



The SHINNSTON News & Journal HARRISON COUNTY

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Focusing on local news throughout Harrison County.



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Middle School Hosts “Get A Life” Event

By Stephen Smoot

Over the years, a common complaint about schools across the nation came from the idea that the education system neglected key life skills. Where science, math, English, and history were learned, sometimes the basics of financial teaching fell by the wayside.

Schools across West Virginia, with the help of the West Virginia Treasurer’s Office, county chambers of commerce, and countless community volunteers, have told those in the middle grades that it’s time to “Get a Life.”

The program sets up various stations that

represent typical costs of living everyday life. Students get a card to start that explains their job, their salary, the size of their family, and other important details. Beth Roberts, a financial education specialist, represented the State Treasurer’s office at the event and brought supplies. The Harrison County Chamber of Commerce recruited volunteers to work the station tables and the West Virginia University Extension service also brought helpers as well.

Dr. Geraldine Beckett, Harrison County Schools Liaison for Career and Technical Education Programs, explained that “the first round is with them

See “Event” on Pg 4



Lincoln Middle students navigated real life financial decisions during the Get a Life program put on by the West Virginia Treasurer’s Office, Harrison County Chamber of Commerce, WVU Extension, and numerous volunteers from in and around the Shinnston business community.

Parents and Other Caregivers of Children Can Get In Home Help

By Stephen Smoot

Many of the recent discussions and changes in state public education have centered more around the behavior of children. State Senate Education Committee chair Amy Grady, a fourth grade teacher in Mason County, recently told West Virginia Metro News that

“we’re talking about threatening teachers, throwing things at other students, throwing things across the room, slamming things, hitting things.”

And she was including the youngest of students in that.

The rise of severe and dangerous behavior problems in school points to

bigger problems at home. For the past three years, the former Department of Health and Human Resources, now the Department of Health Services, has relied on a Medicaid waiver program to help parents and other caregivers contend with their children’s

serious emotional and behavioral disorders.

The point of the program, according to Cindy Beane, commissioner of the West Virginia Bureau of Medical Services, lies in “trying to keep West Virginia kids home and with their parents.”

According to a state

See “Help” on Pg 3

“Mud Month”



By Jim Hunt for the News and Journal

As January morphs into February, we enter

a season I like to call “Mud Month”. It hasn’t always been this way

and many years ago, we would be anticipating several more months of wintery weather with fluffy white snow covering the ground till the April flowers started to break

through the gardens. I am not sure if this is global warming or just a phase, but February has all the hallmarks of a season created by the car wash industry.

I have driven white vehicles for the last twenty-five years and for most of the year, I can go several weeks without a wash, and

See “Hunt” on Pg 3

American Legion Brought Halloween Joy to Community Kids

On Saturday, October 21, members of the American Legion family gathered to fill Halloween treat bags and to decorate the Post 31 social hall for the annual event.

On Sunday, October 22, American Legion Post 31 and the American Legion Family (Auxiliary, Sons and Riders) held its annual children’s Halloween party beginning at 2:00 pm at the post home. A large group of children accompanied by their parent(s)/grandparent(s) enjoyed an afternoon of fun and games. The highlight of the afternoon was the haunted house which they all enjoyed. Each child received a Halloween treat bag filled with candy and other small toys and games.



Pictured are Auxiliary Unit 31 members, along with members of the American Legion Post 31, SAL, and Legion Riders. Although most of our ghouls and goblins would not identify themselves, on the front row is Marsha Duckworth, Dortha Parsons, Carla Wilfong, and in the back row, Matthew Keith



The American Legion family (Legion, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders) believes that as long as Halloween activities are sponsored and promoted in our various communities that it can be a fun and safe night.

Commission Approves Purchase of Meadowbrook Drive Properties

By Stephen Smoot

Last week, the Harrison County Commission held its regular meeting at 11 AM. Commissioner Patsy Trecost led off the meeting with a prayer, asking a blessing on the body and its work “with your light shining through us . . . as You are an example for all

of us.”

Commissioners then led the room in the Pledge of Allegiance and commenced its official business for the day.

In the initial minutes of the meeting, commissioners voted to approve the payment of requisitions, purchase orders, and invoices. Commissioner David

See “Purchase” on Pg 3



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



Guest Column

By Charlotte Lane
Chair, WV Public Service Commission

Country Roads, Take Me Home

I turned on my car radio this morning and had to smile. John Denver's song, "Country Roads" was playing, which always makes me happy. I am not an exception in loving this song; and hearing it lifts my spirit, which is true for all West Virginians.

As I listened to the lyrics, my mind drifted to the many who use our highways every day as they travel through our mountains. We are a friendly bunch, not only offering hospitality, but caring about the safety of others. I have often watched a Mountaineer stop to change a flat or check on a stranded motorist. We care about people.

At the Public Service Commission of West Virginia, we also are diligent about safety inspections. Our transportation officers perform inspections routinely on the large trucks and buses that travel our highways to make sure they meet strict safety regulations. They also man the weigh stations throughout the state that help keep commercial motor vehicles in compliance with state and federal regulations.

As Denver traveled through our state, I am sure he found great pleasure. He clearly defined our people and our state's majesty in his lyrics. He portrayed us well.

"Country Roads" is one of West Virginia's four official state songs. It captures the core of our natural wonders and the spirit of our people. Denver's tune is catchy, but his lyrics pay tribute to a remarkable place to raise families.

The well-known chorus, "take me home, to the place I belong," invigorates me. We are proud of our state and truly feel that sense of belonging. Our people make this land unique, but the beauty and our culture add to the magical nature of the state we call home.

When he sings, "Life is old there, older than the trees," I am reminded of the deep-rooted history that breathes life into every corner of our great state. Our heritage and culture are woven into our very fabric through stories of resilience during troubled times, through our hard-working nature, and the strong spirit of our people.

As you journey through our rolling hills to explore our hidden treasures, let John Denver's song guide you along those country roads, reminding you of what makes West Virginia so special.

Think about the great people who made the Mountain State what it is today; and whisper a thank you to our great transportation officers. And remember, this is "Almost Heaven."

Super Crossword

THE SILVER SCREEN

- ACROSS: 1 Guy in the Beatles' "I Am the Walrus"
46 Beginner, in gaming lingo
47 Use sandpaper on, informally
48 Ed. supporter
50 Brain wave tests, in brief
54 -Ball (carnival game)
57 Lubbock-to-Laredo dir.
58 1986 Isabella Rossellini neo-noir film
61 WWW page
64 Musical inaptitude
67 Having arrived tardily
68 Choose (to)
69 1984 Gene Wilder romantic comedy
72 "— said before ..."
73 "The Lion in Winter" actor
75 Dawned
76 Certain English student
78 1984 Prince musical film
80 Psychic "gift"
82 Table scraps
83 Graf — (German warship)
84 Potent compound in marijuana: Abbr.
85 Sequence of episodes on the tube
89 Test of speed
92 1986 Molly Ringwald Cinderella story
96 6x9-inch book
99 Attach with cord, e.g.
101 Actor Patrick
102 1992 Wesley Snipes sports film
107 ABA mem.
108 Sol-do linkup
109 Meat spread
110 "Starpeace" singer Yoko
111 — voce (quietly)
113 Smart speaker from Amazon
115 Photos not in shades of gray ... or what eight answers in this puzzle are?
120 Precisely, with "on"
121 Retaliate
122 Czar called "the Great"
123 More impertinent
124 Actor Dick Van —
125 Evaluate
DOWN: 1 Tokens
2 Telescope pioneer
3 Newton topic
4 Rats' relatives
5 Crooner Paul
6 "Prob'ly not"
7 Carpentry rod
8 Invite out for
9 Hardly happy
10 Of yore
11 Unfamiliar
12 Fails to be satisfactory
13 Skulked
14 Sci-fi role for Harrison Ford
15 Cup edge
16 Muckraker who took on Standard Oil
17 "That's all wrong!"
18 Funeral speech
19 Fashion trends
24 Jackson 5 hit
29 Meyers of "Dutch"
32 Comes — surprise
33 Tribe of Canada
34 Piercing
35 Come in first
36 Vintage auto
38 Someone — problem
39 Sleep stage
43 "I fail — the humor"
44 Some sporty autos
45 Orating skill
46 No, in Selkirk
48 Least ornate
49 Zig or zag
51 Major Taiwanese carrier
52 Implies
53 Pub mugs
54 Nosy sorts
55 Sustained
56 Automaker Bugatti
58 Part of N.B.
59 Lead-in to Cong or Minh
60 Lead-in to skeleton
62 "— cost you!"
63 You, quaintly
65 "Sign me up!"
66 Rapper Lil — X
70 Infant's cry
71 Reimburse
74 Surgeries
77 Like sexist jokes
79 Road map abbr.
81 Tennis unit
85 1982 film and arcade game
86 Steam hole
87 Ninny
88 Bump — log
90 Road map abbr.
91 Write music
92 Pod veggie
93 Like Charlie Brown's kite, inevitably
94 Seine users, e.g.
95 Result of a very-low-carb diet
96 Hooting baby birds
97 Latin dance
98 Gives 10%
99 Blast creator
100 Polar topper
103 Diner patron
104 1995-2011 Yankee Posada
105 Release, as from a corral
106 "Excusez—!"
111 Holy Mlles.
112 Excuses
114 "— have to?"
116 Female gametes
117 Allow to
118 Ottawa loc.
119 1040 pro

Grid for Super Crossword with numbers 1-125 indicating starting positions for words.

FIND THE SUPER CROSSWORD ANSWERS ON PAGE 6!

THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

Feb. 1, 1901: Frank Buckles, the last surviving American veteran of World War I, was born in Missouri. Broadcast announcer Jack Fleming was born in Morgantown. He was the

long-time "Voice of the Mountaineers." Feb. 3, 1961: The West Virginia legislature passed a resolution adopting "The West Virginia Hills" as an official state song. Prior to "Take Me Home, Country Roads," "The West Virginia Hills" was the best-known of our four official state songs. Feb. 4, 1845: Doddridge County was formed from parts of Harrison, Lewis, Ritchie, and Tyler counties. It was named for Philip Doddridge, a Western Virginia congressman, state legislator and member of the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1829-30. Feb. 4, 1945: The hotel at Minnehaha Springs was destroyed by fire. Built in 1914, it was the first facility in Pocahontas County built strictly for the tourist business and

Advertisement for The News & Journal, including contact information for Michael Showell (Publisher), Debra Smith (Advertising), and Bill Nestor (Sports Editor). Includes subscription rates and address: P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

“Help” From Pg 1.

website, the Children With Serious Emotional Disorders Waiver (or CSEDW) “provides additional Medicaid support to children ages three to 21 with serious mental, behavioral, or emotional health needs.”

In many cases, especially when the children show the potential to harm themselves or others, residential treatment programs have traditionally served as one of the first options for care. Some of these treatment resources take the children hundreds of miles away to other states, far from their comfort zone of family and place.

Other children have ended up in West Virginia’s critically overburdened foster care system.

As Beane explained, separation from the

home environment is “traumatic for the child.” She added that “we don’t want them to have disruption in their home life” if services can provide sufficient in home services.”

The waiver program relies on a network of providers that serve every county in the state. Damon Cater of Charleston’s Home Base Inc. serves clients all over the state. He said that prior to the waiver program “there was a severe lack of meaningful and effective community based services to work with this population in the child’s home and community.”

Beane shared that the program started when the State of West Virginia asked the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services “if we could have an

in-home program to provide services.” The goal lay in bringing treatment to the child and keeping him or her in the environment in which they felt most comfortable.

This obviously assumes that their current home is safe and secure.

The CSEDW program brings more benefits than providing supportive services. “It’s actually going to be cost efficient,” Beane says, over residential treatment or foster care that “takes the child out of the home, away from family.”

Similar to the CSEDW model, in home services for senior care have proven more beneficial to the client and also less costly for taxpayer supported medical payment programs.

Additionally, the

program also helps the parents or other caregivers.

Beane explained that is “why the program is so well received. Parents don’t know what to do.” Services include engaging with caregivers to give them better strategies and tactics for helping the children in their care.

Cater shared an example of what a CSEDW can do for a family. “In one case,” he said, “a sibling group was on the verge of losing an opportunity to be adopted due to the behavioral and emotional dynamics being displayed in the home.” A CSEDW waiver paid for eight months of in home treatment and “the adoption was able to proceed successfully and the family is intact today.”

“Had it not been for CSED,” Cater said,

“these kids would probably be placed in foster care and probably would have had to endure a multitude of placements and separation over the past few years.”

Cater added that services covered can include respite, supportive counseling, wrap around facilitation, independent living skills, job development, and more. The more resilient such services can make a family, the better off the children will be in their care.

Programs such as CSEDW, Communities in Schools, and other resources have arisen to fill the gaps once covered by the traditional family. As two parent households become more rare, children and those who care for them enjoy less support and more

burdens. Add to this the scourge of drug abuse and addiction that has ripped apart family units and exposed children to, at best, neglect and at worst serious abuse, and the need becomes clear.

Many of the children in the worst need do not live with their parents at all. “West Virginia is one of those states with a lot of kinship care programs,” Beane said. Many children live with grandparents, others with aunts or uncles, family friends, or even siblings.

The breakdown of the traditional family has also deprived many parents and caregivers of solid role models for parenting.

“Our goal,” Beane stated, “is that West Virginia children need to stay in West Virginia and be raised by their families.”

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

Change of Hours

The Clarksburg History Museum is located at 445 W. Main St. Clarksburg in the Bd. of Education building. We are expanding hours of operation to Tuesday -Saturday 10 am -4 pm.

The Museum is free to the public. We have over 30 exhibits for viewing such as Stonewall Jackson, John W. Davis, sports, Civil War, schools, Hope Gas, coal exhibit to mention a few.

The Buzz Henderson Center at Jewel City Church and the related Buzz Learning Academy after school program. is planning an open house on February 4, 2024 from 1:00PM - 4:00 PM and would like to invite the public to see the new sports facility and all we have to offer.

The Palette, located at 225 Pike St. in Shinnston, is currently featuring watercolor, and mixed media works by Carolyn Martin Light.

This week the gallery is open Tuesday, 5-7:00 and Wednesday 12-3:00.

We are also offering Kids Paint, Tuesday, February 6, 6-7:00pm, \$10 for an 8x10 canvas.

We will be painting a Happy Heart!

Join us upstairs at the Palette. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram at thepalettewv for updates

on hours and upcoming events! Email us at thepalettewv@gmail.com for more information

The First Baptist Church of Shinnston on Sunday, Feb.11 12:00p.m. will hold a

Souper Bowl Luncheon @ the Lighthouse sponsored by Baptist Youth Fellowship

Soup & Crackers, sandwiches, desserts and a drink for \$6.00 to be benefit The Lord’s Pantry.

“Purchase” From Pg 1.

Hinkle posed a question concerning fire tax assessments against the county. He said “we’re paying Clarksburg fire tax” and asked if “staff to look into if we’re paying fire tax for any city we’re in.”

Hinkle said he was “all right” with supporting emergency services, but questioned why a government entity had to pay a tax. Susan Thomas, Harrison County Commission president, noted that churches had faced assessment for the tax as well.

Typically churches, as 501 © 3 non profits, do not pay taxes.

Hinkle said “we’re getting hit both ways. That doesn’t sit with me.” He referred to support voluntarily paid by the county in addition to assessed fire taxes.

Commissioners then went into a 19 minute long executive session to discuss line item

number six, an “option to purchase property on Meadowbrook Road. Upon its closure, the commission voted to do so.

Later in the meeting, Thomas exclaimed “I’m excited about number six, to get it started.” Hinkle agreed, saying “we’re going to see some exciting things.”

The purchase will kick off a partnership with the City of Bridgeport and Thrasher Group.

On the Sunday and Monday prior to the meeting, offices in the new General Services building experienced a failure of the heating system during the most frigid temperatures so far this winter. Laura Pysz-Laulis, Harrison County administrator, said the heating issues were addressed and that she should receive an update soon.

Hinkle later said of the mechanical malfunction that “I want to apologize for what the offices and

the employees had to go through . . . they’ve been troopers.”

He added that “we’re trying to make it right,” then praised Pysz-Laulis and the staff for “doing a good job trying to rectify it.”

Gina Jones, Director of Grants and Special Projects for the Harrison County Day Report Center, next brought forward two resolutions to enable her office to pursue funding for programs. The first resolution is “authorizing the application for funds from the FY 2024 West Virginia Community Corrections Fund for the Harrison County Community Corrections Program”

The resolution allows Jones to pursue funds “not to exceed \$200,000” and places Thomas in administrative oversight “and to provide all additional information required by the State

government.”

She also requested a resolution to authorize her pursuit of an \$80,000 grant from the West Virginia Justice Reinvestment Initiative Treatment Supervision Grant Program.

In other business, the commission appointed Michael Sieber to return to the Bingamon Public Service District Board. It also set dates and times for the Board of Review and Equalization to meet.

These are currently scheduled as meeting on Jan 31 at 11 AM, Feb 5 at 10 AM, Feb 7 at 2 PM (this includes oil and gas), Feb 12 at 12 PM, Feb 14 at 11 AM, Feb 20 at 12 PM, and will adjourn sine die on Feb 23 at 10 AM.

This body reviews petitions concerning potentially mistaken assessments on property for tax purposes.

“Hunt” From Pg 1.

it still looks clean. Unfortunately, during Mud Month, my car has a brown stain along the sides and screams out to be washed. I gave in to the temptation and ran it through the car wash and just as I was turning onto my street, I hit a huge pothole and brown streaks appeared before I hit the garage door opener.

When they opened the new car washes that allow you to wash your

car as many times as you need, I wondered how they were going to stay in business. I now realize that they are on to something. I can remember when the only car washes were the ones where you fed the quarters and had to use the wand to clean your car. You would spray around the tires and the lower half of the car to get the salt and grime off the car. I remember the time that a lady had laid the wand on the ground and then put in the quarters. The wand suddenly sprang to life and took on a life of its own. It beat the side of the car for over three minutes until the attendant wrestled it to the ground.

For most of my life, I did not have a garage and my car would stay

parked in the driveway or the street in front of my house. I dreamed of the day when I would have my own garage and not have to brush snow off the car or chip away at the ice on the windshield. When we built our house a few years ago, we insisted on building an extra-large garage, enough for both cars,

lawnmowers, rakes, and garbage cans. The only flaw in that logic was the dirt and dust that flowed off the car when the snow melted and left a minefield of slush on the floor.

I think the only practical thing to do is cancel the month of February and just extend January for

about fifteen days and then start the month of March. This has

the added benefit of avoiding the made-up holiday of Valentine’s Day and saving enough money for a full shine and detail on the old jalopy. I doubt many people would notice, since February barely has enough days in it to be considered a real month. And, for basketball fans, it would give a few extra weeks for March Madness since it seems like every few years, they add another twenty teams to the tourney.

If you haven’t figured out by now, I’m not a big fan of February. When I complained to my wife,

she said I should buy a brown car. I still have spoken to her! Have a great month and I might see you at the car wash!

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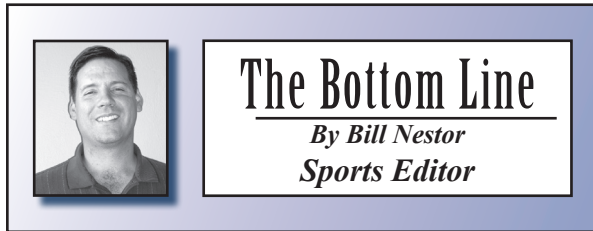
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Country Roads Take the Mountaineers Home

The West Virginia University men's basketball team has been battling uphill all season long. Interim Head Coach Josh Eilert has been under the microscope since the season began. The Mountaineers have shown marked improvement, which led to a significant win over Texas. It was the first win over a top 25 opponent for Eilert and it provided confidence in his squad, and more importantly, his abilities to make in-game adjustments as well as personnel moves.

A few days later, WVU shocked the world and put the Big 12 Conference on notice when they upset number three Kansas in Morgantown. The Mountaineers broke a halftime tie, outsourcing the Jayhawks 40 to 34 in the second half to pull the upset and give Eilert a true signature win. A season high 12,208 fans were in attendance to provide a true home court advantage. It took the fuel from the fans, coupled with exceptional play from nearly every West Virginia player that stepped on the



The Bottom Line

By Bill Nestor
Sports Editor

hardwood to earn that victory.

RaeQuan Battle netted 23 points and grabbed nine rebounds. Patrick Suemnick scored 20 points and nabbed six caroms. Kerr Kriisa hit for 15 points on three of four shooting from deep. Seth Wilson just missed double digits with nine points on three of three shooting from three-point range. Quinn Slazinski chipped in with eight points and five rebounds. Noah Farrakhan put in four points, dished out a game-high six assists, and pulled in five caroms.

The Mountaineers brought their hats and lunch pails and went to work on the glass, outrebounding Kansas 31 to 22 in the affair. Eilert took dead aim on the Jayhawks prior to the tilt with some exceptional pregame preparation while his players took laser-focused aim during

the actual lock-up, providing a shooting exhibition unlike any other this season. WVU was 12 for 21 in three-point shots, which equates to 57 percent.

The hosts were impressive from the floor overall, hitting 29 of 56 shots (52 percent.)

The Mountaineers were flying high after the Kansas win, but that was short-lived as they suffered a humbling setback the next time out, last Tuesday against the University of Central Florida. The 13-point defeat was a reminder that an "A" effort is needed every night out, especially on the road, in the Big 12 Conference. It always seems like the calls don't go your way (on the road) and the free money attempts at the foul line don't seem to present themselves as much. In the win over Kansas at the Coliseum, the Mountaineers were 21 for 25 from the foul line. In Tuesday's

setback against the Knights, the Eers were just six of 10 from the stripe. Less calls equals less trips to the line, which means lower point production. When the Mounties shocked the world, they almost hit triple digits (91 versus the Jayhawks.) In the loss last week, they barely made it half way to 100 (59 points at UCF.) Against the number three team in all of the land, three starters scored in double digits, but when they squared off against the unranked Knights, there were no starters in double figures.

The telling number in the equation is seven. It's the number of wins at home this season for West Virginia and it is the total number of victories this squad owns. Eilert must prove that he can win on the road if he wants to remove the interim from his title. He needs a handful of victories away from Touchdown City for his team to grow the confidence needed to make a postseason run. The next few weeks will definitely tell the tale of this season.

Vikings Sail Away With Win



A Ripley defender tightly contests a Cougar jump shot in the 62 to 41 setback last week.

Lincoln Dance Team Commences Performances



The Cougar dance team opened up a series of six performances, first in the girls game against Ripley.

"Event" From Pg 1.

making minimum wage or a little better income, so many of them go broke before buying everything they need."

They then must go to select housing, transportation, food, utilities, and other items. They must wisely balance housing and other costs, along with their salary. Marla Ferree, marketing director for the Harrison County Chamber of Commerce, described how community volunteer experts helped to guide the students.

Volunteers like "Connie Wolfe, from WesBanco Shinnston, had a different career for the day. Connie was the gas station attendant and when the students came to her, she helped them by asking what kind of car they purchased." Having an expensive home far from the place

of employment meant that the students paid more in fuel.

"This helps the student understand that in the future, if they live 30 miles from where they work, the travel time and the price of fuel will affect their budget."

In the second round, their cards show what they would make with skills training, a job promotion, or college. They can indulge more, but also learn the value of added training or education. "They can see the difference a better income will make in their standard of living immediately," Beckett stated.

In the first session, students have jobs such as parking lot attendant. The second round gives them much better salaries, such as for diesel mechanic, commercial plumber,

physician, or interior designer.

Ferree shared that "this time at Lincoln Middle, I ran the grocery store and, while the students were getting the cost of groceries for a family of four, we had time to talk about careers."

Just like in real life, calamity can always strike at some point. A figure called "the green reaper" stalks the floor and randomly selects a student for a random life event. Beckett stated that "the Green Reaper can bring news of a financial windfall, like an inheritance or winning the lottery." It, however, "can bring bad news like the need to replace the transmission in their car."

"Overall," Beckett said, "the kids do not like the Green Reaper. When the Green Reaper walks toward a student,

they will move away in fear that the card they get will cost them money."

She then said that "every educator in Harrison County knows sometimes all it takes is a personal experience for a student, given through an opportunity like this, that can change their life." Beckett expressed the hope that "this personal finance simulation helps to create better educated consumers and will motivate our students to get some kind of education or skills training after high school."

Furthermore, "our goal," Ferree explained "is to remind them that in Harrison County they can get the training and education to live here, work here, and enjoy life in a great community!"

Harrison County EMS

EMERGENCY SQUAD

Athletes of the Week

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 Athlete Spotlight

By Bill Nestor

The Harrison County athletes in the spotlight this week are Lincoln's Ashlyn Riley and Brayden Edgell.

Cougar standout basketball player Ashlyn Riley helped her team to an impressive win over Fairmont Senior. Riley produced a rare quadruple double in the victory. She scored 29 points, pulled

down 14 rebounds, 10 assists, and 10 steals.

Lincoln hoopster Brayden Edgell had an impressive outing in a loss to defending state champion Fairmont Senior. Edgell hit for a team-high 18 points and dished out a game-high five assists.

Congratulations to Lincoln's Ashlyn Riley and Brayden Edgell for shining bright in the SN and HCY spotlight!

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BUSINESS MATTERS

WVDED Launches W.Va. BEAD Challenge Process

CHARLESTON, W.VA — The West Virginia Department of Economic Development (WVDED) today announced the West Virginia Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment (BEAD) Challenge Process will begin on January 29, 2024, following the approval of the BEAD Initial Proposal Volume I. Registration will open today and the challenge phase will be open for 30 days, closing on February 28, 2024.

The West Virginia BEAD Challenge Process allows stakeholders in West Virginia to dispute the level of internet service reported on the Federal Communications Commission's National Broadband Map available at a given location within the State.

Under federal BEAD Program rules, only units of local government, nonprofit organizations and broadband service providers are eligible to submit challenges during the BEAD Challenge Process. Challengers must submit evidence that demonstrates the current information about the specific location that needs to be corrected.

Eligible entities can learn more and register to participate in the West Virginia BEAD Challenge Process by visiting register.broadband.wv.gov/register/bead. Instructions and a slide presentation are available at broadband.wv.gov. A video tutorial is available at: youtu.be/YHZpD4G8ki0?feature=shared. West Virginia has teamed with

Ready.net to administer the challenge process. Registrants should submit one primary user per entity in the Ready.net system. Additional users can be added to the primary account following registration.

After the 30-day challenge phase closes, the 30-day rebuttal phase will open to provide any counter-evidence to a challenge. After the rebuttal phase closes, challenges will be adjudicated in a final determination phase. Following completion of the Challenge Process, the final updated map will be used to allocate BEAD funding across the State.

WVDED is tasked with deploying local and federal broadband funds, including those from the BEAD

program. In June 2023, the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) announced that West Virginia would be awarded \$1.2 billion of this funding to provide high-speed broadband access to its residents. This historic investment in broadband infrastructure and related digital inclusion efforts will support West Virginia's vision for universal broadband access.

NTIA approval of the Initial Proposal Volume I marks a significant step forward in West Virginia's ongoing initiative to expand and improve broadband access to approximately 168,000 unserved and underserved locations across West Virginia.

Nominations now open for inductees to the WVDOF

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The West Virginia Division of Forestry (WVDOF) today announced that nominations are open for the next round of honorees for West Virginia's Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame (WVAFHF).

The Hall of Fame highlights the people, businesses, organizations, institutions and foundations that have significantly contributed to agriculture, forestry and family life in West Virginia. Selected

nominees will be inducted during a recognition dinner in July at Jackson's Mill. Submitted nomination forms must be received by February 16, 2024 to be considered.

"This honor is given to those who have lived

in West Virginia and have had a long-tenured association with agriculture, forestry and/or family life and have made outstanding, direct contributions to those industries," said Jeremy McGill, WVDOF Assistant State Forester, and

President of the WVAFHF. "Inductees must demonstrate the highest standards of leadership and contributions on local, state, national and international levels. We look forward to the opportunity to induct a new class into the Hall

of Fame." Nomination forms are available from the West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame website or by contacting McGill via email at Jeremy.R.McGill@wv.gov or by phone at (304) 439-3003.

December Red Meat Production

From USDA NASS

Charleston, West Virginia - Commercial red meat production during December 2023 totaled 1.1 million pounds. This was up 11 percent from December 2022. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 1,572,000 pounds live weight, up 16 percent

from December 2022. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,500 head, up 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,043 pounds.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 199,000 pounds live weight, down slightly from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 700 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight was up 13 pounds from

the previous year, at 284 pounds.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

United States - Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.55 billion pounds in December, up 2 percent from the 4.47 billion pounds produced in December 2022.

Beef production, at 2.19 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.59 million head,

down 3 percent from December 2022. The average live weight was up 17 pounds from the previous year, at 1,401 pounds.

Veal production totaled 3.9 million pounds, 14 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 22,500 head, down 32 percent from December 2022. The average live weight was up 56 pounds from last year, at 293 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.34 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the previous year.

Hog slaughter totaled 10.8 million head, up 5 percent from December 2022. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 291 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 10.7 million pounds, was down 3 percent from December 2022.

Sheep slaughter totaled 182,400 head, 2 percent above last year. The average live weight was 115 pounds, down 7 pounds from December a year ago.

January to December 2023 commercial red

meat production was 54.4 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2022. Accumulated beef production was down 5 percent from last year, veal was down 11 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 1 percent.

December 2022 contained 22 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

December 2023 contained 21 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

WVDNR Issues Call for 2025 W.Va. Wildlife Calendar Art Cash award

S O U T H CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) on Monday issued a reminder for artists to submit original wildlife paintings for the 2025 edition of the West Virginia Wildlife Calendar before the deadline on February 14.

"As we approach the art submission deadline for our award-winning wildlife calendar, we are counting on the artisan community around the country and in West Virginia to help us make this 40th anniversary edition truly special," said WVDNR Director Brett McMillion. "We invite artists to submit their

work and be part of this cherished publication, which is enjoyed by thousands of people across the country every year."

Each year, the WVDNR selects 12 paintings from hundreds of submissions for its award-winning calendar. Artists are awarded \$200 for each

painting selected for the calendar. The artist whose artwork is chosen for the cover receives an additional \$500. Art is chosen based on overall composition, quality and anatomical and contextual accuracy.

Wildlife Calendar Art Submission Guidelines

Art must be original color paintings on canvas or another flat

surface and must depict native game and fish species or other wildlife found in West Virginia, such as snakes, frogs, turtles, salamanders, bats, songbirds, small mammals and nongame fish. Photographs and paintings with wildlife not found in West Virginia will not be considered. Paintings depicting hunting or fishing activities may be submitted.

The calendar is horizontal and art should be at least 14.5 inches wide by 11.5 inches high. Artists who want to send art should mail a high resolution copy to the following address: WV Division of

Natural Resources Wildlife Calendar Art

P.O. Box 67 Elkins, WV, 26241

Artists may send multiple paintings and artwork not chosen in previous years may be resubmitted. Digital copies of paintings of at least 300dpi may be emailed to Sanya.D.George@wv.gov.

Artists with questions about the calendar may call 304-637-0245. For more information about submitting art for the West Virginia Wildlife Calendar or to purchase the 2024 edition, visit WVdnr.gov/wildlife-calendar.

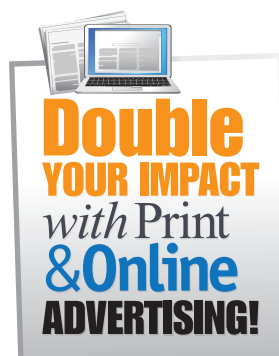
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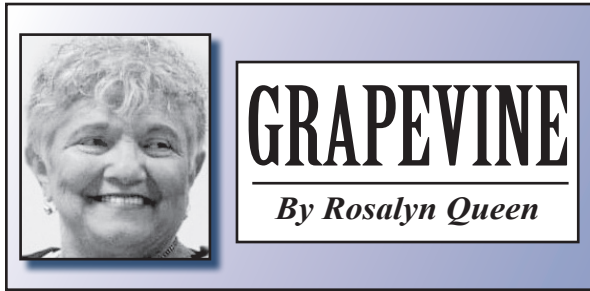


Mangieri to Deliver Keynote Address At Progressive Women's Luncheon

Betty Waddy, President of the Progressive Women's Association has announced that Rhonda Holyfield Mangieri will be delivering the Keynote Address at the Women of Distinction Luncheon to be held on Friday, February 23 at noon. The luncheon will be honoring ten African American Women from the area who have excelled in volunteer service to our community. This event is held in connection with Black Heritage Month which is observed in February. and is sponsored by Davis FuneralHome. Mangieri is a former

Clarksburg resident who attended Washington Irving High School and graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College. She is the daughter of the late Rev. Paul and Mavis Holyfield.

Recently she as awarded the AARPs 2021 Ohio Andrus Award for Community Service which only enforces her presence at this event. She will deliver a message emphasizing the importance of volunteerism in the community. As has been said she not only "talks the talk but she has walked the walk." She has supported



many non profit organizations and has given her time and expertise to many groups. For over twenty years she has volunteered at the Ronald Mc Donald House and has largely been involved with the Homeless population. She created the Rev. Paul Maurice Holyfield Endowed Scholarship in honor of her father. She credits her father

for inspiring her in her endeavors and the chosen path of her life. She will be announcing her plans to sponsor a special event honoring the Young Progressive Women's Association to be held in April. This event is open to the public and for reservations and info contact Elinda Carson at 304 624 6881. Side Note:



Rhonda Holyfield Mangieri will deliver the PWA keynote next month.

Plans have been completed by thePWA for the American Sign Language Classes. The instructor will be Janel StMartin. The classes will start on Friday

February 9 and will continue for an eight week period. They will start at 3:30 with a snack and continue for one hour of instructions. The classes are free and are open to children from 10 to 17 years of age. All classes will be held at the Uptown Event Center. This event is sponsored by the Sacred Heart Grant Program. To enroll or for information cal 304 624 6881. This is a community service of the Progressive Women's Association. Get involved, stay healthy and until next week "Now You Have Heard It Through The Grapevine."

Information About Magistrate Court Cases Now Available

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Docket information about public cases filed in West Virginia magistrate courts is now available online to the public for free.

"The Magistrate Case Record Search system greatly improves access to court records. The Supreme Court continues to fulfill its commitment to make the court system more open to the public," said Chief Justice Tim Armstead during a media conference on Thursday, January 25, in the West Virginia Law Library.

The link to access the records is <https://MCRSearch.courtswv.gov>. "The search system is free to use and does not require registration." Chief Justice Armstead said.

Anyone with a computer or mobile device can enter a first or last name or a case number and the system will generate search results.

A typical list contains names and birthdates, as well as general details of each case, such as the date each case was filed, charge, disposition, and a list of documents in the court file. Users should call or visit the

magistrate court clerk in the county where a case is filed to obtain copies of specific court records.

Clerks charge a nominal fee required by law for copies. The search system helps callers and visitors to know what to ask for and which county they need to contact. The public can continue to use existing public

access terminals located in each magistrate court clerk's office, which will be enhanced to include search results from all counties statewide. "We are making this announcement in the West Virginia Law Library to emphasize

that users can now search magistrate court records from anywhere at any time, including from their own computers, mobile devices, or computers located in public libraries," Chief Justice Armstead said.

"Our Court recognizes that our court system is here to serve our citizens. This represents the latest step in our Court's ongoing efforts to make our legal proceedings more open and accessible."

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OBITUARIES



Anne Marie Connolly Bevacqua

Anne Marie Connolly Bevacqua passed away peacefully in Bridgeport on January 21, 2024 at the age of 91. Anne was born in Niagara Falls, NY the oldest child of Francis and Ann Connolly. Anne was the beloved wife of Robert Bevacqua (deceased). They were married for 46 years. She was preceded in death by her parents Francis and Ann Connolly, a brother Leonard Connolly and a sister Katherine Swann. She is survived by her sister Patricia Muoio.

Anne was mother to eight daughters, Kathleen Feigh (Keith) of Poquoson, VA, Eileen Crudele, (Kirk deceased) of Jefferson, OH, Linda Beaver (Tom deceased) of Madison, OH, Theresa Palmer of Ashtabula, OH, Susan Karhu (Andrew) of Gilbert, AZ, Carol Saltenis (Victor deceased) of Kirtland, OH, Julie Rispoli (Ron) of Russellville, AR and MaryKatherine Chevront (David) of Lumberport, WV. She was Nana to 17 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

Anne enjoyed ceramics, leading Girl Scouts, and attending her children's and grandchildren's activities. Anne was active in her church altar society, and welcomed into her family, two foreign exchange students.

Ragneidur "Ragga" Jonsdottir (Iceland), and Pernilde Vikanes (Norway) became additional daughters in Anne's family.

Calling hours will be from 10-11:30AM on Saturday, February 3, 2024, at Harmer Funeral Home, 300 Pike St, Shinnston, WV. The Rosary and Mass will follow at 12 Noon at St. Ann Catholic Church, 610 Pike St, Shinnston, WV.

Anne's family gives special thanks to the staffs at Harmony at White Oaks Assisted Living and Memory Care, and at Bridgeport Nursing Home who took special care of Anne.



Thressa Rose Conch Butler

Thressa Rose Conch Butler, 73, of Hepzibah, passed away at 1:10am, Monday, January 22, 2024 at the United Hospital Center in Bridgeport. She was born in Clarksburg, June 14, 1950, a daughter of the late Patsy and Cora Hodgkiss Conch. On June 21, 1984, she married Franklin Andrew "Bub" Butler who survives.

Also surviving are her children: Anthony J. Cleavenger and his wife Ashley, Grand Blanc, MI, and Kayla Rose Cianfrocca and her husband Cori, Fairmont; her grandchildren: Jordyn work and his wife April, Jacob Work and his wife

Sara, Sarah Clevenger, Aiden Craft, Dylan Anthes, Elijah Anthes, and Caleb Cianfrocca; 4 great grandchildren, Michael Work, Camden Work, Colt Work, and Liam Work. Thressa is also survived by her siblings, Joseph Marcus Conch, Lake Jackson, TX, and Patsy "Ed" Conch and his wife Brenda, Hepzibah.

In addition to her parents, Thressa was preceded in death by a sister-in-law, Patricia Wheeler Conch.

Thressa graduated from Victory High School in 1968. She was employed at the Harrison County Courthouse for several years and later retired from United Hospital Center. Thressa was a longtime member of the Hepzibah Baptist Church where she was baptized. She loved spending time with her children and grandchildren. She also enjoyed growing flowers, crocheting, crafting, reading, working puzzle books, and listening to Motown Music.

Friends will be received at Perine Funeral Home, 1348 S. Pike St. Shinnston, on Thursday from 11:00 am until the time of the funerals service at 2:00 pm. Interment will follow at the Shinnston Memorial Cemetery. Online memories and condolences can be shared with the family at www.perinefunerals.com

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

Rosemary Dewitt

Rosemary Dewitt, 72, of Clarksburg and formerly Shinnston, passed away on January 22, 2024 at Ruby Memorial Hospital



surrounded by her family. She was born in Clarksburg on May 15, 1951 to the late Rose Loria Dewitt.

She was a graduate of Shinnston High School and had worked for the circuit clerk's office at the Harrison County Courthouse.

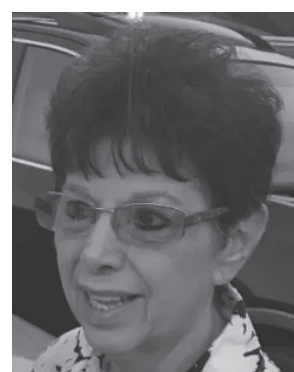
Rosemary is survived by one brother, Ed "Junior" Dewitt and wife Tammy of Shinnston; one nephew, Matthew Dewitt of Shinnston; one niece, Morgan (Dewitt) Adkins and husband Jammie of Bridgeport; two great nieces: Ava Rose and Penelope Ann "Nellie"; cousins: Alice Beezel and husband George of Hepzibah, Connie Swanger and husband Don of Bridgeport, Greg Loria of California, Kathryn Wood of Michigan and Florida, Sam Loria of Edgewood, Susan Phillips of Gypsy, Michelle Frye; a treasured friend, Melva Fittro of Adamston as well as several second and third cousins. Rosemary was like a second mom to Matthew and Morgan.

In addition to her mother, Rosemary is preceded in death by one cousin, Sammie Male and several aunts and uncles.

Honoring Rosemary's wishes, she will be cremated. A Memorial Service will be held at Dorsey Funeral Service, 701 S. Pike St., Shinnston on Sunday, February 4, 2024 from

1:00pm to 4:00pm with Pastor Jim Glaspell officiating.

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



Brenda Mackey

Brenda Mackey, 74, of Four States, passed away on January 21, 2024, at the Tygart Center in Fairmont. She was born in Fairmont, April 1, 1949, a daughter of the late Lester S. and Julia Pearl Higginbotham Long.

Surviving are her husband, Michael Eugene Mackey; one son, Robert Kevin Shuman a granddaughter, Abigail Nicole Shuman; stepson, Christopher Michael Mackey and his wife Amber; stepdaughter, Sheila Renee Mackey; brothers-in-law, Chuck Mackey and Larry Yanero; a sister-in-law, Tammy Long; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Brenda was preceded in death by four brothers, Lester, Denver, Jerry and Gary Long; and four sisters, Enid Wright, Donna Mackey, Iris Abel, and Deanna Yanero.

Brenda was employed at the Cracker Barrel restaurant in Fairmont

for 12 years. She was very family oriented and thoroughly enjoyed family get-togethers.

The family will receive friends at the Perine Funeral Home, 1348 S. Pike St., Shinnston, from 2-7pm, Friday where funeral services will be conducted at noon on Saturday, January 27th. Interment will be in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Enterprise. Condolences may be extended to the family at www.perinefunerals.com. The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Mackey family.



Harry Vance Martin

Harry Vance Martin, 95, of Pine Bluff, passed away peacefully at his residence on January 26, 2024. He was born on April 8, 1928, a son to the late Earnest Wayne Martin and Mayme O'Dell. Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Virginia Martin; brothers Jack (Sally) Martin, Gene (Dorothy) Martin, and Fredrick (Joetta) Martin; sisters FaraMae (Allan) Webb, Jone (Franklin) Moore, and Hilda Martin; and one great-grandchild, Fisher Martin.

He is survived by his children, John (Linda) Martin, Jessie (Donald) Ashley, Harry (JoAnn) Martin, Ernie

See "Obituaries" on Pg 9

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Memorable photographs from around Harrison County

Immigrants like this group came from the Principality of Asturias in northern Spain to communities like Spelter and Anmoore around a century ago. By 1915, over 1,500 Asturians lived in Spelter. Most worked in zinc or other metallurgical operations.

“Obituaries” From Pg 7

Martin (Katrina), 1946 to the late Helen and Tammy Martin; grandchildren Penny Jo & Scotty Drennen, John & Melinda Martin, Scott Ashley & Companion Melissa Posey, Harry Martin II, Daniel Martin, Ernie & Amanda Martin, Troy & Chelsye Martin, Mindy & Dunner McDonald, Mariah Akers, and Josh & Summer Kuhens; 13 great-grandchildren and six great great-grandchildren.

Harry worked at Central Shop at Monongah for 27 years. After retirement, he enjoyed life to the fullest. He did wood working, logging, hauling stone, and spending time with his family and friends. He was Methodist by faith.

Friends will be received at Harmer Funeral Home on Monday, January 29, 2024 from 11:00AM-1:00PM. A funeral service will follow at 1:00PM with Pastor Todd Syruws officiating. Interment will follow at Enterprise Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making donations to WVU Medicine Hospice 2673 Davisson Run Road Clarksburg, WV 26301.

1946 to the late Helen Virginia Ramsey.

She is survived by her loving husband of 29 years, Troy Denzil O'Dell, Sr.; two sons: Jeffery Ramsey of Shinnston and Troy O'Dell, Jr. and companion Edna Smith of Folsom; three daughters: Diane DiPerna of Enterprise, Tammy Matheny and husband Kenny of Shinnston and Vanesa Harrison of Enterprise; two grandsons: Ricky DiPerna, III and Tyler Matheny; five granddaughters: Kristian Burge, Shalon Matheny, Alexandra Riley, Savannah Ramsey and Emily O'Dell; three great grandsons: Aidan and Liam Burge and Kale Riley; three brothers: Donald J. Ramsey of Edray, Samuel E. Ramsey of Buckeye and James R. Ramsey of Winfield; two sisters: Peggy A. Holtz of Norfolk, VA and Linda S. Easter and husband James of Ripley; one sister in law, Carole Lee Tichnell of Enterprise; one brother in law, Jennings O'Dell and wife Darlene of Enterprise as well as many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her mother, Carolyn is preceded in death by one brother, Robert L. Ramsey; one sister in law, Judith A. Ramsey; three brothers in law, Gerald Holtz, John Tichnell and David O'Dell; two nieces: Mindy Easter and Nikki Blackburn and her great grandmother, Daisy Ramsey.

Carolyn was a homemaker for the past 30 years. She enjoyed working outside, especially gardening and her flowers. Her greatest love and passion were her family. She will truly be missed

by all who knew and loved her.

In keeping with Carolyn's wishes, she will be cremated with a Memorial Service held at a later date.

Dorsey Funeral Home is honored to be handling the arrangements for the O'Dell family.



Eric Lee Wentz

Eric Lee Wentz, 66, of Morgantown, passed away at home on January 21, 2024. He was born in Buckhannon on August 16, 1957 to the late Leonard and Lola (Ware) Wentz.

Eric graduated from Shinnston High School and Fairmont State University with a degree in electronic technology. He was also a master electrician. Eric was an employee of Mylan Pharmaceuticals until its closure in 2021. He accepted a position with Viatrix and was working as an electronic technician. He loved football and played for the Pop Warner team and he played for the Shinnston Spartans in high school. Eric continued his love of football by becoming a football and lacrosse official. He liked to travel and had visited many of the US States and Canada. He was a member of the St. Johns Lodge No 24 A.F. & A.M. On his 50th birthday, he celebrated by climbing Mt. Rainier in Washington State but did not make it to the summit, he had shorts

on and it was “too darn cold!” Eric married his soulmate, Tammy, in 1980 and they have been living a happy life ever since. They always kissed goodnight followed by “I Love You.”

He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Tammy (Akers) Wentz; three brothers: Dave (Diane) Wentz, Mark (Barb) Wentz, Tim (RaEtta) Wentz, one sister, Susan (Dustin) Miller, one sister in law, Debbie Palmer; nieces and nephews: Kristina Beringo, Lori Taylor (Bobby), David B. Wentz, Jamie Speight (Ryan), Andrew Wentz (Leiren), Joshua Miller, Jacob Wentz (Kayla Griffin), Luke Wentz, Geoff Jones (Halie) and daughters, Allen Bebout (Jennifer) and sons, Luke Bebout and son, as well as several great nieces and nephews and one great-great nephew.

In addition to his parents, Eric is preceded in death by his infant son, Ian Nathaniel Wentz, mother and father in law: Jack and Joan Akers, brother in law, Gregg Palmer and nephew, Benjamin Wentz.

Family and friends will be received at Dorsey Funeral Home, 701 S. Pike St., Shinnston, on Thursday, January 25, 2024 from 4:00pm to 8:00pm and Friday, January 26, 2024 from 12:00pm until 2:00pm, the time of service with Reverend Sandra Conti officiating. Interment to follow at Shinnston Memorial Cemetery and St. Johns Masonic Lodge No 24 will perform memorial rites.

Mary Kay Owens

Mary Kay Owens, 60, of Arizona, formerly of Shinnston, WV, entered



into rest Friday, January 19, 2024 surrounded by love.

Mary was born December 21, 1963 to the late James Coleman Pumphrey Sr. and Ruby Jean Grimes Pumphrey. She was also preceded in death by three brothers, James, Peter, and Larry Pumphrey, and two sisters, Eulah Rhodes and Beulah Sigley.

Left to cherish Mary's memory are her three children, Lisa (James) Sandy of Arizona, Josh Owens, and Chad (Brooke) Owens of Shinnston, WV; three grandsons, Jim, Trenton, and Asher; seven granddaughters, Lexi, Phoenix, Abigail, Annalee, Isabella, Makenzi, and Aubree; siblings Paul (Karen) Pumphrey, Charlie Pumphrey, Dora Yeager, Juanita Pumphrey, and Bonnie Quinn, along with several nieces and nephews.

Mary loved going to church, and she previously attended First Baptist Church of Shinnston. She enjoyed spending time with her children, grandchildren, and doing crafts.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 2:00PM at First Baptist Church, Shinnston, with Pastor Kevin Nuzum officiating.

Donald Ray Ramsey

Donald Ray Ramsey, 73, of Morgantown, passed away surrounded by his family on Canyon



Road, Morgantown on Saturday, January 27, 2024 following an extended illness. He was born October 5, 1950 at Francis Mines, a son of the late Dennis and Sylvia Marie Shreve Ramsey.

He is survived by his sons, Tanner Ray Ramsey and fiancé, Miranda, Morgantown, Donald Ramsey II, Fairmont, and Carl Ramsey, North Carolina; his sister, Nancy Y. Ramsey; Grandchildren, Tanner Ramsey, II, Lexus Ramsey, Mercedes Ramsey, and Aria Ramsey; Several Nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his life long companion, Nana Ramsey, his son, Travis Ramsey, and his sister, Kathy R. Nutter and brother, Dennis (Sonny) Ramsey.

Donald served in the Military and served as a police officer. Over the years he performed odd jobs as a painter and other construction projects.

A special thanks to Amedisys Hospice and to care givers Miranda Rife and grandchildren Tanner II and Lexus Ramsey.

Friends and family will be received on Wednesday, Jan. 31 from 2-8 at Harmer Funeral Home, Shinnston. A graveside service and interment will be conducted at Lion's Club Cemetery, Lumberport on Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024 at 12:00 Noon.



Carolyn Elizabeth (Ramsey) O'Dell

Carolyn Elizabeth (Ramsey) O'Dell, 77, of Enterprise, passed away on January 20, 2024 at United Hospital Center. She was born in Mill Point, WV on July 8,

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Department of Human Services Holds 2024 West Virginia Polysubstance Summit

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Department of Human Services (DoHS), Bureau for Behavioral Health (BBH) and Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) today co-hosted the West Virginia Polysubstance Summit: Current Trends Across the Continuum of Substance Use Disorder Care, along with WV Behavioral Health Workforce and Health Equity Training

Center, Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC), and the Opioid Response Network. The virtual training was free to those who registered.

“Addressing the complex landscape of polysubstance use is crucial for West Virginia’s well-being,” said Rebecca Roth, DoHS Bureau for Behavioral Health, Office of Policy Planning and Research Director.

“Together, we strive to advance prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, polysubstance use is the use of more than one drug together or within a short time period, either

intentionally or unintentionally. This year’s summit featured West Virginia as well as national experts on polysubstance use and highlighted best practices from across the country. Nearly 1,000 people from across the state registered for the training.

The West Virginia Polysubstance Summit was made possible with funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) administered through DoHS’s BBH to the West Virginia Behavioral Health Workforce and Health Equity Training Center.

Continuing education credits were available for physicians, nurses, pharmacists, addiction/prevention professionals, counselors, social workers, and psychologists who attended.

For more information about the West Virginia Polysubstance Summit, visit www.wvpolysubstancesummit.org.



LEGAL

LEGAL

(2021-S-0000099 - Harrison County - ARMSTRONG LAND MANAGEMENT)

To: KATHRYN HENDERSON, 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 OUTSIDE DISTRICT MAP 9999 PARCEL 0693 1353

You will take notice that ARMSTRONG LAND MANAGEMENT, the purchaser of the tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2021-S-0000099, .0238 INT 249 AC OIL KINCHELOE, located in UNION OUTSIDE DISTRICT, which was returned delinquent in the name of HENDERSON KATHRYN, 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 March 24, 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, March 23, 2024, will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to March 23, 2024.	\$ 112.63
Amount of subsequent year's taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 23, 2024.	\$ 9.51
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 March 23, 2024.	\$ 1,058.06
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to March 23, 2024.	\$ 142.97
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.	\$ 1,323.17
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 March 23, 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

(2021-S-0000100 - Harrison County - DANNY COCHRAN)

To: HG ENERGY II APPALACHIA LLC, MARY K BRANT, 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 OUTSIDE DISTRICT MAP 9999 PARCEL 0666 5717

You will take notice that DANNY COCHRAN, the purchaser of the tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2021-S-0000100, .0026 INT 236.90 AC O&G KINCHELOE (CONS/LS#52896), located in UNION OUTSIDE DISTRICT, which was returned delinquent in the name of BRANT MARY KAY, 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 March 24, 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, March 23, 2024, will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to March 23, 2024.	\$ 108.80
Amount of subsequent year's taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 23, 2024.	\$ 21.95
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 March 23, 2024.	\$ 1,070.32
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to March 23, 2024.	\$ 186.54
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.	\$ 1,387.61
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 March 23, 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

New Bridgeport Menard's Store Opens January 30th

The new Bridgeport Menards store located at 440 Haden Boulevard will OPEN ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 30TH.

With the opening of this brand new store, the Bridgeport community and surrounding area will now be able to further enjoy all of the great services, low prices and shopping conveniences that Menards has to offer.

"We really appreciate all the support we've received throughout the building process," stated Jeff Abbott, Menards Spokesperson. "We look forward to being a fixture in the Bridgeport community."

Special Events

• Public invited to attend a "Board Cutting Ceremony" - Friday,

February 2nd at 1:00 p.m.

• Bridgeport Mayor Andy Lang and state officials will speak. Governor Jim Justice has also been invited to speak.

• Grand Opening Celebration - Sunday, February 4th through Saturday, February 10th

• Legendary Chainsaw Carver John Gage creating woodcarvings - Sunday, February 4th through Wednesday, February 7th (9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. daily)

• Menards Race Cars on Display (#12 Ryan Blaney/#88 Matt Crafton) - Thursday, February 8th through Saturday, February 10th

The new store will truly be a one-stop

shop for all of your home improvement needs featuring a full-service lumberyard and everything you need to plan a renovation or build a home, garage, cabin, shed, deck, fence or post frame building. You'll find a large selection of lumber, roofing, siding, construction blocks, trusses, doors and windows, plus cabinets, appliances, countertops, flooring, lighting, paint, plumbing supplies and more. To complete the job, Menards has quality hand tools, power tools, fasteners, electrical tools plus storage options and supplies for everyone from the do-it-yourselfer to the more experienced contractor.

Menards also has what you need to

complete your outdoor projects and keep your yard in tip-top shape including mowers, trimmers, blowers, pressure washers and more, plus a beautiful seasonal garden center with plants, shrubs, trees, landscaping tools, grass seed, fertilizer options, outdoor décor and patio furniture.

Menards also has everyday essentials like health & beauty products, housewares, pet and wildlife supplies, automotive items and even groceries. And at Christmas, an Enchanted Forest display area with impressive trees, lighting, decorations, ornaments, inflatables and more.

"This new store is huge, very bright and

welcoming," says Ralf Hamerski, Bridgeport Menards General Manager. "We love being in Bridgeport and this incredible new store is a reflection of our commitment to this area. Our hard-working Team has been busy putting everything together and we can't wait for everyone to stop by to see all the latest, greatest home improvement products we have at Menards. We are overwhelmed with the support we've received and will do our best each and every day."

A family-owned and run Midwestern company started in 1958, Menards currently operates 337 stores including four in West Virginia. Menards is known throughout the

home improvement industry as the low-price leader; it's no wonder the famous slogan - "SAVE BIG MONEY" - is so widely known and easy to remember.

Menards does things right - the company's strength and success can be seen in the well-stocked and maintained stores, the lowest prices in town and the way Customers are always treated like family.

Store Hours: Monday-Saturday (6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.); Sunday (8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.)

If you have any questions or would like to interview General Manager Ralf Hamerski, please contact: Jeff Abbott, Menards Spokesperson, at (715) 864-2658 or jabbott@menard-inc.com.

Schools Partnership With Pierpont's Aviation Program Takes Flight

BRIDGEPORT - Harrison County Schools has partnered with Pierpont Aviation Programs this year to bring career presentations to 11th and 12th grade students at all six high schools and 8th grade students at all five middle schools. Dr. Brad Gilbert, Senior Professor and Director of Aviation Technology, and his team from Pierpont have been, and are continuing

to talk with students about the aviation career opportunities available for them here in Harrison County. At the end of Pierpont's presentation, students in every middle school and high school are invited on a field trip to the Pierpont facility at Robert C. Byrd National Aerospace Center in Bridgeport.

Students will tour the facility and hangar and get a close-up view of

the airplanes. They will also participate in a hands-on activity related to aviation. Students should be able to view the general area that houses the airport and aviation companies, like MHIRJ, Pratt & Whitney, Aurora Flight Sciences, Lockheed Martin, and several others.

On Friday, February 9, from 9 to 11 a.m. approximately 40 students from United

High School and Robert C. Byrd High School will be attending a field trip together to the Pierpont facility at 1050 Industrial Blvd. in Bridgeport.

On Friday, February 23, Dr. Gilbert and his team will be speaking to 8th grade students at Mountaineer Middle School at 8 a.m. and 8th grade students at South Harrison Middle School at 10 a.m.

On Friday, March 1, Dr. Gilbert and his team will be speaking to 11th and 12th grade students at Liberty High School at 8 a.m. and 8th grade students at Lincoln High School at 9:30 a.m.

On Friday, March 8, from 9 to 11 a.m. approximately 40 Harrison County students from Liberty High School and Aviation programs Lincoln High School

will be attending a field trip together to the Pierpont facility at 1050 Industrial Blvd. in Bridgeport.

On Friday, March 22, from 9 to 11 a.m. approximately 40 students from Mountaineer Middle School and South Harrison Middle School will be attending a field trip together to the Pierpont facility at 1050 Industrial Blvd. in Bridgeport.

After the events listed above, there will still be three more middle school presentations from Dr. Gilbert and his team, and two more middle school field trips to Pierpont happening in March and April, exact dates TBD.

Harrison County Schools and Pierpont Aviation programs are hoping these

presentations and follow-up field trips will help to make our soon-to-be youngest generation of workers aware of the opportunities right here where they live. The aviation industry in our area continues to seek employees for many unfilled positions. So, Harrison County Schools and Pierpont have partnered to teach our students about the local opportunities in aviation and give them a chance to see it for themselves.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Geraldine Beckett, CTE Liaison Specialist, Harrison County Schools, at 304-326-7387, or at geraldine.beckett@k12.wv.us

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Wisdom From "Poor Richard's Almanack"

By Benjamin Franklin

"If you would not be forgotten, as soon as you are dead and rotten, either write things worth reading, or do things worth writing."

"Speak little, do much."

"Women are books, and men the readers be..."

Pope announces a 'Year of Prayer' to prepare for 2025 Jubilee

From L'Osservatore Romano

The Year of Prayer which Pope Francis inaugurated on Sunday, 21 January, ahead of the 2025 Jubilee, is dedicated "to rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer", in personal life, in the life of the Church and in the world. The

Holy See Press Office presented the Year of Prayer on Tuesday at a press conference held by Archbishop Rino Fisichella, Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelisation, and Monsignor Graham Bell, Undersecretary of the Dicastery, whose Section is in charge of coordinating the Year of Prayer.

The Dicastery for Evangelization will

release materials to help the faithful celebrate the Year, and underscored its availability to Bishops' Conferences and Diocesan Jubilee representatives to provide further clarifications. Archbishop Fisichella presented the Dicastery's readiness to support this Year of Prayer, saying the work to prepare for Holy Year 2025 continues.

With the Holy Year approaching, pilgrims can learn more about the upcoming Jubilee Year at the Jubilee website www.iubilaeum2025.va, and through the App, said the Archbishop.

The Year of Prayer, Archbishop Fisichella noted, "is not a Year marked with particular initiatives; rather, it is a privileged time in which to rediscover the value of prayer and the need

for daily prayer in our Christian life". It is "a time to discover how to pray and, above all, how to educate the people of today in prayer, in this age of digital culture, so that prayer can be effective and fruitful".

Prayer cannot be captured in a pre-established pattern, Archbishop Fisichella recognized, "because it is a manifestation of the believer's personal

relationship with God Himself within that intimate and exclusive relationship that distinguishes our faith".

As Pope Francis writes in the introduction to the first volume of the "Notes on Prayer" series: "Prayer is the breath of faith; it is its most proper expression.

Like a cry that issues from the heart of those who believe and entrust themselves to God"

DoHS Provides Life Skills Training For Youth Transitioning From Foster Care

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Department of Human Services (DoHS), Bureau for Social Services (BSS) announced additional services for youth preparing to transition out of foster care, including 22 new transitional living facility beds between Golden Girl Group Home in Ceredo, Stepping Stones in Lavalette, and Stepping Stone in Fairmont.

Transitional Living (TL) services are provided to youth in foster care to assist in developing life skills and readiness for adulthood. Youth in foster care develop a transition plan and skills assessment with the guidance from qualified adults. TL facilities are designed to help youth establish their next steps as they move into adulthood.

The custody and status of a youth at the time of

removal and placement prior to turning 18-years-old in care or being emancipated by the court, will determine the availability of Independent Living Subsidies (ILS) and Education and Training Vouchers (ETV). To be eligible for any ILS or continued adoption/legal guardianship subsidy, a youth must either be working a minimum 80 hours per month or be attending an academic, vocational, or employment program; have a documented job search; or have a documented disability that prevents working or school attendance. Examples of additional supports provided to youth are listed below.

MODIFY case managers can assist youth with school applications, financial aid, the FAFSA application, dorm or housing needs, and most other needs required to successfully

earn their degrees and certifications.

Agencies that have the Transition to Adulthood Program provide oversight, guidance, life skill training, and generally help young adults navigate the transition into adulthood. TL services are provided by the Children's Home Society of West Virginia in Berkeley, Fayette, Greenbrier, Jackson, Jefferson, Marion, Monongalia, Monroe, Morgan, Raleigh, Summers, and Wood counties; NECCO in Boone, Cabell, Kanawha, Logan, Mason, Mingo, Putnam, and Wayne counties; and Youth Services System in Ohio and Wetzel counties.

Youth formerly in foster care can receive medical coverage up to age 26. After age 18, youth will need to opt into Medicaid coverage that is extended a year at a time up to age 21.

Youth will need to apply for Medicaid through their local office after that time period. Youth may apply online at wvpath.wv.gov, by calling (877) 176-1212, or completing an application at their local DoHS office.

Foster Youth to Independence Initiative (FYI) is an initiative of the HUD program to provide housing vouchers to youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. FYI liaisons work in conjunction with local housing authorities. Youth 18- to 24-years-old who have left foster care or will leave foster care within 90 days and are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless.

To view and apply for career opportunities to support West Virginia youth, visit dhhr.wv.gov/Pages/Career-Opportunities---Social-Services-and-Health-Facilities.aspx.

CSG South Launches Permitting Reform Federal Affairs Initiative

JANUARY 25, 2024, ATLANTA, GA — The 2023-2024 Council of State Governments, Southern Region (CSG South) Chair, Senate President Craig Blair, West Virginia, announced his 2024 Chair's Initiative: Permitting Reform.

In an increasingly stagnant federal landscape, the united voice of the leaders of the states of CSG South can leverage their collective strength and advocate on national issues such as permitting reform, federal mandates tied to federal funding, energy independence, and energy resilience.

"Our goal is to light a fire under our colleagues at the federal level and lead by example by passing bipartisan resolutions all over this country urging good faith work across the aisle on this critical issue," said Blair of his Chair's Initiative.

"This permitting reform federal affairs initiative draws attention to the overly regulated, slow-moving federal permitting processes that inhibit economic development, job growth, energy innovation, and the ability of states to update aging infrastructure."

Senate President Blair sponsored Senate Concurrent Resolution 16, passed by the West Virginia Senate on Monday, January 15, and the House of

Delegates on January 24, to urge the federal government to enact much-needed reforms to federal permitting policies to accelerate the deployment of new energy infrastructure.

"We're on our way to a crisis in this country, and unless our Congress acts to reform these permitting laws, we'll all be seeing higher costs and fewer jobs," said West Virginia House of Delegates Speaker Roger Hanshaw. "We simply cannot afford any more limitations to our energy infrastructure, and if Congress refuses to do something, it will be a direct line from their inaction to rolling blackouts, national security risks, and even more crumbling infrastructure throughout the country."

Through a federal affairs-focused survey conducted by CSG South in the fourth quarter of 2023, permitting reform was identified as the top issue of interest to state leaders in the Southern region. Lindsey Gray, CSG South Regional Executive Director, stated, "At the direction of the Senate President Craig Blair and the Executive Committee, CSG South will support the 15 states within the Southern region and carrier forward a unified voice regarding the issue of permitting reform for the states we serve."

Monongahela National Forest Hiring Students For Summer Internship Positions

ELKINS, W.Va., Jan. 25, 2024 – Monongahela National Forest is recruiting students for four paid summer internship positions. All positions will work out of the Elkins Forest Service office. Applications are due February 7, 2024.

These positions are open to students who have been accepted for

enrollment, or who are enrolled at least half-time, in an accredited high school, college, professional, technical, vocational, or trade school pursuing a qualifying degree or certificate.

Applications are only accepted through USAJOBS. The following internship positions are open:

Student Trainee (General): <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/770242300>

Student Trainee (Engineering): <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/770245300>

Review the job announcement carefully for deadlines and required information to include in your application. Employment start

dates vary. For more information about these positions and how to apply, contact robert.phillips1@usda.gov.

To learn about USDA Forest Service career opportunities, benefits, hiring events and resources to help with the application process, visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/careers>.

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