guide to illumine the path of his children. So whenever the service we offer risks becoming dull, enclosed in the “labyrinth” of rigidity or mediocrity, whenever we find ourselves entangled in the web of bureaucracy and content “just to get by,” let us always remember to look up, to start afresh from God, to be enlightened by his word and to find the courage needed to start anew. The only way to escape from a labyrinth is to see things “from above.”

It takes courage to journey, to fare forward. It is a matter of love. I think of something I once heard from a zealous priest, which can also help us in our work in the Curia. He said that it is not easy to rekindle the embers under the ashes of the Church. Today we strive to kindle passion in those who have long since lost it. Sixty years after the Council, we are still debating the division between “progressives” and “conservatives,” while the real difference is between lovers and those who have lost that initial passion. That is the difference. Only those who love fare forward.

Brothers and sisters, thank you for your work and your dedication. In that work, may we cultivate the hearing of the heart and serve the Lord by learning to accept and listen to one another. Let us practise discernment, in order to be a Church that strives to interpret the signs of history in the light of the Gospel, one that seeks solutions that communicate the Father’s love. And let us always keep journeying forward, with humility and wonder, lest we fall into the presumption of thinking we have arrived, lest the desire for God fade from our hearts. Thank you especially for all the work that you do in silence. Listening, discerning, journeying.

May the Lord Jesus, the Word Incarnate, grant us the grace to rejoice in humble and generous service. Please, may we never lose our sense of humour!

To you and to your loved ones I offer my prayerful good wishes for a blessed Christmas. And I ask you, please, to say a prayer for me before the manger.

Wisdom From “Poor Richard’s Almanack”

By Benjamin Franklin

The favour of the Great is no inheritance.

Fools make feasts and wise men

eat ’em.

Beware of the young Doctor and

the old Barber.

He has chang’d his one ey’d horse

for a blind one.

The poor have little, beggars

none, the rich too much, enough

not one.

LEGAL

(2022-C-000261 - Harrison County - ROB HAWKINS)

To: RYAN LILLEY, RYAN LILLEY, RYAN LILLEY, NAJ LLC ATTN: ROBERT L. JOHNS, THOMAS F. JOHNS, ROBERT L. JOHNS, ROBERT L. JOHNS, 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 1001 PARCEL 0016 0000 6001

You will take notice that ROB HAWKINS, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No. 2022-C-000261**, located in CLAY SHINNSTON CORP, District, PT OT 7 HOWARD PLACE (PART GARAGE), which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of LILLEY GLORIA ANN 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. ROB HAWKINS requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after June 1, 2024, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before May 31, 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 - 18155.	\$	210.33
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 - 18264.	\$	135.57
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	212.70
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	830.27
Additional Statutory Fees with interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	1,388.87

You may redeem at any time before May 31, 2024, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

Given under my hand December 11, 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**

LEGAL

(2021-S-00000361 - Harrison County - WVTJ LLC)

To: ROBERT CURTIS WEBB, ROBERT CURTIS WEBB, ROBERT CURTIS WEBB, OCCUPANT, IRS, ATTN: ADVISORY CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS, WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, WIRT C WEBB ESTATE, 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 SIMPSON OUTSIDE DISTRICT MAP 290A PARCEL 0007 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-00000361, 1 LOT #1 RAIN TREE ACRES BLK A, located in SIMPSON OUTSIDE DISTRICT, which was returned delinquent in the name of WEBB WIRT C 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 February 5, 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, February 4, 2024, will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to February 4, 2024.	\$	700.27
Amount of subsequent year's taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to February 4, 2024.	\$	543.83
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 February 4, 2024.	\$	1,200.04
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to February 4, 2024.	\$	320.82
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.	\$	2,764.96
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 February 4, 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**

“Obituaries” From Pg 7.

and Shawn C. Marra and his wife Biacalla VanSant Marra; his grandchildren, Joanina “Joni” K. Edgell and her husband Christopher; John Marra IV and his partner Destiny Casada, all of Shinnston; Randal Scott Marra of Charleston; and Kassedi Marra of Grafton; his great-grandchildren, Camdyn J. Marra; Eli S. Marra; Sophia Casada; Tyson C. Edgell; and Deondre Edgell; his sister, Rose Marra Fluharty of Shinnston; his aunt, Nellie Hamrick and her husband Frank of Shinnston; he is also survived by his nieces and nephews, Janice Nevin and the late Thomas Nevin; Ann Marie Marra and Robert Hoover; Katherine Picarro and her husband Joe; Louie Mike Marra and his wife Lori; Michael Barbina and his wife Crystal; and great nieces, Elana Catherine Marra, and Theby Rose Gregory

In addition to his parents, John was preceded in death by his step-son, Randy E. Marra; his brothers, Sam “Mooch” Marra; Louie Marra and his wife Joanne; Frank “Montana” Marra and his wife Gloria; and James “Billy Boy” Marra and his wife Marielana; and his brother-in-law, Don Fluharty.

More than a job, John

had a passion for mining coal. He started his life in the coal business at 17 years old where he would hand load coal with his father. He was operating the miner machine the day that the Dawson Mine mined over one-thousand tons in a single shift. This record resulted in a special phone call from the President of the mines. John also served as Manager and Superintendent of mines during his career. He was the current owner and operator of Marra Mine Management.

John was also a great singer. He was known to sound just like famous artists like Elvis, Dean Martin, and Nat King Cole. From the age of four, John carried a scar on his head resulting from the Shinnston Tornado. There are not enough words to describe what John meant to his family and what his family meant to him.

In keeping with his wishes, cremation services were provided by Perine Funeral Home. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Online memories and condolences can be shared at www.perinefunerals.com

perinefunerals.com

**David Lee Marsh**

David Lee Marsh, 96, of Idamay, passed away on Monday, December 25, 2023, at his residence. He was born in Pennsylvania, September 2, 1927, a son of the late Thomas and Florence Stover Marsh. On June 23, 1950, he married Ida Jackson Marsh, who preceded him in death on June 30, 2006.

Surviving are two sons, Greg Marsh, Idamay, David Marsh and his wife Patty, Oakland, MD; his son-in-law, Terry Beveridge, Idamay; eleven grandchildren: Gregory Marsh and his wife Nicole, Monongah, Jonathan Marsh and his wife Brittany, Fairmont, Tyler Fubio and his wife Kelsie, Monongah, David Lee Marsh, III and his wife Sophia, Oakland, Matthew, Caleb, Victoria, Olivia, and Moriah Marsh, all of Oakland, Chad Beveridge, and Nicole Turner and her husband Jermaine; great-

LEGAL

(2021-S-00000371 - Harrison County - WVTJ LLC)

To: STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA HARRISON COUNTY MAGISTRATE, JOHN D MARTIN TRUSTEE, HARRISON COUNTY BANK, WILLIAM TODD STEWART, WILLIAM TODD STEWART, WILLIAM TODD STEWART, OCCUPANT, IRS, ATTN: ADVISORY CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS, WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA HARRISON COUNTY PROSECUTOR, WILLIAM TODD STEWART, 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 UNION WEST MILFORD CORP MAP 385 PARCEL 0075 0001

You will take notice that WVTJ LLC, the purchaser of the tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2021-S-00000371, .56AC WEST MILFORD (1977 14X56 M/HOME), located in UNION WEST MILFORD CORP, which was returned delinquent in the name of STEWART WILLIAM TODD, 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 February 5, 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, February 4, 2024, will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to February 4, 2024.	\$	613.21
Amount of subsequent year's taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to February 4, 2024.	\$	479.36
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 February 4, 2024.	\$	1,375.15
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to February 4, 2024.	\$	495.10
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.	\$	2,962.82
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 February 4, 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**

grandchildren: Ryder Marsh, Hunter Marsh, Aurora Frances Fubio, David Lee Marsh, IV, Daniel Marsh, Jonathan Marsh, Jackson Marsh, Emma Bernard, Chase and Chaz Colanero, America, Cyrus, and Zaakii Turner, Lilly and T.J. Beveridge, Emily Beveridge; and several nieces and nephews.

He was also preceded in death by one daughter, Penny Beveridge; and his siblings, Vivian Sloan, Thomas Marsh, Chuck Marsh, and Kate Hartley.

David was a WWII Veteran having served with the United States Navy. He was a coal miner, formerly employed with Consol Energy at the #20 Four States mine. He later worked for Patriot Mining and the town of Idamay. David was an avid motorcyclist and loved trading used cars. He was a member of the Crossroads Church in Oakland, MD.

The family will receive friends at Jewel City Church, 511 Jewel City Blvd, Meadowbrook, WV, from 10am until the time of the funeral service at 12pm, Friday, December 29, with Pastor David Marsh officiating. Interment will be in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Farmington. Condolences may be extended to the family at www.perinefunerals.com. The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Marsh family.

**Kenneth (Kenny) Kevin Ray Martin**

Kenneth (Kenny) Kevin Ray Martin, 50, of Haywood, passed away at his residence on December 24,

2023. He was born on February 5, 1973, in Clarksburg, to the late Patsy Paul Martin, and his surviving mother, Billie Martin. Along with his mother, he is also survived by his siblings, sisters Mildred Sue King (Robert) of Wyatt, Penny Watson of Shinnston, Joy Martin of Haywood, and brother Paul Martin (Diane) of Loris, SC; nephews Nile McPherson (Christina), Dusty Watson (Amanda Oliverio), Travis Watson (Rebekah) Jarrett Martin, and Levi Martin (Rebekah); and nieces Kayla McPherson and Monica Ailstock (Bryan Camp).

Kenny is preceded in death by his aunt Pauline Davis; uncle Jim Davis; brother-in-law Darwin Watson; paternal grandmother Mildred Martin; and maternal grandparents Ralph and Virginia Davis.

Kenny enjoyed riding four wheelers, loved his English Bulldog, building models, working on cars, and going to car shows with his dad.

Friends will be received at Harmer Funeral Home on Friday, January 5, 2024 from 2:00-6:00PM, with a funeral service at 6:00PM officiated by Pastor Paul Martin. Per his wishes, Kenny will be cremated.

**Ronald Leon Miller**

Ronald Leon Miller, 80, of Shinnston, passed away on 2:20am, Saturday, December 16, 2023, at the United Hospital Center in Bridgeport. He was born in Shinnston, November 2, 1943, a son of the late Harvey Harold and Sadie Leona Heldreth

Miller. On October 15, 1966, he married Virginia Darlene Eagle Miller who preceded in death on January 6, 2020.

Surviving are three children: Joe Leon Miller and his wife Tina, Worthington, Arreda Ann Garrett, Newton Falls, OH, Matthew Kent Miller, Newton Falls; grandchildren: Ashely Ice and her husband Justin, Lumberport, Will Wayner, Seth Wayner, both of Newton Falls, Amber Reed and her husband Dan Reed, Jacob Miller, Joey Miller, all of Clarksburg, and Jennifer Garrett, Newton Falls; a great granddaughter, Kenzie Ice; one brother, Hayward Lee Miller and his wife Doris, Shinnston; his sister-in-law, Ruby Miller, Shinnston, and several nieces and nephews.

Ronald was also preceded in death by a great-grandchild, Angel Ice, and his siblings, Jack Miller, Kathleen “Buzz” Sears, and Warren Miller.

Ronald retired from the General Motors Company with over 30 years of service. He enjoyed hunting and fishing in his younger years. He was an avid sports fan and especially like to watch football. He was a loving husband and “Papa” and will be greatly missed.

A graveside service will be held at the Lion's Club Cemetery in Lumberport on Wednesday, December 20, at 1pm. Condolences may be extended to the family at www.perinefunerals.com. The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Miller family.

See “Obituaries” on Pg 10

“Obituaries” From Pg 9.



Richard Harvey Moore

Richard Harvey Moore, 78, of Clarksburg, passed away on Friday, December 29, 2023 at River Oaks Healthcare Center. He was born in Clarksburg on September 22, 1945 to the late Walter

and Margaret (Curry) Moore. He worked as at Spelter Zinc Plant and proudly served his country in the United States Army. Richard is survived by one daughter, Lori Hathaway of Clarksburg; one son, Aaron Richard Moore of Meadowbrook; one granddaughter, Faith Ellen Smith; one brother, Daniel Moore and wife Anna of OH; two sisters: Katherine Miller of New Brunswick, OH and Darla Keding and husband Alex of

Lakeside Marblehead, OH as well as his nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, Richard is preceded in death by his wife, Toni (Spino) Moore and two brothers: Todd Moore and Buddy Moore and two sisters: Glenna Moore and Georgia McCaulley. In keeping with Richard’s wishes, private interment will take place at Lumberport Lions Cemetery. Dorsey Funeral Home is honored to be handling the arrangements for the Moore family.



Fara Mae Webb

Fara Mae Webb, 91, of Mannington, passed away on Friday, December 15, 2023 at United Hospital Center. She was born in Enterprise on March 20, 1932 to the late Ernest

Jay Martin and Mayme Agnes (O’Dell) Martin. Fara attended Charity Baptist Church in Oakdale. She enjoyed watching old movies, westerns and sitting on her porch. She is survived by two sons: David Webb of Wyatt and Frederick Webb and his wife Patricia of Easley, SC; two granddaughters: Deidre Smallwood and husband Austin of Chapin, SC and Lindsey Griffith and husband Christian of MO; one grandson, James Webb and wife Melissa of Barrackville; one step

grandson, Michael Mikulas of Easley, SC; one step great granddaughter, Isabel Garcia of Barrackville and one brother, Harry Vance Martin of Pine Bluff. In addition to her parents, Fara is preceded in death by her husband, Allen Russell Webb; two sisters: Barbara Jane Moore and Hilda Irene Matheny and three brothers: Darrell “Jack” Jackson Martin, Bernard “Gene” Eugene Martin and Frederick “Jake” Paul Martin.

West Virginia: The state most vulnerable to flood disasters?

WVSOM involved in National Science Foundation grant for West Virginia flood preparedness

WV Press Association

LEWISBURG, W.Va. — As West Virginians prepare for 2024, an official at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine’s Center for Rural and Community Health (CRCH) wants to be sure citizens and state officials are aware of the need to prepare for flooding.

“By some measures, West Virginia is the state most vulnerable to flood disaster. We have plenty of rain, and we have steep mountains and rivers and creeks. We have beautiful topography we love, that also happens to make our communities vulnerable. It’s important to let people know about their risk so that they can prepare before a flood happens and better deal with it after it happens,” said Julian Levine, CRCH director of community outreach. “Research shows that floods will continue to happen, but we can change how damaging they are.”

Julian Levine

Levine and WVSOM are participating in a yearlong project to help West Virginia’s communities become better prepared to recover from floods. The school’s Center for Rural and Community Health (CRCH) is one of several collaborators on a \$787,594 grant the National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded to the State University of New York’s (SUNY) Environmental Science and Forestry Campus. Through the project, Levine and the CRCH will help create the West Virginia Flood Resilience Framework, a resource to support residents, local leaders, nonprofit organizations and state officials in increasing communities’ flood resilience. It’s essential that West Virginians be prepared for flooding, Levine said, citing Federal Emergency Management Agency data stating that 99 percent of U.S. counties experienced at least one flood between 1996 and 2019.

James W. Nemitz, Ph.D., WVSOM’s president, said while WVSOM is better known as the state’s largest medical school, research is a key element of the work being done on campus and through the CRCH. He said the school’s work on the West Virginia Flood Resilience Framework will help strengthen the state’s response to natural disasters. Nemitz, James, Ph.D., President WVSOM Having been at WVSOM for 38 years, Nemitz has seen the flooding in West Virginia and knows the impact. “Floods have been devastating to our region, and I am encouraged that through this project we will be better prepared for future catastrophic events. I applaud the work of so many to address this threat to the well-being of our communities,” Nemitz said. For Levine, it was while working on flood relief throughout Greenbrier County

as an AmeriCorps volunteer in 2016 that he saw firsthand the devastation caused by the deluge. He said the experience eventually brought him to the attention of Shinn, a West Virginia University geographer who was researching the flood experience in the county. When Shinn later took a position at the State University of New York, the Civic Innovation Challenge grant followed her. Levine will help create and implement a statewide survey of West Virginia residents regarding the impact of floods. He also will assist with project management and connecting communities to the initiative. “We’re going to use the survey to assess how well West Virginia residents have recovered from previous floods and how prepared they are for future floods,” Levine said. “Then we’ll work with communities to develop visualizations and methods of understanding risk,

and ultimately create an online tool that’s accessible to anyone in the state to improve their knowledge of flood risk, floodplain management and disaster preparation.” The project represents the second phase of an NSF Civic Innovation Challenge grant, the result of a research and action competition focused on transitioning emerging technologies and concepts into community actions to address longstanding challenges. Levine and other co-investigators, led by primary investigator Jamie Shinn, Ph.D., at SUNY, were selected for the second-phase grant after completing its first phase, which examined lessons learned from the flood that damaged portions of West Virginia in 2016, looking specifically at its effects in Greenbrier County. Levine said the grant represents a unique opportunity from the NSF, a federal agency that supports research and education in the

fields of science and engineering. “A lot of what the National Science Foundation does tends to be hard science. This is an attempt to do something more community-focused, to bring together academic expertise, civic organizations and people at the community level to create useful tools that can be implemented quickly. We should celebrate that,” he said. Work funded by the grant is expected to be completed by September 2024. Other collaborators on the project include West Virginia University and its Land Use and Sustainable Development Law Clinic; the West Virginia Geographic Information Systems Technical Center; the West Virginia State Resiliency Office; West Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

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