



# The SHINNSTON News & Journal HARRISON COUNTY

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Focusing on local news throughout Harrison County.*



Feb. 22, 2024 - Feb. 28, 2024

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A 1906 fire destroyed one of the works of “master builder and contractor” Charles Ashby Short.

## Cougar Makes All-State List

Gianna Fragmin was named to the West Virginia All-State Chorus.

Photo courtesy of Lincoln High School



## Shinnston Properties Included on Harrison County Emergency Abatement List

By Stephen Smoot

In the past few years, the State of West Virginia and local governments have created more tools for a half-century old cause. This started with the 70’s era program started by Governor Arch Moore and administered by A. James Manchin, the Rehabilitational Environmental Action Plan.

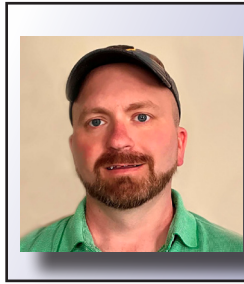
State Auditor’s office under J. B. McCluskey, supported by the State Legislature, and complemented by efforts from the West Virginia Housing Development Fund, have targeted dilapidated, abandoned, and otherwise unsafe properties and residences.

In some cases, rapid depopulation between the 1970s and the end of the 20th century left surplus housing and

*See “List” on Pg 3*

## February flames for 1906

‘\$15,000. FIRE AT SHINNSTON’ was the headline for the Tuesday evening edition of the ‘Clarksburg Daily News’ on February 27 th , 1906. This month’s photograph was taken on that same morning—118 years ago! It depicts the aftermath of a large fire on the west side of Pike Street, between the present lower Church Court and Station Street. This event marked the second destructive fire to occur in Shinnston during the twentieth century.



**The Story Behind the Photo**  
By Bobby Bice

be the parsonage of the First United Methodist Church and photographing the scene diagonally across Pike Street from that location. The remains of the building at left had been housing the offices for both a plumbing company operated by Howard Thomas Harmer as well as the working office for The Shinnston News, which was

then being operated by Coffman and Meredith.

From the middle of the photo and extending right, are the remains of Short’s Opera House. Several men are seen standing around the still- smoldering remains. To the left, out of view, would be where the Matheny home (and former Shinnston Glass and Mirror) currently

sits.

Charles Ashby Short was a name once known to many throughout Harrison County as a master builder and contractor. In 1889, he built a three story building at the southwest corner of Pike and Station Streets; the building faced Station Street. The top floor was rented to two different lodge organizations in Shinnston: International Order of Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias.

The first two floors were for the Opera House. Many people may think of an opera house as being a movie

*See “Bice” on Pg 8*

## With State and County Support, Town of Lumberport Addresses Sewage System Problems

By Stephen Smoot

A malfunctioning, aging, and obsolete sewer system has posed critical health and environmental dangers for the Town of Lumberport and communities downstream on Tenmile Creek, the West Fork River, and the Monongahela.

Fortunately, state, county, and local officials teamed up to bring an immediate “band-aid,” but also a permanent solution to the infrastructure breakdown.

According to Terry Fletcher, chief communications officer for the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, the agency “responded to multiple reported spills from the Town of Lumberport’s sewage treatment system and observed overflows caused by both heavy rains and snow melt

and an equipment malfunction.”

”It was actually an outdated system when it was put in in 1998,” Lumberport Public Works Supervisor Bill Davisson told WBOY last week. “And the problem is that the main lines on the system are only four-inch lines. And every time you get hard torrential rains, like 10 inches of snow that we just had a couple weeks ago, so much groundwater gets into the system that the four-inch lines can’t handle everything.”

Patsy Trecost II, Harrison County Commissioner, added that of the four stations in the sewage system, the main one failed. The “band aid” solution helped to restore function temporarily until the system could be permanently improved.

The overflow into the lines forced raw sewage to be pushed from the system, where

it flowed into Tenmile Creek. A delegation of residents took their concerns to the previous week’s Harrison County commission meeting. Because they described the issues during public comment, the county commission by established rule could not respond in any fashion during the meeting.

Davisson added that eight to 12-inch lines are more appropriate for the carrying capacity needs of Lumberport. Additionally, the region is experiencing a natural several years’ long cycle of short duration intense rainstorms that can overwhelm systems constructed to handle different conditions.

Last Thursday, state officials from the WVDEP came to inspect the system and analyze what happened, as well as how to rebuild the system to handle extreme conditions. Fletcher explained

that they “conducted the on-site portion of a comprehensive inspection of the Town’s system. A copy of the inspection report will be publicly available once it is complete.”

Trecost praised the efforts by different officials from state and local agencies. He stated that “I can’t give enough credit to everyone for working together.”

“They took the bull by the horns,” Trecost said of Lumberport’s response to the crisis. He added that once the state got involved in this case, the path to solutions becomes easier, saying “The DEP tells you how to handle it. They’ve done a great job.”

“It’s a county issue; it’s a city issue; it’s a community issue,” Trecost said.

## Postponing Retirement



By Jim Hunt for the News and Journal

I read a quote the other day that said, “The trouble with retirement

is you never get the day off”. Several years ago, I considered retiring, but I decided that I liked having an occasional day off. I must confess that one reason I haven’t retired is that I have never figured out exactly what I do. When I was about six, I wanted to be a cowboy. As I got older, I read a book called “Success through a Positive Mental Attitude” by Napoleon

*See “Hunt” on Pg 3*

## This Week At the Palette

The Palette is a Shinnston based non profit arts and education center on Main Street. Visitors can enjoy a gallery that features both local and unique artists, or experience education through a broad variety of classes held at times convenient for working people and families.

On Wednesday Feb 21 from 1 to 4 PM, please stop in and enjoy watercolor and mixed media works by Carolyn Martin Light. Light has a 40

year career as an artist and art educator who earned an international reputation working from Clarksburg.

Also on Wednesday from 1 to 3 PM is an “Everybody’s Watercolor” class. It costs \$30 and supplies are provided, although participants are certainly welcome to bring their own.

Those with questions are encouraged to email Bethany Nuzum, gallery curator, a thepalettewv@gmail.com

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OPINION

Properly Produced History Sometimes Means Accepting Truths Uncomfortable to Conventional Wisdom

By Stephen Smoot

The discipline of history, in terms of its professional practice, has hit a nadir not seen since its professionalization about 150 years ago. Professional and academic history, until very recently, made objectivity the primary goal, with appropriate use of context its ever present sidekick. Reducing bias and emotional inputs lay at the heart of creating solid and respectable works of history.

Only work produced in such a way could contain respectable and useful interpretations that also conflicted with each other. In history, the only consensus that ever exists is that based tightly to undisputed facts, for example the Holocaust. Thousands of miles of United States War Department films and an even longer paper trail of German documents prove that it happened, no interpretation necessary as to what happened in the face of overwhelming proof.

Interpretations must have a basis in fact, not on how they might "make someone feel."

Consider the example of a man born 200 years ago last month "who suffered the trials and limitations of an impoverished orphanhood," who in his youth "acquired inalienable concepts of

duty and responsibility" in an environment of privation, raised in a rural area far from the seats of power.

This man's sense of duty before the Civil War made him a hero for most after it. Reverend Lyburn Downing and his wife Ellen for example, both born to slavery in Virginia, honored him as one of the few white men who risked his personal freedom and social position to help when he got his own church in 1870.

Reverend Downing had a stained glass wall created in this man's honor for his church because the figure had dared to give slaves an opportunity to learn when most of the rest of society saw the lack of education as a way to perpetuate their bondage.

Almost 90 years later a fire damaged the window of the still overwhelmingly black church. They raised money to restore the window, although one could forgive them back in those violent days if they felt that continuing to honor a white man's legacy was no longer a priority for the church.

Especially since the man in question cast his lot with the Confederate States of America.

This legacy came under fire in an American Civil War Museum forum in 2017. Some questioned "if a future Confederate . . .

See "Smoot" on Pg 8

Super Crossword RULING PARTY

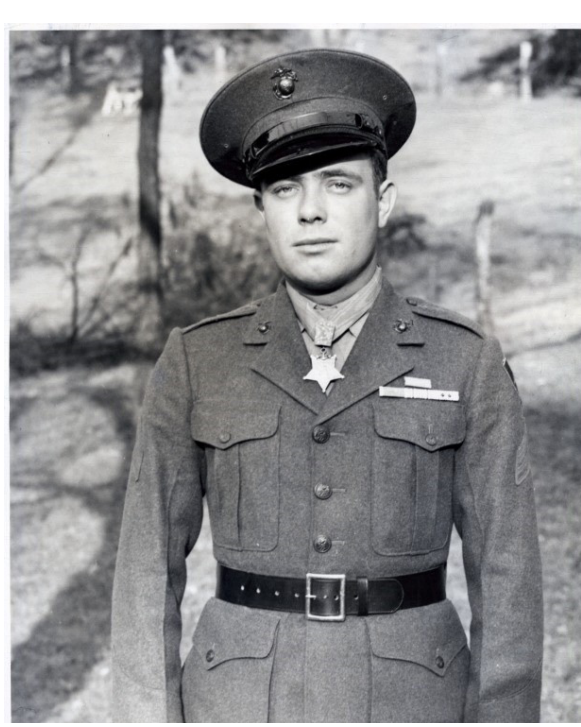
- ACROSS 1 Gilda Radner character on "Saturday Night Live" 9 Certain martial arts surface 16 Just OK 20 Enthusiastic reply to a request 21 Raised, as a building 22 Central point 23 British ruler applying veneer? 25 Violent anger 26 Nutrition Facts category 27 Brewed beverage 28 Great Plains tribe 29 The Devil 30 Nile goddess 33 Turkish ruler's pungent condiment? 38 Quaint office transcribers 41 Sleep study diagnosis 42 Regarding 43 Something a French-kissing Arab ruler has? 46 Small sailboats 51 Nuptial vow 52 Really smell 53 Kind of tide 56 China's Zhou — 57 Actress Perez 59 Tehran's radio sign-off? 65 Secretive U.S. org. 67 Tehran's land 68 Jug handle 69 Skye of film 70 Save the Russian ruler from tumbling to the ground? 75 Actors Mineo and Landi 77 Car club inits. 78 Coin-op hole 79 Thesaurus entry: Abbr. 80 Afghan ruler caught up in a tornado? 85 Stared in amazement 89 Agate playing marble, informally 90 Lingo suffix 91 Greek money 93 Brewed beverage 94 Exam taker 96 Very easy task for a Muslim ruler? 102 Many a war vet's affliction 105 Behave badly 106 Yellowstone gusher 107 English ruler making mouse sounds? 111 Bomb part 112 Liquid- (Drano rival) 113 Electees 114 Iowa college 116 Louver strip 120 Hula — 121 What's revealed by taking an X-ray of a Persian ruler? 127 Shower affection (on) 128 Butt forcefully 129 Waters north of Australia 130 Went swiftly 131 Visits during a trip 132 Car mileage recorder 2 Tibet locale 3 Bat very gently 4 Emerging 5 Actor Studi 6 Herr's "Alas!" 7 Sits tight 8 Writer Rice 9 Pa Clampett 10 Arg. neighbor 11 Last mo. 12 Golfer Lorena 13 Volcano in E. Sicily 14 — Fables 15 Six-pt. plays 16 Shredded bit 17 Pontificate 18 Fructose, e.g. 19 Yoked yaks 24 Utters breathlessly 29 Oral 31 Most vinegary 32 "Understood" 34 Sch. in the Granite State 35 Director Ang 36 Mai — (drink) 37 UFO pilots 38 Commotion 39 Commotion 40 Actress Mireille — 41 Singer Paul 44 Ending for cash 45 Comedian Hart, casually 47 Hoosier State 48 Building story 49 Part-goat god 50 Where it's at 54 "It's — real!" 55 Boast 58 Irritated 60 Big name in peanut butter 61 Break out in — 62 Actress Berry 63 Set to a slow speed 64 Bow shapes 66 Berry of Brazil 70 Some mollusks 71 Loathe 72 Oohs and — 73 "Lord, is —?" 74 Precursors of embryos 75 Brief parody 76 Cry of woe 81 Person crying 82 Golf gizmo 83 Kind of tide 84 Used a spade 86 Cronies 87 Model Macpherson 88 Doe or stag 92 Spaghetti sauce brand 95 GPS calculation 97 Egyptian — (cat breed) 98 Cold cubes 99 GPS calculation 100 Grape cluster 101 Visual insult 103 Slope-hitter's headwear 104 Energetic sort 107 Small sailboat 108 Citation 109 Officiated on the diamond 110 Vessel used to lure U-boats 111 Foul-smelling 112 Profs' degs. 115 Maestro Klemperer 117 Strong desire 118 1940s film critic James 119 "— she blows!" 121 This yr.'s grads 122 Hosp. VIPs 123 "Give — try" 124 Obtained 125 Med. group 126 DVD- —

Grid for Super Crossword puzzle with numbers 1-132 indicating starting points for words.

FIND THE SUPER CROSSWORD ANSWERS ON PAGE 6!

THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

Feb. 23, 1867: Lincoln County was formed from Boone, Cabell, Kanawha and Putnam counties. The county was named for Abraham Lincoln. Feb. 23, 1905: The first USS West Virginia was commissioned. The armored cruiser was renamed the USS Huntington in 1916 to allow the transfer of the original name to a newly authorized battleship. Feb. 23, 1945: Harrison County native "Woody" Williams distinguished himself during the Battle of Iwo Jima by neutralizing seven concrete pillboxes. This act of heroism earned Williams the Medal of Honor. Feb. 24, 1918: Judge Kenneth Keller "K. K." Hall was born at Greenview, Boone County. Hall spent 47 years on the state and federal benches.



Son of a Quiet Dell dairy farmer, Marine Corps World War II veteran Hershel "Woody" Williams showed "valiant devotion to duty," resulting in President Harry S. Truman awarding him the Congressional Medal of Honor. He tirelessly crusaded on behalf of "Gold Star Families" and the memorialization of their legacy through physical monuments across the nation. Feb. 24, 1928: Doctor Donald L. Rasmussen legislation. Feb. 25, 1903: An armed posse ambushed striking miners in their homes in the village of Stanaford near Beckley. Six miners were killed; federal judge B. F. Keller exonerated the posse.

Newspaper advertisement for The News & Journal, Shinnston Harrison County, including contact information and subscription rates.



# Women Work Manufacturing Program seeks Applicants

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Department of Human Services (DoHS), Bureau for Family Assistance (BFA) is encouraging Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and SNAP Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) recipients to apply for the West Virginia Women Work (WVWW) Step Up for Women Advanced Manufacturing Pre-Apprenticeship program.

The program's Spring 2024 class begins on February 26, 2024, in Charleston. The 10-week, employment-based, pre-apprenticeship

training program is designed to prepare women aged 18 and older for entry-level positions and apprenticeships in advanced manufacturing. Participants will learn hands-on training such as learning to operate high-tech machines to make products used in medical, aerospace, pharmaceuticals, and auto industries, in addition to obtaining licenses and certifications.

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"Our continued collaboration with WV Women Work creates tremendous opportunities for West Virginia women,"

said Janie Cole, DoHS Bureau for Family Assistance Commissioner. "It is our hope that the Advanced Manufacturing Pre-Apprenticeship program will help equip women with the training and tools needed to find rewarding careers and make meaningful changes for themselves and their families."

DoHS has partnered with WVWW since 2017, to help women explore, train, and secure employment in non-traditional occupations, especially skilled trades. The WVWW Step Up

program is a tuition-free, employment-based skilled trade training program designed to prepare women for entry-level industry positions and registered apprenticeships. Step Up is the only Pre-Apprenticeship in West Virginia that is endorsed by the U.S. Department of Labor.

If interested in applying, SNAP/SNAP E&T clients should speak with their DoHS county office caseworker. Applications are available online at [westvirginiawomenwork.org/step-up-manufacturing](http://westvirginiawomenwork.org/step-up-manufacturing).

## "List" From Pg 1.

property stock that has gone unused and uncared for, leaving at best eyesores, at worst havens for normal, but dangerous, childhood mischief and criminal activity.

Last week, the Harrison County Commission directly addressed some of the worst problems by approving a list of properties as "emergency nuisances." This parallels efforts by the City of Shinnston to perform similar remediations in town.

"We will never

ask anyone to leave their homes. We're not going to evict anyone," said Patsy Trecost II, Harrison County Commissioner. "Anyone who is asking for help, we'll work with them."

Instead, the list targets residences that have both been abandoned and have also either fallen into obvious disrepair, or have served as dumping grounds for garbage. Trecost said that in many cases, the residences once housed families, but owners

either passed away or left the area.

Other local governments, such as Piedmont in Mineral County, saw numerous such properties purchased for almost no money in tax auctions. In the past couple of years, the State Auditor and State Legislature have passed laws and regulations that put such properties in the hands of those willing to develop them.

Trecost echoed that, saying that many times the owner of an adjoining property

might purchase it to either rebuild the house and use, or tear the structure down to expand his or her "green space."

He also said that the lots offer opportunities to expand usable housing stock, because utility hookups already exist for any future construction.

Shinnston has two addresses on the list, in addition to those targeted by the City for remediation.

The commission also reviewed the issue of an erroneous tax

assessment for 2021 due to a state level clerical error. Rocky Romano, Harrison County Commissioner, told WBOY that the State Tax Department failed to perform the proper annualization on oil and gas properties in a number of counties, including Harrison.

As a result, a number of Harrison County taxpayers collectively owe a little less than \$276,000 for the wrong assessment.

On Feb 7, the State Tax Department sent an Application

for Relief From Erroneous Assessment that it insisted "take precedence before all other business of the commission."

The problem stemmed from misapplication of a recent change in state law. Harrison's shortfall is miniscule compared to other counties. Tyler, for example, owes approximately \$15 million and may have to cut services if it cannot fully collect.

## "Hunt" From Pg 1.

Hill and W. Clement Stone and thought about being a speaker. I always thought it was

fate that I read that book. I had bought a box of books for fifty cents, at a used book

sale at the Clarksburg Library when I was about sixteen. It wasn't that I wanted to read the books, but I thought they looked impressive on the bookshelf in my room.

One night when I was about seventeen, I looked over at my bookshelf and spotted the book and thought I would see what was so great about having a positive mental attitude. As I read the first chapter, I couldn't believe that this book had sat on my shelf for a year, without me even opening it up. I stayed up all night reading and started writing lists of things I needed to do to be successful. I was so

excited that I checked off item after item in just the first few hours. My life changed that night and I started to believe that I could be whatever I put my mind to.

That book led to me investing in dozens of self-help tapes with people like Zig Ziegler, Nido Qubein, Brian Tracy and others. Later, I discovered Dr. Wayne Dyer and began to live a life of expectation of good things to come. I met Dr. Dyer in person at Fairmont State at one of his public events and thanked him for his mentorship and guidance. I would sometimes get in my car and drive hours listening to my tapes and getting

a shot of motivation. It was inspiring and things started happening for me in ways that I could not believe.

As I neared the seventh decade of my life, the notion of retirement loomed on the horizon. Yet, upon reflection, I found myself unable to embrace it wholeheartedly. It's not a disdain for retirement itself—I firmly believe in individual autonomy—but rather a recognition of the multitude of opportunities that lay before me. The prospect of idling away on a beach or perfecting my golf swing paled in comparison to the excitement of pursuing my passions. With a new

book nearing completion and a growing podcast attracting captivating guests, the allure of continued engagement proved irresistible.

Through it all, I've never wavered in my commitment to a positive outlook on life. I firmly believe that embracing optimism and resilience is key to leading a fulfilling existence. And so, as I choose to postpone retirement, I do so with gratitude for the blessings of good health and occasional respites. For me, retirement can wait—there's still much to be done, and I approach each day with a sense of purpose and anticipation.

## 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](mailto:newsandjournal@yahoo.com)*

March 1, 2024

\*Clarksburg First Friday Festival, 4:30-8PM, downtown Clarksburg. St. Patrick's Day Dance, board games, and craft making for children ages 11 and under, at the Senior Citizens Center (Dance is 5-7 PM); Live music and vendors at the GoreLuxe Complex; Art Show at the library; Model Railroad Club and Clarksburg History Museum open; Restaurants and businesses open; "Friday Funnies with The Fearless Fools" at Uptown Event Center at 8PM. All tickets \$10. Clarksburg Visitors Bureau, 304-622-2157.

The 2024 Shinnston Area Lenten Services will be held at the First United Methodist Church on Wednesdays at 12:00pm in the sanctuary. A soup luncheon will be held upstairs in the Epworth Center following the service. Everyone is welcome.

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# Who Is Hot and Who Is Not On the Hardwood

One of the hottest hoops teams around is the Lincoln Cougars boys' squad. My good friend, the Voice of the Cougars, Craig Dutton, was a little under the weather this week and asked me to fill in for the Grafton broadcast. I had heard several great things about this team and I was excited to catch a glimpse of this years' edition.

The cherry on top for me was that I was going to be partnered in the broadcast booth with Mike Wolfe. Mike ran track for me when I coached at Lincoln after I graduated from Fairmont State. Since then, we have spent some time together in the radio world. He is an exceptional broadcasting talent and a great friend, so this was a homecoming opportunity that was too great to pass up.

Ironically, the principal at Lincoln when I coached there was Mr. Toth, the father of current head basketball coach Jordan Toth.

Coach Toth is the man behind the identity of this basketball team. The Cougars are a hard working team that outworks their opposition on a nightly basis. You can't tell if they are up by 10 points



or trailing by 10 points because their play is the same on the floor regardless of the score. The focus the players play with can be seen on the face of Coach Toth from the time he enters the gym until he departs it.

He reminds me of an old school coach, and I appreciate that level of intensity and drive. That is why I try to not bother him before the game, because I remember how locked in I used to be before a key contest. The last thing I would want to do is to get in the way of his game preparation or focus.

The matchup with Grafton didn't start the way that fans in Cougar Country would have liked. Lincoln fell behind 16 to 11 after the first quarter and 27 to 17 heading into the halftime break. The deficit grew to 13 points early in the third period and Grafton fans that made the trip were already celebrating as if the win was in the bag. The senior laden squad, however, has seen just about

everything possible on the hardwood and they were not shaken by the deficit. Nate Swiger scored six points and Wyatt Finch came off the bench to hit a big three-pointer to lead Lincoln on a 14 to seven run to end the third frame.

The Cougars trailed by three points going into the final period and would outscore the Bearcats 13 to six to claim the 44 to 40 victory. Swiger finished with a game high 15 points and six rebounds while Brayden Edgell had 10 points and four assists.

Lincoln closed out last week with a 56 to 40 win over Robert C. Byrd. The Cougars allowed just five second quarter points and held a 30 to 17 halftime advantage. David Burdette led the way with 14 points. Brayden Edgell netted 11 points, dished out five assists, and recorded three steals.

The Cougar triumph evened the season series at one win apiece with each team winning

on their home floor. Sectional play starts next week. Lincoln is the number four seed and will travel to Liberty. The Flying Eagles are the number two seed and will host Elkins. Those tilts will be played on the 27th.

If the Cougars and RCB should both win, they would play the rubber match for the sectional title at One Eagle Way on the 29th. Both teams would be slated to make it to the sectional final because win or lose, they would have an opportunity to play for a trip to Charleston on March 6. The winner of the section would be at home on the 6th while the loser would travel.

West Virginia University's men's basketball team has fallen on hard times recently. The Mountaineers lost a fourth consecutive game this past Saturday at home to Baylor. Former WVU player and Fairmont Senior standout Jalen Bridges scored 10 points in his return to the Colosseum. He was one of six Bears to score double digits in the affair. The only path to the NCAA Tournament for the Mountaineers in through a Big 12 Tournament championship.



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 Bridgeport's Amelia Romano and Lincoln's Brayden Edgell.

Indian swimmer Amelia Romano made a splash at the WVSSAC high school swim championships this past week at Mylan Park in Morgantown. Romano won the 200 meter freestyle championship, the lone Harrison County swimmer to

claim an individual victory during the event.

Cougar basketball player Brayden Edgell helped his team to a pair of wins this past week over Grafton and Robert C. Byrd. He had 10 points and four assists against the Bearcats and five assists and three steals in the victory over the Flying Eagles.

Congratulations to Amelia Romano and Brayden Edgell for shining bright in the SN and H CJ spotlight!

## Wrestlers Advance to States



Photo courtesy of Lincoln High School

Three Lincoln wrestlers earned placement while competing at Regionals. Gerald Parado won 2nd, Cade Heflin 4th, and Trenton Hardesty 6th. Parado and Hardesty will advance to States in Huntington.



Photo courtesy of Lincoln High School Lila Barnes was the first swimmer in five years to represent Lincoln at states.

## Barnes Competes for Lincoln At States

Last weekend, Lincoln High School freshman Lila Barnes competed in the West Virginia State Swim Meet. She placed 14th in preliminaries for the 200 yard IM with a time of 2:32.05 and 15th in the 500 yard freestyle with a time of 6:04.63.

Barnes has earned

her share of accolades this year, taking the Harrison County title in the girls 500 yard freestyle with a time of 6:01.85. She went on to place fifth in Region III in the 500 yard freestyle with a time of 5:58.05 and also 5th in the 200 yard IM, scoring 2:30.07

## County Schools and Chamber of Commerce Team Up to Inspire High School Girls' Future Success

LOST CREEK Harrison County Schools in collaboration with the Harrison County Chamber of Commerce has been inviting the four honorees of the Inspiring Women, Inspiring Success award to speak to

freshman girls in the high schools. This year's four honorees are Amy Wilson, Dr. Jaelyn Rominger, Lotus McDowell, and Dr. Natalie King-Selario. This Friday, February 16, at 8 a.m. Amy Wilson, Executive

Director of the Harrison County Economic Development Corporation, will be speaking to freshman girls at South Harrison High School to bring inspiration and her story of hard work, success, and giving back to the community.

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







## WVU Medicine Children's Gala raises \$1.45M

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. – The WVU Medicine Children's Gala celebrated its 20th anniversary by raising \$1.45 million to aid West Virginia children and their families.

More than 1,200 people gathered Saturday (Feb. 10) at the Morgantown Marriott at Waterfront Place for the black-tie event, which included a cocktail reception, silent auction, live entertainment, dinner, and more. This year's theme was "City of Lights."

All proceeds from the event bolster the mission of WVU Medicine Children's. Since its inception, the gala has raised \$9.95 million to benefit patients, programs, services, and more.

"We are grateful for our dedicated supporters who have made this meaningful event a success for 20 years," Amy L. Bush, B.S.N., M.B.A., R.N., C.N.O.R., chief administrative officer for WVU Medicine Children's said. "It was a beautiful night of honoring our compassionate and generous donors. WVU Medicine Children's remains committed to our mission of building healthier futures for our children."

Entertainer Mario Lopez, who became a household name as A.C. Slater on the 1990s teen series "Saved by the Bell," served as emcee, and the band Party on the Moon returned to perform live music. Addison Schrock, who

was treated at WVU Medicine Children's for cortical dysplasia, participated in the event as the 2024 Children's Miracle Network Hospitals® Champion Child.

Federico G. Seifarth, M.D., surgeon-in-chief for WVU Medicine Children's, received the Champion for Children Award, and the WVU Medicine Children's outreach clinics and telemedicine services staff was recognized for their work to ensure accessible, equitable, and patient-centered healthcare across West Virginia and beyond.

Justin Thompson, CEO of Iron Senergy, received the Community Service Award, which recognized his efforts

to nurture hope and healing through philanthropy. His contributions include \$1 million to support the Level IV Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the new WVU Medicine Children's Hospital and tickets to allow patients and their families to see Taylor Swift and Mariah Carey in concert.

A total of 90 sponsors contributed to the fundraising total, including top-level sponsors Iron Senergy, the Hayhurst Family, United Sound, Morgantown Marriott at Waterfront Place, CJL Engineering and HED Design, Friends of WVU Hospitals, Panhandle Cleaning and Restoration, Duke's Mayo, Daniel's

Men's Store, and WVU Medicine Garrett Regional Medical Center and Potomac Valley Hospital.

Rich Harmon and Jeremy Zinn served as co-chairs of the gala, while David A. Rosen, M.D., and the Rosen Family Foundation led the fundraising effort as the presenting sponsors. Dr. Rosen is a pediatric anesthesiologist at WVU Medicine Children's and professor and vice chair of research for the WVU School of Medicine Department of Anesthesiology.

"Children are our lifeline to the future," Rosen said. "Those at a young age are typically innocent victims of their afflictions. As adults, we are responsible for

providing them the best chance to survive and thrive. The WVU Medicine Children's Gala provides a pleasurable way to support the hospital in optimizing their care. I step up to give as an individual to set an example of what one can do for children who have had their lives impacted by the need for medical care."

All gala contributions were made through the WVU Foundation, the nonprofit organization that receives and administers private donations on behalf of the University and its affiliated entities. Visit [wvumedicine.org/giving](http://wvumedicine.org/giving) to make a gift to WVU Medicine Children's.

## WVU Medicine Children's Heart Center partners with Project ADAM

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. – The WVU Medicine Children's Heart Center is now the West Virginia affiliate for Project ADAM, helping to provide schools and community centers with life-saving automated external defibrillator (AED) education.

Project ADAM is a

nationwide initiative aimed at preventing sudden cardiac death in children and adolescents. It was named after Adam Lemel, a Wisconsin high school athlete who tragically lost his life to sudden cardiac arrest.

An automated external defibrillator (AED)

Heartbeats of Hope is the WVU Medicine Children's Heart Center affiliation. It is committed to the health and well-being of students and community members in West Virginia.

"Project ADAM has been a vital facilitator in spreading the word about sudden cardiac

events, the importance of rapid response, and, more importantly, rapid and immediate availability of AEDs in the survival of these victims," Tracy Coup, A.P.R.N., co-coordinator of Heartbeats of Hope and WVU Medicine Children's Pediatric Cardiology nurse

practitioner, said.

"These are statistically rare events, particularly in children, but have a very high chance of death if there is not a strong, rapid response. Project ADAM has given a voice to the reality of this not just being something that happens to 'old' people and raising community awareness of the steps needed to improve the chances of recovery."

Schools and community centers in West Virginia are encouraged to become affiliated with Heartbeats of Hope and prioritize cardiac safety because in the event of a sudden cardiac arrest, time is critical.

"In a cardiac emergency, every second and minute play a pivotal role in determining the outcome," Jai Udassi, M.D., medical director of Heartbeats of Hope and chief of Pediatric Cardiology at WVU Medicine Children's, said. "The human heart relies on a continuous and rhythmic flow of blood to supply oxygen to vital organs, including the brain. When someone experiences a cardiac event, such as a heart attack or sudden cardiac

arrest, the normal blood flow is disrupted, and the clock starts ticking."

Through the designation, sites will be required to have an AED present in an easily accessible area and proper training for staff to use the equipment. Heartbeats of Hope will also assist schools and community locations in creating a comprehensive emergency response plan.

"I have cared for children after they were fortunate enough to survive a sudden arrhythmia event because of AED use," Coup said. "If we could get every school and community building in our state to join us in the vision of WVU Medicine Children's Heartbeats of Hope and Project ADAM by taking the steps to be a designated safe school or community building, it would be an amazing accomplishment for all of us involved."

For more information about WVU Medicine Children's Heartbeats of Hope, an affiliate of Project ADAM, and how to get involved, visit [WVUKids.com/Heart](http://WVUKids.com/Heart) or e-mail [ProjectADAM@WVUMedicine.org](mailto:ProjectADAM@WVUMedicine.org).

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# Building a Connected Community Sharing Through the Grapevine

Even if the weather contributed to a moody week, I will have to consent that I had a very enjoyable week.

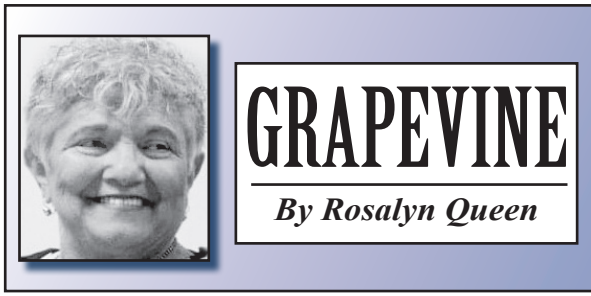
I started the week by attending the Chamber After Hours which was hosted by the Airport and Thrasher using a Mardi Gras theme. The food and decorations were great, but most of all I enjoyed the friendship of those in attendance. I just do not remember how many years I have been a member but I go back a long way.

In those early years I remember Dusty Spelsburg, Betty Preston, Chris McCuskey and many of the businessmen in our county. Now the face of the Chamber has changed with all the young business people in our community. But

to my surprise I really enjoy interacting with these young people. Due to my being a little incapacitated I find a seat in a corner and I survey all those there and I guess at just what they are discussing. Probably out of respect most everyone will find their way to me and I truly enjoy an exchange of local activities.

I want to commend Kathy and Marlee from the Chamber on their leadership and I always enjoy talking to RickRock from the airport and am so proud of the job he is doing. Next I attended church on Ash Wednesday and welcomed the opportunity to spend time with my church family.

Thursday found me having lunch with our City Manager, Tiffany



Fells at the Caboose. It was great to interact with her and I kind of got that old time feeling when I was Festival directors and many plans were finalized over lunch. I wish Tiffany well and hope she will be with us for a while. I also recommend the Caboose. There chicken pastina is great.

Lastly, I spent Saturday celebrating my son in law, Andy Lang's 60th birthday. It was a beautiful celebration and every detail was taken care of. This was an all together different crowd but one that I had

many shared memories with. Most of those attending were Andy's friends from school and college. I really enjoyed the remarks and relived a lot of them as his friends did presentations. Our friends and families have been through a lot of marriages, births, graduations and even a few funerals together. Almost everyone there, I had shared a personal venture with and it was great to relive the memories.

But you might wonder why I am sharing this with you. At all of these functions there was

one thing in common and that was there was always someone who commented on reading the Grapevine. I first thought that maybe they were trying to make an old lady feel good but they made direct references to columns so I knew they were reading the column. The column most of them referred to was the Shoe Horn story and they felt like I did; these young kids really did not know what a shoe horn was.

I wonder a lot if the column appeals to the readers and it makes me feel good to share comments with my readers. I also get a lot of comments about the cookbook and with just a handful left I hope that those of you find it helpful.

If Tomorrow Never

Comes, this was a great week.

Just a reminder that the Women of Distinction luncheon is Friday. Hope to see you there.

Work on having a great Lenten season.

I want to send thoughts to Katherine Beto Demary and a fast recovery to Johnny Madia. Thank heavens my cousin Ruby Oldaker is on her way to a full recovery. We love and miss you. February birthday wishes to Senator Ben Queen Lisa Lang, Leslie Pruitt, Andy Lang and my new friend, Theresa Belcastro Martin.

Take care, be kind to your friends and family and until next week "Now you Have Heard It Through The Grapevine."

## "Smoot" From Pg 2.

had been so concerned about the Christian welfare of enslaved people . . . how could his Confederate cause be seen as committed to the brutal enslavement of black people?"

A legitimate historical question requires a professional answer. A historian would start from at least two hypotheses to test through examining historical sources. One path might start with testing the idea that the individual was, in fact, a hypocrite. A historian would then search the historical records to build the case for proving that the figure was, in fact, not a practitioner of what he preached.

The overwhelming evidence points to the notion that this particular individual might have been psychologically

incapable of hypocrisy, due to a distinct possibility that he could have suffered from what was once called Asperger's Syndrome.

If a historian failed to prove hypocrisy, the next logical step lies in examining the ideal behind the question itself. Was the Confederate cause centered entirely around "the brutal enslavement of black people?"

Again, the job of the historian lies in a careful examination of primary sources, not the opinions of pundits or the possible negative responses to the inquiry.

The motto of the late, great Charleston Daily Mail (murdered in its sleep by its sister paper) was "Without or with offense to friends or foes, I sketch the world exactly as it goes." No finer maxim could be accepted by real

historians, but only if it inspires them to look beyond conventional wisdom and personal prejudice.

Many would agree today with the speaker at that museum function who went on to downplay the fact that this man who had escaped grinding poverty would risk his employment and personal freedom to help slaves, but that is not good history. Resolving an apparent contradiction does not mean ignoring the issues that normally drive people to do what they do.

Here, context is key to any interpretation.

It means explaining why a man, who in this case was a college professor, perhaps even a campus radical, could at the same time place

his personal lot with the ideal of educating slaves, but also emerge as one of the finest military leaders of his type in modern history - who chose to serve in the service of the Commonwealth of Virginia when it placed its forces in the cause of the Confederate States.

Because just as he did in war, he stood like a stone wall. He did so for a lonely

cause that was not easy for him personally - a cause that required substantial personal courage - almost the opposite of most 21st century academics who condemn figures of history for only surface reasons.

No, because Thomas J. Jackson, born in Clarksburg, West Virginia, was a complex man who lived in complex times.

He is proof that the scientific notion of "Occam's Razor" is never applicable when navigating the muddy and turbulent waters of studying humanity, especially during stormy periods of history.

And "now," as a great journalist once dramatically said as his famous tagline "you know the rest of the story."

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**OBITUARIES****Patricia Faye Cook**

Patricia Faye Cook, 82, of Grafton, formerly of Worthington, passed away on February 12, 2024, at the Taylor Healthcare Center. She was born in Phoenix, AZ, July 25, 1941, a daughter of the late Perry Fuller and Zelma Mae Reynolds Moore. She was preceded in death by her husband, Arthur Eugene Cook, on October 11, 2021.

Surviving are six sons: Dewayne Cook and his wife Carol, Whitehall, AR; Douglas Cook and his wife Cheryl, Shinnston; David Cook, Houston, TX; Dennis Cook and his wife Aimee, Fairmont; Kevin Cook and his wife Michelle, Farmington; Kenneth Cook and Andrea Ramsey, Grafton; one daughter, Kimberly Cook Murphy and her husband Sheldon, Jacksonville, FL; several grandchildren: Cassandra and Josh Cook, Matthew and Tonya Cook, Mikell Murphy and Amanda Nelson, Conchetta and Vincent Cook, Taylor and Nicole Cook, Richard, Kaylea and Adalynn Cook, Gavin, Aiden and Isabella Ramsey, and Carly Morris; several great-grandchildren; two very special nieces, Alluvia Mae (Bangs) Costello, Adevia Jessie (Bangs) Mackes, and her very dear friend, Martha Maxwell, with whom she loved to laugh and chit chat.

Pat was also preceded in death by one son,

Richard Eugene Cook; one daughter, Deborah Cook; and her siblings, Katherine Elizabeth (Moore) Bangs, and James Raymond Moore.

Pat was a Christian by faith and loved to listen to gospel music. She enjoyed cooking, sewing, and spending quality time with her family. Her favorite place of all was with any of her grandchildren! She will be deeply missed.

The family will receive friends at the Perine Funeral Home, 1348 S. Pike St., Shinnston, from 2-8pm, Wednesday, where funeral services will be held at 11am, Thursday, February 15 with Pastor Max "Sonny" Palmer officiating. Interment will be in the Wooddale Cemetery in Grafton. Condolences may be extended to the family at www.perinefunerals.com. The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Cook family.

**Ralph E. Cutlip**

Ralph E. Cutlip, 71, of Bridgeport, passed away on February 16, 2024 following a hard fight with metastatic urethral cancer. He was born in Morgantown, a son of the late, Paul and Jean Cutlip.

He is survived by his wife, Carole Kesling Cutlip, whom he married in 1974.

Ralph is also survived by his daughter, Celestine Cutlip of Lumberport; his pride and joy, his granddaughter, Gianna Cutlip of Bridgeport;

his brother, Mike Cutlip of Sardis; his sisters-in-law, Sherry Chess and her husband Bobby of Clarksburg; and Darlene Cumberledge and her husband Keith of Wallace; as well as several nieces and nephews.

After graduating from Victory High School, he worked at the glass factory, coal mines, and later retired with over 39 years in the oil and gas industry. Ralph continued working until the time that his illness took over. When he was younger, he enjoyed the Eldora Drag Raceway. In more recent years, Ralph enjoyed riding his Harley-Davidson motorcycle and going to bike nights and poker runs with his nephew, Victor and his brother-in-law, Bob.

Watching his granddaughter grow up was his greatest joy.

Friends will be received at Perine Funeral Home, 1348 S. Pike St. Shinnston, on Monday, February 19, from 11:00am until the time of the funeral service at 1:00 pm. Pastor Garry Layfield will officiate the service. Interment will follow at the Lumberport Lions Club Cemetery. Online memories and condolences can be shared with the family at www.perinefunerals.com

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

**Terry David Moore**

It is with broken hearts that we announce the death of our beloved

husband and father, Terry David Moore, 79 of Shinnston. He passed away at Ruby Memorial Hospital on Sunday, February 18, 2024. Terry was born January 26, 1945, in Clarksburg, a son of the late Eugene "Demp" and Sheila Hess Moore.

Terry leaves behind his wife, Margaret Patrick Moore, whom he married on July 20, 1968. He also leaves behind his special dog, Jake, who misses him so much. Also surviving are his son, Brian Moore and his wife Michelle of Navarre, FL; and his daughter, Suzannah Klimek and her husband Eddie of Shinnston; his grandchildren, Brianna Moore; Brandon Moore; Adrean (Spenser) Cornell; Hunter (Logan) Moore; Hannah Moore; and Preston and Cooper Klimek; three great-grandchildren, Sophia, Maggie, and Waylon Cornell; his sisters, Alice Loughery and Linda (Ronnie) Vincent; his brothers, Randy (Debbie) Moore; Tom (Brenda) Moore; and Stephen (Linda) Moore; his brothers-in-law, George (Socorro) Patrick; Sam Marano; Milan (Anita) Patrick Jr.; and Steve Patrick; his sisters-in-law, Dorothy Harris; Julieana (Floyd) Singleton; and Martha Jane (Ray) Shackelford; as well as many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Terry was preceded in death by his son, Jefferson Moore; and his daughter, Jennifer Moore; his mother and father-in-law, Mary and Milan Patrick; his grandparents, Marie and Homer Moore and Mary and Lloyd Hess; two sisters-in-law, Mary Ann Januszka; and Helen Marano; his brother-in-law, Tom

Harris; his nephew, Richard Zirkle; his niece, Amanda Eakle; and his great-nephew, Sam Singleton.

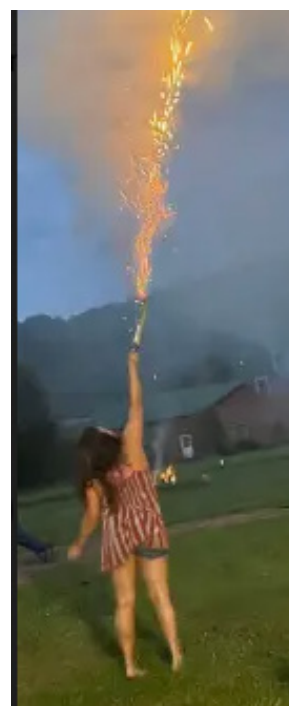
Terry was a member of St. Ann Catholic Church. After high school, Terry joined the U.S. Air Force and served his country for four years during the Vietnam era. He was a coal miner for Consol Energy for over 30 years. He was also a member of the American Legion Post #31 and the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge #929. His favorite pastimes were hunting, fishing, camping, and working in his garage. Terry had many special friends that he loved partying with (a little too much) to Margaret's dismay. After his first stroke in 2015, his life took on major changes. He was frustrated that he could no longer live his very active and social life to which he was accustomed. He found joy in watching TV with his wife Margaret and his loyal dog, Jake. He also loved sitting on the porch drinking coffee and smoking cigars.

"There are no goodbyes for us. Wherever you are, you will always be in my heart." – Gandhi

In accordance with Terry's wishes, there will be no public visitation. There will be a gathering of family and friends at Perine Funeral Home, 1348 S. Pike St. Shinnston, on Tuesday, February 20, at 11:00am. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Ann Catholic Church that same day at 12:00 pm. Interment will follow at the Shinnston Memorial Cemetery where military graveside honors will be accorded

by the U.S. Airforce and the Harrison County Honor Guard. Online memories and condolences can be shared with the family at www.perinefunerals.com

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

**Francesca R. Strakal**

Francesca R. Strakal November 16, 1992 to February 13, 2024.

Also known as Frankie, Thumper, and Krankie Frankie.

The Real One (Another Angel Home)

Who I am, where I'm from and what I did has no bearing on me now! Just know my struggles were real! The life I made was not easy for me, but my family and especially my sisters and brothers, nieces and nephew were my world. The love for my one child ran deeper than any ocean. I marched to the beat of my own tune unapologetically and knowing God and that he was with me every step. I lived life to the fullest and never left any stone unturned. I was beautiful, unique, crazy, selfless, hilarious, ditsy, bright, bold, generous

See "Obituaries" on Pg 9

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**Out of the Past**

Memorable photographs from around Harrison County



Scenic view of Tenmile Creek near Marshville 1901.

Photo courtesy of West Virginia University



# Streambank Stabilization along West Fork River to be studied

Clarksburg, WV the Pittsburgh District on Tuesday, February the City of Clarksburg. streambank stabilization River along Liberty Avenue. *See "River" on Pg 9*

# Schrock named Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Champion Child

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. – WVU Medicine Children's Hospital patient Addison Schrock, 10, of Acme, Pennsylvania, has been named the 2024 Children's Miracle Network Hospitals® Champion Child for West Virginia. Addison's story began at age 2, when she faced chronic kidney problems. From ages 2 to 6, Addison was in and out of the hospital with frequent infections. Her world was full of hospital visits and uncertainty, yet her resilience shone, and her smile never faded. As Addison grew, so did her challenges. In the summer of 2021, at the age of 8, she and her family enjoyed activities at the local fair. But that night, something was wrong. Addison seemed to experience what her parents, Marcus and Christa Schrock, thought were night terrors. The terrors came every 45-minutes, so her parents took her to a children's hospital in Pennsylvania. There, Addison was mistakenly diagnosed with panic attacks. The Schrocks had planned a trip to the beach two days later and thought the family time, sunshine, and beach would be healing for Addison. So, they decided to keep their plans. As they drove, Addison's symptoms worsened. Her eyes became dilated. She was shaking and talking nonsense. Marcus and Christa knew their daughter, and they sensed these weren't panic attacks. It looked like Addison was having seizures. When they arrived at the beach, they decided to take her to the emergency room (ER). But there, doctors told them to take Addison back to the hospital that did the initial assessment. Given Addison's condition and the frequency of her episodes, the family knew there wasn't enough time to do that. So, they worked with the ER doctors, who finally ordered an MRI. The results were shocking: cortical dysplasia, a common cause of epilepsy and seizures. Her parents' unwavering advocacy led them to take Addison to WVU Medicine Children's. After the long drive back from the beach to Morgantown, the family



Addison Schrock

*See "Schrock" on Pg 9*

## "Bice" From Pg 1.

theatre, but opera houses were built to house stage productions, live plays, and operas, as well as provide a place for bands, orchestras, and singers to perform. During its existence (1889 until this 1906 fire), Short's Opera House was referred to as the entertainment capitol of Shinnston! A 1901 edition of The Shinnston News wrote that the Dramatic Society had performed an entertaining and very well-received drama entitled, "The Confederate Spy". The performance was preceded by an open-air concert by the First

West Virginia Infantry Band. Even though Short built the structure and put his name on the building to call it "Short's Opera House", he didn't operate it; different men did at different times. During the last year of its existence, Fred F. Robey and D.E. Bock were the lessees and managers. They most likely held the title for the shortest-term operators of the business, having taken over in the fall of 1905—a few short months before the fire. The fire started on the second level of the building. It has been assumed that a defective gas pipe burst to ignite the blaze. The frame of the building was all wooden, along with a brick exterior. The wooden frame proved to fall prey quickly on the flames of the fire and it wasn't long before the entire structure was ablaze. The fire department was summoned and, upon their arrival, began a futile effort to save the structure and they watched as the towering inferno collapsed within itself. It is interesting to note that the yellow brick apartment building, which currently occupies the southwest corner of Pike and Station Streets, was built on the stone foundation which supported the opera house. It was a cold February night and the wintry winds were blowing, which carried the flames onto a nearby building which housed the plumbing shop and news office. Attention was soon turned to that structure, but the newspaper stock as well as the wooden frame

of that building also proved to be fuel for the fire and resulted in another loss. As attention was focused on the news building/plumbing shop, the opera house remains lie smoldering and flames reignited there. A spark from those flames flew across the street to a residence owned by Charles Randall that was being rented to William Blair. When Mr. Blair realized the house was on fire, he began immediate removal of his furniture to the outside. By the time the fire department was able to reach the Randall/Blair home, its destruction was foretold. Although Mr. Blair was able to save several pieces of his furniture, they still became scorched from the heat of the blaze and water soaked until they were no longer fit for use. The 'domino effect' had not quite ended when the fire department realized that there was yet another home on fire. Next to the home owned by Charles Randall was a home owned by Harvey Bice, which was also being rented. The tenant of this house was able to save both the household and kitchen furniture from ruins. The fire department succeeded in saving this structure from complete destruction, though the interior was gutted from the blaze. When daylight broke, many townspeople gathered at the smoldering remains, which were now surrounded by several inches of nature's early morning snowfall, a scene which is visible in this month's 'Story Behind the Photo'.

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The City of Shinnston

Council meets at 7:00pm on the second and last Mondays. Join Us On Facebook!

THANK YOU FOR READING



# LEGAL

**Notice of Request for Proposal:** The City of Shinnston is requesting bids from qualified contractors for a Roof Replacement project at the 1) the City Building 40 Main Street, Shinnston WV 26431 and 2) Shinnston Police Department 43 Bridge Street, Shinnston WV 26431. Sealed bids can be received at the City of Shinnston City Building by 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 6, 2024. Bid instructions and specifications are available by contacting Tori Drainer at (304) 677-4199 or tdrainer@shinnstonwv.com. The City of Shinnston reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals and/or items and to award the contract in whole as deemed to be in the best interest of the City of Shinnston. The City of Shinnston reserves the right to negotiate further with any contractor if such action is deemed in the best interest of the City of Shinnston.

# Wisdom From “Poor Richard’s Almanack”

By Benjamin Franklin

“A light purse is a heavy Curse.”  
“Speak little, do much.”  
“Diligence overcomes difficulties, Sloth makes them.”

## “Schrock” From Pg 8.

was met by doctors and nurses ready to help. The medical team quickly administered treatments, including IV medications and an extensive neuro MRI. Doctors, deeply concerned, personally delivered the MRI results. Together, they and her parents made a vital decision to perform surgery. Despite complications like cerebrospinal fluid leaks and numerous seizures, the skilled medical team provided hope with a successful surgical procedure and continuous care. “This hospital means

everything to us. It means a fair chance at a life that our daughter deserves and the care she needs,” Christa said. “At WVU Medicine Children’s, you’re never alone. We are so grateful, so beyond grateful, for everyone who’s played such a huge role in our lives. The doctors, surgeons, nurses, cafeteria staff, gift shop staff, and so many others touched our lives in endless ways.” Now, as the 2024 Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals Champion Child for West Virginia, Addison

is a beacon of hope and courage. Her story isn’t just about overcoming illness; it’s about the power of love, the strength of family, and the miracles that can happen when determination meets the best of healthcare.

To see a video about Addison’s story, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=615Kwe8Zijg>.

For more information on WVU Medicine Children’s, visit [WVUKids.com](http://WVUKids.com).

## “River” From Pg 8.

The signing ceremony, scheduled for 11:00 AM in the City Council Chambers, signifies the collaborative effort between the City and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to assess the long-term stability of the riverbank. Concerns arose during the planning and construction of pile walls along Liberty Avenue during a slip repair in 2023, providing an opportunity for City Engineer Tom Brown and Army Corps representatives to identify additional areas requiring further evaluation.

“This agreement opens the door to a comprehensive feasibility study,” said Tiffany Fell, Clarksburg’s City Manager. “The study will identify potential risks and determine the most effective strategies to protect our community and infrastructure from future erosion.” The feasibility study will delve into the specific needs of the project, including: Identifying areas susceptible to destabilization Determining the

scope and type of work required for long-term stability Estimating the associated costs of potential solutions The public is invited to attend the signing ceremony on Tuesday, February 20th, at 11:00 AM in the City Council Chambers at 222 W. Pike Street, Clarksburg, WV. This event represents an important step toward securing the future of Clarksburg’s West Fork River and protecting the surrounding community.

## “Obituaries” From Pg 7.

and kind with a huge charismatic personality and heart. My moto: Deep Love, Mad Loyalty, and Amazing Friendship. I was loved by so many and I loved intensely for so many. God has taken me to a place I have never seen or been. He has given me huge wings

to make the skies and sunsets more alluring and to watch over and guide all the ones I knew and loved. Leaving family and friends with lasting memories. Talk to me daily, I can hear you. Now it’s all so serene. Cremation services were provided by

Perine Funeral Home, Shinnston. A memorial service will be held at the convenience of the family. Online memories and condolences can be shared with the family at [www.perinefunerals.com](http://www.perinefunerals.com). The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Strakal family.

# 2024 AARP Community Challenge Grant Program Accepting Applications

Mountain State projects have benefited from nearly \$200,000 in past AARP Community Challenge Grant awards, supporting quick-action community projects – CHARLESTON – AARP West Virginia invites community organizations and local government across the Mountain State to apply for AARP’s 2024 Community Challenge grant program. The grant program, now in its eighth year, is part of AARP’s nationwide Livable Communities initiative, which supports the efforts of cities, towns, neighborhoods and rural areas to become great places to live for all residents, especially those age 50 and older.

The Community Challenge is open to eligible nonprofits and government entities. Other types of organizations will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Grants can range from several hundred dollars for small, short-term activities to

several thousand dollars for larger projects.

In 2024, the AARP Community Challenge is accepting applications across three different grant opportunities. All projects must be consistent with AARP’s mission to serve the needs of people 50 and older along with other eligibility criteria, and must be completed by December 15, 2024.

Capacity-building microgrants are paired with additional resources, such as one-on-one coaching, webinars, cohort learning opportunities and more for improving walkability, bikeability and implementing safe, accessible home modifications.

Demonstration grants focus on improving digital connections to prepare and respond to disasters; reconnecting communities divided by infrastructure; and housing choice design competitions. Flagship grants support projects that

improve public places; transportation; housing; diversity, equity and inclusion; civic engagement; community health and economic empowerment; and new this year community resilience; and digital connections.

Since 2017, AARP has awarded \$16.4 million in Community Challenge Grants to nonprofit organizations and government entities representing every state and U.S. territory, including West Virginia community projects in Brooke, Fayette, Greenbrier, Kanawha, Lincoln, Marion, Monongalia, Ohio, Pocahontas, Preston, Putnam, Summers, Taylor and Tucker counties. The application deadline is 5:00 p.m. ET, Wednesday, March 6, 2024. To submit applications, or for more information on the program, visit [www.aarp.org/CommunityChallenge](http://www.aarp.org/CommunityChallenge).

# DH, DHF, and DoHS Open Application Window for Summer Internship Program

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Department of Health (DH), West Virginia Department of Health Facilities (DHF), and West Virginia Department of Human Services (DoHS) are currently accepting applications for the 2024 Summer Internship Program. The Office of Human Resources Management within the Office of Shared Administration (OSA) for the departments is looking for driven and compassionate students who are seeking a meaningful work experience.

Nathaniel Godwin participated in the internship program in both 2023 and 2024. He is a journalism major with a concentration in public interest communication within the Reed College of Media at West Virginia

University. Upon graduation, he hopes to pursue a career in the health sector, where he can utilize his training and experience to advance public health in local communities. His hope is to work for one of the departments full-time.

“Being an intern has given me the opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge of all the hard work people are putting in to help West Virginians. During the internship, I was assigned mentors and supervisors who guided and helped me learn the ropes. From DoHS’s Bureau for Family Assistance to the Office of Communications, everyone I worked with was warm, patient, and receptive. I worked on tangible projects that made my time very interesting and full of learning.

The program has a good work-life balance and is designed to help students learn and grow in a professional setting and explore the events that take place every summer in Charleston.”

The agencies offer students a competitive wage and flexible schedules. Those who work in Charleston, West Virginia may also take advantage of free housing. To qualify for the program, students must have completed 30 college credit hours with a 2.5 cumulative grade point average and be eligible to work in the United States without sponsorship.

Any additional questions may be directed to [OSAJobs@wv.gov](mailto:OSAJobs@wv.gov).



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# At the origins of monastic life

From *L'Osservatore Romano*

Religious life as we know it today, both contemplative and active, has evolved over two millennia. In this third of four articles, Christine Schenk explores the contribution of prominent fourth-century Christian women who founded monasteries, laying the foundation for the life now lived by women religious.

The fourth century began with a severe persecution against Christians especially, in the east. After invoking the Christian God and a protracted power struggle, Constantine became emperor in 324 ad. The Church then rose to unprecedented heights of worldly power and influence, thanks to the imperial favor of Constantine, his sons, and his mother Helena. Churchmen also received extravagant benefices from aristocratic Christian women such as Olympias, Melania the Elder and Younger,

and Paula. Christian communities that had formerly met in large homes or buildings, now found themselves in sumptuous public surroundings. These changes exacerbated tensions about the public ministry of Christian women.

Changing role of women in the Church  
The fourth century also saw a distressing tendency to symbolically associate the female sex with heresy, even though both Christian men and women were involved in the disparate interpretations of Christianity eventually labeled heretical. Women were especially at risk of being labeled heretics and suspected of unchastity if they assumed the role of teacher. This is the ecclesial context within which fourth-century “church mothers” lived and witnessed. What follows is a brief but significant chronology of their lives and the ways they — and their communities — exercised ecclesial authority in the early church.

Texts written by women  
Literary information about fourth-century women such as Marcella, Paula, Macrina, Melania the Elder, and Olympias comes primarily from learned churchmen (Jerome, Gregory of Nyssa, Palladius, and John Chrysostom) who wrote about them. We do have two texts written by women: Proba and Egeria. Proba adapted Rome’s much-loved Virgilian prose cento and retold the Christian story to evangelize aristocratic young men. She created a cross-cultural evangelizing tool that influenced Christian men and women for generations. Egeria wrote a travel diary for her sisters describing her journey to sacred sites in the East. On the way, she writes of meeting her “very dear friend, the holy deaconess Marthana,” who governs a double monastery near St Thecla’s shrine (in Turkey). Marthana is a rare example of a female deacon exercising governing authority

over both Christian men and women.  
While Basil in the East and Jerome in the West are frequently credited for the rise of monasticism, two women — Macrina and Marcella — began living this new Christian lifestyle well before the men.  
Macrina (327-379 CE) founded a monastery at Annisa in Asia Minor, which became the prototype for a monastic rule written by her brother Basil. Basil was later credited as the father of monasticism, yet Macrina is certainly its mother. Her authority as a spiritual director profoundly influenced her theologian brothers, Gregory and Basil, who crafted the doctrine of the Trinity.  
Marcella (325-410) gathered women to study Scripture and pray in her aristocratic home on the Aventine Hill fully 40 years before Jerome arrived in Rome. After Jerome returned to Jerusalem, Rome’s priests would consult Marcella for help in clarifying biblical texts. She also engaged in public debate over the

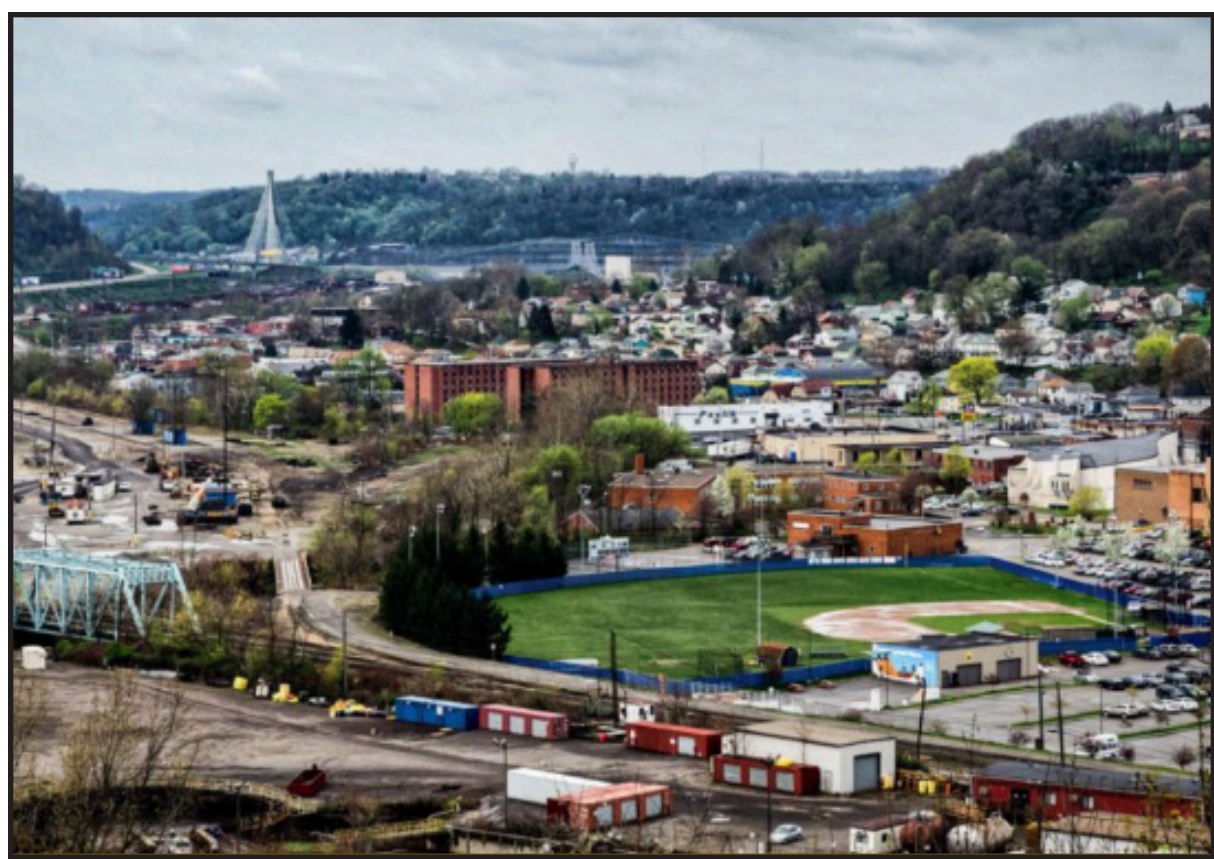
Originist controversy.  
Paula (347-404) founded two monasteries in Bethlehem, one for women, and one for men. She turned the male monastery over to the monks where, thanks to her patronage, Jerome completed his translation of the Greek Bible into Latin. Jerome tells us that Paula’s expertise in Hebrew exceeded his own.  
Melania the Elder (350-410) led a prominent churchman (Evagrius) back to his vow of celibacy and taught and converted men. She was instrumental in resolving a schism involving 400 monks at Antioch, “winning over every heretic that denied the Holy Spirit.” She funded and co-founded a double monastery on the Mount of Olives where her communities engaged in scripture study, prayer, and charitable works.  
Olympias (368-408). Ordained a deacon by Bishop Nectarius in Constantinople, Olympias used her vast family fortune to support the church and serve the poor. She founded

a large monastery close to Hagia Sophia (Holy Wisdom) where three female relatives were also ordained deacons. Roman women of senatorial families soon joined, and the number of women monastics grew to 250.  
These are just a few examples of fourth-century women whose communities are precursors to contemporary religious life. Their ecclesial witness and authority greatly influenced Christian communities of their time as well as those in times to come. At a time when some churchmen forbade them to speak or teach publicly, and preferred they stay at home, there is evidence that there were Christian women in the fourth century who exercised authority, spoke up about important ecclesial issues, taught both men and women, and witnessed freely about the Christ with whom they had thrown in their lot.  
#sistersproject  
By CHRISTINE SCHENK, CS

## Mooney makes Statement on the Cleveland-Cliffs Plant Closure

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Cleveland-Cliffs has announced the closure of their tinplate steel production plant in Weirton. Cleveland-Cliffs is the largest flat-rolled steel producer in North America. The tin produced in Weirton has been used to produce food packaging and other containers. In January 2023, Cleveland-Cliffs along with the United Steelworkers filed antidumping and countervailing duty petitions with the Department of Commerce. The Department of Commerce found evidence of foreign unfair dumping and subsidization

and announced tariffs. However, the International Trade Commission has rejected these tariffs. “The Cleveland-Cliffs closure is an absolute blow to our hardworking West Virginia steelworkers. When I toured Cleveland-Cliffs, we discussed the threat of unfair foreign competition and how it put the plant at risk. As a result of my meetings, I talked with the Department of Commerce and urged them to crack down on unfair foreign competition and save these jobs. The Department of Commerce sided with us, but the globalist, Democrat led International



Cleveland-Cliffs

Trade Commission sided with the cheap foreign competitors and as a result another American plant was closed,” said Congressman Alex X. Mooney.

## Justice issues statement on closing of Cleveland-Cliffs facility

CHARLESTON, WV — Gov. Jim Justice issued the following statement today following the news that Cleveland-Cliffs is closing their Weirton facility: “The news of Cleveland-Cliffs closing their Weirton operation hits me like a ton of bricks. Nearly 900 West Virginia jobs are lost; it’s a gut punch to families, to the community and to our state’s very spirit. And it’s all because of an unwise, irresponsible decision by the United States International

Trade Commission. This commission has only four members, three of which were appointed by President Barack Obama. Their decision denied proposed import tariffs on tin mill products from China, Canada, and Germany that the U.S. Department of Commerce determined are sold in the United States at less than fair value and directly subsidized by the government of China. Their decision effectively allows cheap steel to continue flooding

into our country, which forced Cleveland-Cliffs to close their facility and will further decimate America’s steel industry in the days and weeks to come. These four unelected bureaucrats should not have the power to unilaterally dismantle an American industry with no oversight. I’m calling on our President and Congress to reign in this commission and not idly stand by while American workers and communities suffer. President Trump’s tariffs on steel imports

worked because they put America first. They protected America’s steel industry and prevented a disastrous decision like this from occurring. It was shortsighted and foolish for President Biden to reverse them in the name of politics. To all those in the Weirton community, here’s what I am doing: Immediately deploy an Economic Development Task Force: This team will hit the ground running to identify and attract businesses seeking

incredible facilities like this one, leveraging every incentive within our power. I am directing this team to continue working with the company as well to explore any and all options available in this unacceptable situation. Immediately deploy a Workforce WV Quick Response Team: This team, with experts in job training and relocation assistance will hit the ground running to connect affected workers with new opportunities. This team will provide

personalized training and certification programs to equip workers with the latest skills, ensuring they are competitive in any industry. No one will be left behind; we’ll tailor support based on your individual needs and goals. West Virginians are known for their grit and resilience. We’ve overcome challenges before, and we’ll overcome this one too. Together, we’ll ensure Weirton emerges stronger, with a brighter future for all.”