



# The SHINNSTON News & Journal HARRISON COUNTY

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Focusing on local news throughout Harrison County.*



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## To Protect and to Serve

### Shinnston Police Chief Jon Harbert Is Citizen of the Month

By Stephen Smoot

"I always strive to do the best that I can possibly do."

So says Jon Harbert, a 28 year law enforcement veteran who has served as police chief for the City of Shinnston for the past five years. During that time, Chief Harbert has labored to elevate the department both collectively and also in encouraging each officer to gain the most knowledge and

experience possible. "I've been a first responder since I was 18," Harbert said, but initially that service came with the Shinnston Volunteer Fire Department. He explained that "My Dad was in the fire department years ago. I followed in his footsteps."

"Law enforcement was always my passion," he continued. Part of that passion came from a family

friend that he knew while growing up. Harbert started his career in law enforcement with the Bridgeport Police Department "and was there for the longest part" of his law enforcement service. He also served as Lumberport Chief of Police. His work prior to joining the Shinnston department included special assignment as a deputized officer

with a federal Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives task force and a stint serving with a US Marshal Service fugitive task force. Between different stints with local law enforcement agencies, he also worked for five years in the coal mines. At the time of his hire, Shinnston Mayor Pat Kovalck told The Exponent-Telegram "He comes from a good

See "Citizen" on Pg 4

"The loss of this beloved teacher is a profound tragedy for our school community"



In a devastating tragedy covered even by London, England's Daily Mail, Liberty High School coach Ryan Lantz passed away after "a tragic, but accidental" event last week. Lantz was a coach for both Liberty and Robert C. Byrd High Schools. More inside in Bill Nestor's column.

## Leadership Harrison Class Goes On the Road, Meets With Legislators

By Stephen Smoot

The Harrison County Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Harrison class had a capital time in Charleston last week. As part of their

February educational session, they attended proceedings of the West Virginia State Legislature and also heard from elected officials, including their senior United States Senator.

**L e a d e r s h i p**

Harrison has been around for 25 years," explained Marla Feree, marketing director for the Harrison County Chamber of Commerce. She added that "it's another program that

the Chamber offers to members and non-members alike." The purpose of the program lies in taking a select group of aspiring and inspiring individuals from the Harrison

See "Leadership" on Pg 3



From left to right are Beaufort County Council Chair, Joseph F. Passiment, Jim Hunt, and Orangeburg County Council Chair, Johnnie Wright.

## Shinnston Saint Patrick's Day Parade to Help Highlight Local Arts

By Stephen Smoot

As the cold weather recedes and warm spring breezes blow, the world enjoys turning its eyes to the expanding green overtaking cold winter browns and grays. This year, Shinnston plans to add to the celebration of the season with a Saint Patrick's Day parade.

According to Brendan Gallagher from Blue and Teal Concepts, Shinnston formerly held an event celebrating the holiday "but it went by the wayside." Last year, with COVID in the rear view mirror, the city and organizers reignited the tradition.

In addition to holding a traditional procession

down Main Street, the parade serves another purpose by "helping to promote the local arts," Gallagher said.

A local dance school will perform as part of the festivities. Ingra and Company Dance Studio in Shinnston, as its website states, "is passionately committed

to providing each student the opportunity to learn the art of dance through a structured and inspiring environment." They will demonstrate and perform the time honored art of Irish step dancing.

Also providing entertainment, the West Virginia Highlanders

See "Parade" on Pg 3

## The Palmetto State



By Jim Hunt for the News and Journal

Carolina. I was excited to do the workshop since I had never visited Columbia, the state capital and it was close by my grandchildren, who live in Lancaster, South Carolina. I generally speak to cities, so I had to brush up on my knowledge of county governments. Fortunately, Ms. Anna Berger, the Senior Director of Operations for the Association of Counties provided me with some background information and I learned some interesting things that I did not know.

The system of county governments in South Carolina is a good bit different than West Virginia and the County

One thing that I try to focus on each day is to learn something or pick up information that I didn't know. It is surprising how much of the world is still a mystery, even at my stage in life. I was recently asked to do a leadership workshop for the South Carolina Association of Counties in Columbia, South

See "Hunt" on Pg 3

## Shinnston and Harrison County Commission Reach Understanding on Syncing Elections

By Stephen Smoot

Last week, the City of Shinnston and Harrison County reached an agreement to join hundreds of municipalities across the state that have

synced city elections with those administered by the county. "This was the perfect year to make this change," said Kathleen Panek, Shinnston City Clerk. She explained

that "our election cycle is the same as the state and county election cycle." Panek also said that "I discussed this with (current Harrison County Commission

president, former county clerk) Susan Thomas several years ago, but her precincts and my wards did not align." Once the parties overcame that obstacle, the City Council

See "Elections" on Pg 6

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Guest Column

By Charlotte Lane
Chair, WV Public Service Commission

The Public Service Commission Needs You

Some of you might remember those old posters where a stern, bearded picture of Uncle Sam looks out solemnly over a caption that says, "I want YOU for U.S. Army." Like Uncle Sam, I would like to say that the Public Service Commission needs you, too.



If you are looking for an interesting place to work, you couldn't find better than the Commission.

Looking for the exotic? Yes, we have it. Looking for a place that will challenge your talents? Couldn't find a better place. Want to work at a place where you can have a real impact and make a difference in the lives of many people? This is the spot for you.

For the enormous amount of work we do, we have only a tiny staff - fewer than 230 people. And we have 70 open positions. We are particularly looking for people smart in math, in business, in numbers, engineers, lawyers and other specialists.

If you are about to graduate from college in one of those areas, come see us. Know of a recent graduate in any of those fields? Let them know we are looking. The work is very satisfying because you must use your brain to examine the most complex issues that you will ever face.

We have great hours, competitive salaries, and exceptional benefits. We are looking for young and old. All I'm asking is that you listen to what we offer. You have nothing to lose, and so much to gain.

Are you in a rut and need a change? That happens to a lot of people. We're only a phone call away. If you've had a successful career in the private sector, and are considering a second career, come talk with us. If you are nearing retirement age, but are having second thoughts about the rocking chair, come talk with us. Don't self-eliminate before you talk with us.

If you are just looking for a career change, come talk. You're not out anything by giving us that call.

Give us a chance to give you a chance. Call us at (304) 340-0300 and ask for human resources. I believe you will be pleased that you did. Remember: The Commission needs you.

Super Crossword INTERPRETING ALL THE SIGNS

- ACROSS 1 Friendly and cheerful 7 Custard apple relative 12 Peevish state 16 Air gun ammo 19 With no secrecy 20 Caribbean resort island 21 Physiques, for short 22 Suffix with east 23 Door-bashing device 25 Working hard 26 Grazing field 27 Politician Alexandria -Cortez 28 Bud Light mascot Spuds MacKenzie, for one 31 A verb often follows it 34 Vex 36 Winning tic-tac-toe row 37 "Hoarders" channel 38 "Full House" acting pair 41 Sideways-moving arachnid 43 Judo teacher 44 Test taker 46 Sailors, informally 47 "The Villain" actor Jack Gain's offset 51 Ignited 53 "If I Only Had the Nerve" singer 59 "Ka-POW!" 60 Me, in Lyon 63 On - with (equal to) 64 One of the Kennedys 65 Org. with merit badges 67 Leaning 69 Mother of Jesus 71 Things to step on in washrooms 73 Moon that's home to the Ewoks 74 Top-secret U.S. org. 75 Dialect of Aramaic 76 Ad biz award 77 French article 78 CEO's deg. 80 Flashy, diving soccer move 82 Put a flaw in 83 Dog in "The Thin Man" 85 Hockey's Phil, to fans 86 Manufacture 89 Leaned back 93 Negev's land 98 "Fatal Attraction" Oscar nominee 100 Feta, for one 103 Official order 104 Prevarication 105 Spiral-shelled mollusk 106 Rep on the street 107 Luxury writing implement 110 Eye ring 113 Rhinoplasty doc 114 Nastase of tennis fame 115 Halibut, sole and flounder 120 Beatified Mlle. 121 Madams' counterparts 122 Eldest of the Musketeers 123 1998 Masters champ Mark 124 One of the Kennedys 125 Hug's partner 126 Century's 100 127 All 12 of its symbols are featured in this puzzle DOWN 1 Dollop 2 Clean air org. 3 Court divider 4 Chants 5 Actor Baldwin 6 Vega's constellation 7 Grill-marked sandwiches 8 French forest region 9 Brand of faucet filters 10 Cry like - 11 Bank bought by Chase, for short 12 Govt. advances for mom-and-pops 13 Opposite of destined 14 "And When -" (1969 hit) 15 Certain high-heel feature 16 Go-Go's singer Carlisle 17 Offspring producer 18 Ones entrapping 24 "Vidi," in English 29 "Slow" primate 30 Bonnie of blues rock 31 Antis' votes 32 Corrida cry 33 Sailor's org. 35 It runs on a 52-Down 39 - do-well 40 Bill of tennis 41 "Hurry it up!" 42 Actress Ward 45 Balm additive 48 Female grad 49 Chatty birds 52 Apple buy 53 Went spelunking 54 Think aloud 55 Prison units 56 2012 Ben Affleck thriller 57 Turkish money unit 58 Bitterly cold 59 Adherents of an Iranian religion 60 Thousand: Prefix 61 - acid (fat product) 62 "There, there" 65 Georgia politician Bob 66 Michael of the band R.E.M. 68 Small nail 70 "la Douce" 71 Drink-related party abbr. 72 Suffix with micro- or kaleido- 75 Read quickly 79 "I'm c-c-cold!" 80 Start to wake 81 Light snack 82 Small rodents, jocularly 83 Sore feeling 84 Slumber 86 Star of "I'm No Angel" 87 Slower than allegretto 88 Like bootees 90 Cream-filled pastries 91 Big head 92 Contributor 94 Covered anew, as a book 95 - Lingus 96 Suffix with Senegal 97 Guided 99 In harm's way 101 Transversely 102 Those people 105 100-buck bill 108 Roman 1,052 109 Auction website 111 "The Wizard -" 112 Celeb's ride 116 Radio host Charlamagne - God 117 "Bali -" 118 Epoch 119 Small pouch

Grid for Super Crossword puzzle with numbers 1-127 indicating starting points for words.

FIND THE SUPER CROSSWORD ANSWERS ON PAGE 6!

THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

Charleston WV - act to create a branch normal school at West Liberty. For the dates in West Virginia history. The following events happened on these dates in West Virginia history. To read more, go to e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia at www.wvencyclopedia.org. March 1, 1898: Homer Adams Holt was born in Lewisburg. March 1, 1898: In 1937, he became West Virginia's 20th governor. March 2, 1840: The Virginia General Assembly granted a charter for Bethany College. From the beginning, it has been a four-year, baccalaureate-degree college, the oldest such institution in West Virginia. March 2, 1896: Clair Bee was born in Pennsboro. Bee was a successful, innovative college basketball coach and widely published author of both technical basketball books and young adult fiction

centered on sports. March 2, 1915: A blast swept through Layland No. 3 Mine in Fayette County, killing 114 men. March 2, 1927: The West Virginia capitol building known as the "pasteboard capitol" was destroyed by fire. This wood-frame building in downtown Charleston had been built in just 42 days after the previous Victorian-style capitol building burned in 1921. March 2, 1961: Governor Wally Barron signed legislation that granted Marshall College university status. March 3, 1843: Barbour County was created from parts of Lewis, Harrison and Randolph counties and named for the distinguished Virginia jurist Philip Pendleton Barbour. March 3, 1890: Teacher and civic activist Memphis Tennessee Garrison was born in Virginia. She helped develop NAACP chapters in southern West Virginia and created the Christmas Seal Project. March 4, 1849: Earl Williams Oglebay was born in Bridgeport, Ohio. He became one of Wheeling's most successful industrialists and generous benefactors. March 4, 1893: Governor William MacCorkle gave his inaugural address in which he warned that West Virginia was "passing under the control of foreign and non-resident landowners." March 4, 1924: Blues musician Nathaniel H. "Nat" Reese was born in Salem, Virginia. Growing up in Princeton, Reese learned and played blues, jazz, country and dance music throughout the southern coalfields. He is a member of the West Virginia Music Hall of Fame.

Newspaper advertisement for The News & Journal, including contact information, subscription rates, and a 'How To Let Us Know' section.



# Progressive Women Sponsor Sign Language Instruction For Youth

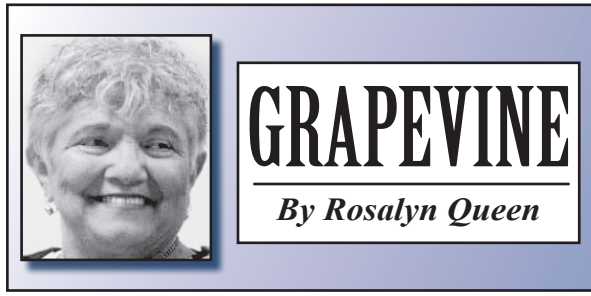
“A movement to provide opportunities to empower individuals in their personal advancement and enable them to impact their community.” This statement defines the mission of the Progressive Womens Association of Harrison County. In keeping with this mission the PWA is presenting Sign Language Classes to children from 10 to 17 years old. The classes started on February 9 and will continue through March 29.

The instructor is Janel StMartin and there are twelve children enrolled in the classes.

Rosalyn Queen,

PWA past president was searching for programs that would teach individuals, thus enabling them to make an impact on their community and came up with the sign language classes. PWA Director, Elinda Carson wrote a grant for this program and Sacred Heart Children’s Group awarded the PWA the funds to present this program.

The classes start at 3:30 with wind down time and refreshments. Instructions start at 4:00 and continue for one hour. The goal of these classes is to teach the basics to sign language. At the



last class a Certificate of Completion will be presented to each student. It is the hope of the PWA that these students will pursue further skills in sign language.

Queen also announced that they are pursuing sponsors to present a basics to sign language classes for adults. The goal is to contact County, City, and business offices in Clarksburg

to encourage officials to appoint one or two individuals to attend these classes in order to assist those who might visit their office in need of signing. The classes would be held once a week at noon for eight weeks. The classes are free and lunch would be provided for those attending.

Betty Waddy, PWA president, encourages anyone interested in

these classes to contact the PWA office, 394 624 6881 for early registration. She also would like to talk to anyone who might be interested in sponsoring this program for adults. The PWA continues to serve the residents of Harrison County in fulfilling their mission.

On Sunday April 7 the PWA will be holding a ceremony to honor graduating students who are members of the Young Progressive Women’s Association. Betty Felts is the sponsor of this group and she too, will be honored.

Easter bread will be for sale by the PWA

the week before Palm Sunday. There will also be chocolate Easter Eggs. Place your orders by calling the PWA office.

Early voting will be starting soon. We encourage you get acquainted with the candidates, make your choice and be sure to vote.

A little bird told me that Spring is on its way. Laura Goff supplied me with beautiful yellow tulips which only reinforces my statement.

Stay healthy, continue a good Lenten season and until next week “Now You Have Heard It Through The Grapevine.”

## “Leadership” From Pg 1.

County professional community and give them opportunities to develop knowledge, experience, and, most of all, leadership skills.

“The people that attend” the sessions, Free said “not only learn to apply leadership skills, but also how to give back to the community.”

The class had a busy

agenda during their excursion to the state capital.

Leadership Harrison opened its day holding a 20 minute chat with State Senator Ben Queen. During their stay, they also received greetings from Delegates Laura Kimble and Keith Marple.

Next, the group sat in the House of Delegates gallery to

observe some of the morning’s proceedings. Delegate Mickey Pettito recognized Leadership Harrison from the House floor.

Michael Queen, deputy chief of staff for West Virginia Secretary of State Mac Warner, hosted a “lunch and learn” session that included an opportunity to hear more about the

role of this Board of Public Works Cabinet department.

What would a trip be without a welcome surprise? After lunch, US Senator Joe Manchin connected with Leadership Harrison to provide an update of developments in the nation’s capital.

The group concluded the day with an

update from Mitch Carmichael, state secretary of economic development and a tour of the West Virginia State Museum.

Sessions of Leadership Harrison last from September through May. Each monthly session focuses on a different aspect of applied leadership in a

variety of fields and circumstances. All take place somewhere in Harrison County except for February, which is reserved for the State Capitol trip. In May, classes graduate at the annual dinner. Those who wish to participate can apply for consideration between July 1 and July 30.

## “Hunt” From Pg 1.

Councils, as they are called in South Carolina, resemble a city council in their operation. The County Councils are also composed of more members than

West Virginia, with five-member, seven-member, eight-member and eleven-member councils. This is a good bit different than West Virginia, who have

three-member County Commissions in all but two counties. South Carolina also has nine fewer counties than West Virginia, even though the population of South Carolina is about three times larger than West Virginia.

One similar feature in both South Carolina and West Virginia is that both states have numerous rural counties with smaller populations and larger counties that are heavily populated. This makes for challenges in local government since the needs in many counties are vastly different than their growing counterparts in the more populated areas. Housing is also a large issue in South Carolina, with several

of the participants in the workshop mentioned it as the top concern in their county. South Carolina has attracted a lot of new factories and other economic activity, and this has caused a demand for “workforce” housing along with a growing population of retirees, who have relocated to the state for its warmer climate and beaches.

I joked with the group of county leaders in the workshop that there are probably more West Virginians in South Carolina during the summer than any other time due to the popularity of Myrtle Beach and Hilton Head as vacation destinations for Mountain State residents. I had several people come up to

me during the break to relate their stories about running into West Virginians on the golf course or at a beach restaurant.

My final observation about my trip to South Carolina is that the people in local government in

South Carolina are a dedicated group of public servants. They listened intently during the session, and I was pleased that they liked sharing their stories and anecdotes, that made for a fun day. The President of the South Carolina Association of Counties is Roy Costner III, the

Council Vice-Chairman of Pickens County and I was pleased that he took time from his hectic

schedule to sit in on the workshop. In just a few hours, I felt like I had known these county

leaders for several years and their hospitality and friendliness were contagious.

The job of a local government leader is not for the faint hearted and these dedicated public

servants are on the front lines of public service. They see their constituents in the supermarket and at church and rarely get a pat on the back. I hope that I was able to leave them with some leadership strategies that can make their jobs a little bit easier. All in all, an Amazing week in the Palmetto State!

## “Parade” From Pg 1.

of Davis and Elkins University bring a very traditional, but very distinctive sound of Scottish bagpipe music. Almost five centuries ago, Scottish chieftains replaced trumpets with these musical instruments to inspire courage in their own soldiers and to strike fear into their enemies.

According to HistoricUK, “due to their inspirational influence, bagpipes were classified as weapons of war during the Highland uprisings of the early 1700s.”

A Scottish soldier of the British 1st Special Service Brigade Private Bill Millin, under technically illegal orders from his commander Brigadier General Simon Fraser, also Chief of the Clan Fraser and 15th Lord Kovat, ordered him to resume the banned tradition. Private Millin, armed only with a dagger and bagpipes, led and inspired his fellow soldiers as German bullets screamed around him on Sword beach. Two deep Celtic

traditions come to the fore as part of the day, providing unique family friendly entertainment that comes from the heritage of many who will come and see. This adds another layer of not only fun, but also education as well.

“Shinnston and many areas of West Virginia have a strong heritage and tie to the Irish community,” Gallagher explained. Many of Irish heritage in Harrison County have ancestors who crossed the Atlantic and worked to construct

the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the transportation artery that helped to build up Clarksburg and surrounding areas.

The parade will start Saturday March 16 at 11 AM on Main Street in Shinnston. Those who wish to take part can message the City of Shinnston through social media or email blackandtealconcepts@gmail.com

“Come out and enjoy the parade,” Gallagher said, also reminding everyone to “wear your green and Irish regalia.

## 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*

Sunday, March 3: 12:00pm Chili Cook-off and Bake-off at the First Baptist Church Lighthouse on 70 Rebecca Street in downtown Shinnston. \$6.00 for chili and cornbread, dessert and drink. Hot dogs \$1.25 or 12 for \$12.00 to benefit Baptist Youth Fellowship. 304-592-0232

Please note: “The Soapbox” will be changing over to “The Born & Bred Studio.” This space will offer live music, trivia nights, and other events. The space will still be available for rent on a case by case basis. Please DM us with inquiries.

Lincoln High School Cheerleaders will hold their annual “Egg My Yard” Fundraiser. Those who place orders for candy and/or toy filled eggs by March 22nd will see them hidden in their yard on either March 29 or 30. Proceeds support Lincoln High School Cheerleaders. Contact lincolnceercoach@gmail.com or text (304) 669-0867 for more information

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# Harrison County's Ryan Lantz Gone Way too Soon

By Bill Nestor

This past Wednesday a tragic accident occurred in the Liberty High School parking lot. Liberty teacher and county coach Ryan Lantz was struck by a vehicle in the school's parking lot. The accident would claim Lantz's life and his loss was felt immediately across North Central West Virginia.

Lantz had been an assistant coach on Liberty's football staff for the past decade. He was also the freshman basketball coach at Robert C. Byrd High School, as well as an assistant for Basil Lucas on the varsity staff. Working overtime for the Flying Eagles was no problem for Lantz.

Being a coach and a mentor wasn't a job for the Harrison County native; it was a calling.

Working with our youth was what Lantz was called to do, as I found out just a couple of short years ago.

I remember when Ryan was the head basketball coach at Liberty. He ran the Mountaineer program for four years. During that time, his teams always played hard



## The Bottom Line

By Bill Nestor  
Sports Editor

and had the right approach to the game. The sportsmanship bug painted on the wall inside the Liberty gym must have made an impact on Coach Lantz, because he coached his players to play and act that way. Win or lose, he displayed a level of class that was second to none.

Our friendship flourished when he came to Robert C. Byrd. I have always tried to be the first to speak to people in the gym. To me, there is no better place to be on a cold winter's night and I have always wanted to show my excitement. But no matter how quick I was on the trigger, I could never beat Coach Lantz. Ryan was quick to speak with a smile that would overshadow a 10 game losing streak. He was elated to be there and I know that for a fact, based on the multiple roles he filled at One Eagle Way.

I graduated from college in 1992 and coached freshman

basketball while being a varsity assistant at South Harrison. It was exhausting for me at age 23, but I loved the players and the game. Ryan graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan in 1994 and this year, he was pulling the same double duty with the energy of a youngster. It is much easier when you love what you do and you feel called to do it.

I've broadcast RCB games for over a quarter of a century from a small hole high above courtside. Most people don't even realize I am there and, during that lengthy period, only two people have acknowledged my presence on a consistent basis. One of them was Ryan. He would take the time and make the effort to make me feel important. As a former coach, I pay close attention to players and coaches and their interactions during games. Coach Lantz would always use every opportunity to engage

players by either putting an arm around them, or offer an encouraging word. The look on their faces showed how much it meant to them, as his efforts meant to me.

I didn't realize until after his passing that he was a youth pastor. It makes perfect sense to me now. He must have felt called to do all that he did for our youth. These were not jobs to Ryan, they were opportunities. Once we finish our work on Earth, God calls us home for eternal life.

Hopefully the student involved in that accident knows that she is not to blame and that it was his time to be called home.

The great news for Ryan's family and friends that want to see him again is that there is a path through Jesus Christ.

We are all sad to see Ryan pass from this Earth. I will miss the smiles and waves for sure. It is only fitting, however, that after offering hundreds of players positive words of encouragement, that he will hear from our Heavenly Father "well done, My good and faithful servant!"



## 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 Notre Dame's Selena Wilson and Lincoln's Brayden Edgell.

Fighting Irish basketball player Selena Wilson had an exceptional outing in a season ending loss to Pendleton County. In the setback, Wilson scores 31 points, hauled down 11 rebounds, blocked five shots,

dished out two assists, and recorded a pair of steals.

Cougar hoopster Brayden Edgell helped his team to a win over Big 10 foe Phillip Barbour, last week. Edgell recorded a double-double with a team high 23 points and a game high 14 assists.

Congratulations to Notre Dame's Selena Wilson and Lincoln's Brayden Edgell for shining bright in the SN and HJC spotlight!



Pendleton County senior guard Nataley Hedrick tries to contain Notre Dame's Selena Wilson in the sectional setback in Franklin. Pendleton County is led by former Washington Irving head coach Donnie Kopp.

## This Week At the Palette

By Bethany Nuzum

7:00pm, \$10 for an 8x10 canvas.

This week at the Palette we will have "Everybody's Watercolor" on Thursday, 1-3:00, \$30 with Judy Mattson Reed.

Supplies provided or bring your own.

Kids Paint classes happen on Tuesday, March 5, from 6 to

We will be painting a Happy Shamrock! Check out Facebook or Instagram to see what we will be painting!

Check Facebook or Instagram for gallery hours this week to see the current exhibit featuring Carlyn Martin Light.

## "Citizen" From Pg 1.

family, and he's got the determination that we were looking for. We want to gear our Police Department toward community service, have a chief who will get out in the public and talk to the neighbors, talk to the business leaders, get a feel for their needs."

Harbert took over as the opioid crisis devastating West Virginia and much of the nation had started to hit its peak. His hire also took place four years after Harrison County received a federal High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area designation, or HIDTA. Counties that participate in HIDTA suffer elevated drug addiction and trafficking issues and receive extra federal assistance.

Harbert quickly moved to build up his department to face the growing challenges facing the Shinnston

Police Department. He worked with the former police clerk, who now has another position with city administration, to rework "the policy and procedure manual inside and out" for the first time in approximately a quarter century.

He added to the toolkit of effective drug enforcement by obtaining three K-9s for the department. Harbert personally handles one of them and has five years of service handling them for the city. Furthermore, last year he worked with State Senator Ryan Weld (R-Brooke) in helping to put together a bill that, if enacted, would make crimes against police dogs the same as human officers. Harbert told WOWK in Charleston that getting support for the measure is "an uphill battle. Everybody sees dogs as another tool. While they are somewhat a tool,

they're also a breathing living creature that did not choose this path; we chose it for them."

Harbert noted that his trained K-9 helped to make one of the biggest drug busts in Shinnston's history. Though Shinnston is a small town, he said "things do happen. People don't think they do, but they do."

Over three years ago, Shinnston police helped to crack a drug trafficking operation. A local couple served as part of an operation using the US Mail to help ship methamphetamine across the country. Officers recovered two pounds of the drug, \$17,000 in cash, and two guns. The couple received a total of 26 years in federal prison between the two of them.

Harbert said of Larry Gregory, who is now serving a 20 year sentence, that "he told us he spent the largest part of his life in prison."

The K-9 units also help bring incidents to happier conclusions. Almost two years ago, K-9 Jess and her handler Sergeant Layton helped to locate a runaway teenager.

Organizations achieve excellence when individuals dedicate themselves to achieving it. As police departments face more aggressive criminals, they must put men and women in the field who meet the toughest

standards. Harbert says of his hiring process that "I don't want to just have a body." He seeks those who have a passion for learning and a determination to serve the community.

Harbert oversees a great deal of the training personally. He is a certified instructor with the state in SWAT tactics and different types of firearms. "I've been a tactical guy for years," he shared, adding that "I try to train my guys the best we can." Harbert's goal lies in Shinnston's officers meeting standards higher than those set by the state.

The chief explained that the ideal officer is "someone that has a true drive" and a "true passion," as well as "pride in what you do."

Public perception also remains a challenge. For instance, officers work under more scrutiny than ever. Harbert said "anybody can make a mistake. It's how you pick yourself up and move forward" that counts.

He also criticizes the police show mentality than many in the general public have, saying many "think we can solve crimes like on TV."

By expecting the best and training his officers accordingly, Shinnston's "thin blue line" does its best to roll back the big city problems that sometimes wash up in a small town.



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## Flood Insurance Protects You All Year Long

Anywhere it rains, it can flood. With flood insurance, you'll be protected in the event of flood damage, whether it's an inch of water.

### The Importance of Flood Insurance

Flooding is the most common and costly natural disaster in the United States. In the past 5 years, all 50 states have experienced floods or flash floods. Even just one inch of water can cause \$25,000 of damage to your home.

Flood damage is rarely covered under your homeowners or renter's insurance policy.

Review your insurance coverage to make sure you are protected for all hazards,

including flooding, wind, and other related damages.

Learn more about flood risk and insurance at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).

If you live in a high-risk area and have a federally backed mortgage, your mortgage lender requires you to have flood insurance.

Know Your Risk: Visit WV Flood Tool ([mapwv.gov](http://mapwv.gov)) to see if your home has a high risk of flooding.

### What's covered?

There are many types of coverage plans, and it is important to pick the one that is right for your needs. Coverage plans may include:

Your home's structure and utilities

including furnaces, electric and plumbing systems, and even kitchen appliances.

The contents of your home including coverage for personal belongings, clothing, and valuable items like artwork.

There are also plans available for renters and businesses.

Learn more at [fema.gov](http://fema.gov) Feb. 2024

Be Flood Smart—Purchase or Renew a Flood Insurance Policy Today

Of more than 3,000 counties in the United States, 99% experienced a flood event from 1996 to 2022. Flood insurance can protect your home from damage during a flooding event, so you

can recover faster.

Even if you don't live near water, your home can still be at risk of flooding from changing conditions such as construction projects, surface erosion or natural events. An average of 40% of National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) claims come from outside high-risk flood areas.

You can buy or renew a flood insurance policy by calling your insurance company or a local independent agent who can write flood insurance directly with the NFIP, administered by FEMA.

If you don't have a provider, visit [insurance provider to see a list of agents offering flood insurance in West Virginia.](http://floodsmart.gov/flood-</a></p></div>
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Visit FloodSmart.gov or call the NFIP at 877-336-2627 for more information.

With flood insurance from the NFIP, you're covered. Flood insurance can cover up to:

\$250,000 for your residential property

\$100,000 for your personal belongings\*  
\$500,000 for your commercial property

\$500,000 for your commercial property contents  
\*Available to homeowners and renters  
For more information

on West Virginia's disaster recovery, visit [emd.wv.gov](http://emd.wv.gov), West Virginia Emergency Management Division Facebook page, [www.fema.gov/disaster/4756](http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4756) and [www.facebook.com/FEMA](http://www.facebook.com/FEMA).

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Learn more at [fema.gov](http://fema.gov) Feb. 2024

## Submit Receipts if You Made Repairs

West Virginia residents from Boone, Calhoun, Clay, Harrison, and Kanawha counties affected by the severe storms that happened Aug. 28-30, 2023, may be eligible for reimbursement for repairs they made to their homes.

If you made repairs to your home or replaced damaged items, you can submit receipts to FEMA for possible reimbursement.

Even if you cannot find the receipts for work done or items replaced, there are still ways to get that information to FEMA.

Did you use your credit card to buy home repair items or to replace something damaged in the flood? Reach out to your credit card company to get a copy of your statement with the purchases. Contact the store and ask them to look you up by a customer loyalty number or your credit card information.

Did you hire a contractor or company to do repairs?

Contact the company/contractor and ask for a receipt or duplicate invoice for work completed. Contact the company/

contractor and ask them to write a letter stating what work was done.

What information do you need to include when submitting documents?

Include with your documents:  
o Make sure you write your name, disaster number, and FEMA application number on all documents you send to FEMA.

A signed letter to explain why you are submitting documents and what they are for.

Copies of supporting documents, including proof of your disaster-caused losses which

could be photos or an insurance claim.

All documents, including receipts, bills, and estimates, must include contact information of the service provider.

Keep all original documents for your records and only provide copies to FEMA.

How can you submit receipts and documents?

There are a few different ways you can provide FEMA with your receipts:

Bring them to a Disaster Recovery Center and a FEMA specialist can help you upload them to your

registration. Visit the FEMA DRC Locator for more details on DRCs open in West Virginia.

Feb. 2024  
FS 006 Submit Receipts if You Made Repairs

Upload them yourself on DisasterAssistance.gov or on the FEMA mobile app.

Mail them to FEMA at P.O. Box 10055, Hyattsville, MD 20782-8055.

Fax them to 1-800-827-8112 and mark Attn: FEMA on the fax sheet.

For more information on West Virginia's disaster recovery, visit

[emd.wv.gov](http://emd.wv.gov), West Virginia Emergency Management Division Facebook page, [www.fema.gov/disaster/4756](http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4756) and [www.facebook.com/FEMA](http://www.facebook.com/FEMA).

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Feb. 2024 2

## Beware of Fraud and Scam Artists

West Virginia residents should be aware that con artists and criminals may try to obtain money or steal personal information through fraud, scams, or identity theft. In some

cases, thieves try to apply with FEMA using names, addresses and Social Security numbers they have stolen from residents affected by a disaster.

FEMA Disaster

Survivor Assistance

Federal and local disaster workers do not solicit or accept money. Don't trust anyone who offers financial help and then asks for money.  
Do not disclose

information to any unsolicited telephone calls and e-mails from individuals claiming to be FEMA or federal employees. FEMA will not contact you unless you have called FEMA

first or applied for assistance.

FEMA representatives will ask for social security and bank account numbers

when you apply and may ask for it again after you apply. Be cautious when giving this information to others who ask for it. Scam artists may

See "Scams" on Pg 6





# Three Ways to Apply for FEMA Assistance

FEMA disaster and flooding. recovery funds may be available for eligible individuals in Boone, Calhoun, Clay, Harrison, and Kanawha counties who suffered damage from the Aug. 28-30, 2023, heavy rain event that caused landslides, mudslides, Residents who sustained storm-related property damage should register with FEMA. To do so, survivors can:

- Apply Online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](http://DisasterAssistance.gov)
- Apply with the FEMA App
- Download the FEMA mobile app, available at Google Play or the Apple App Store
- Apply by Phone at 800-621-3362
- Call FEMA's toll-free helpline at 800-621-3362, open 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Eastern Time with language translation available.

If you use a relay service such as video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, provide FEMA with your number for that service when you apply.

For more information on West Virginia's disaster recovery, visit [emd.wv.gov](http://emd.wv.gov), West Virginia Emergency Management Division Facebook page, [www.fema.gov/disaster/4756](http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4756) and [www.facebook.com/FEMA](http://www.facebook.com/FEMA).

FEMA's mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters. FEMA Region 3's jurisdiction includes Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. Learn more at [fema.gov](http://fema.gov). Feb. 2024 1

## "Scams" From Pg 5.

pose as government officials, aid workers, or insurance company employees.

- Ask to see ID badges. All FEMA representatives carry an identification badge with a photograph. A FEMA shirt or jacket is not proof of identity.
- Phony property inspections:
  - Be on alert if somebody asks for your nine-digit registration number. FEMA inspectors will never ask for this information. They already have it in their records.

No government disaster assistance official will call you to ask for your financial account information. If you doubt a FEMA representative is legitimate, feel free to call the FEMA Helpline and ask if FEMA is trying to reach you. Call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362.

- FEMA-contracted inspectors assessing damage never charge a fee to inspect your property.
- Phony building contractors:
  - FEMA does not

hire or endorse specific contractors to fix homes or recommend repairs. A FEMA inspector's job is to verify damage.

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- Always hire a reputable engineer, architect or building official to assess your home. An unethical contractor may create damage to get work.

To report scams, fraud, and identity-theft contact:

- FEMA's toll-free Disaster Fraud Hotline at 866-720-5721
- The Department of Justice's National

Center for Disaster Fraud: [justice.gov/disaster-fraud/ncdf-disaster-complaint-form](http://justice.gov/disaster-fraud/ncdf-disaster-complaint-form)

- When in doubt, report any suspicious behavior to your local authorities.

For more information on West Virginia's disaster recovery, visit [emd.wv.gov](http://emd.wv.gov), West Virginia Emergency Management Division Facebook page, [www.fema.gov/disaster/4756](http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4756) and [www.facebook.com/FEMA](http://www.facebook.com/FEMA).

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## "Elections" From Pg 1.

amended the charter to allow for the election coordination with the county to occur.

Municipal elections are administered by the city clerk's office.

Since Shinnston City elections are nonpartisan and the new council sworn in by law on July 1, the council chose to align with the state primary election date in May, instead of the June date that was formerly customary.

The Shinnston City Council and Harrison County Commission cemented the deal with a memorandum of understanding establishing the process by which the elections

could combine.

New procedures will take place, per the memorandum of understanding. First, the county and city will hold concurrent elections during the state primary on even numbered years.

One of the major arguments in favor of holding municipal and county elections comes from the ability to share costs. By law, a formula based on the city's total registered voters as a percentage of all registered voters in the county will determine how much the city contributes. Though the city has to shoulder some cost, the election

burden on the city budget will lessen.

The costs assessed to the City will not include standard administrative costs that the county would pay the entirety of regardless, but the city will bear the entire burden of any recount of a municipal election.

Candidates for City elections must still file with the city clerk, but that office will deliver the paperwork to the county clerk. Early voting for city elections will coincide with that for county. Panek explained that "voters will cast their ballots where the county usually has, or decides to set, polling places."

The City of Shinnston will also continue to publish a sample ballot.

Panek echoed another argument supporting the merger of efforts, saying the move "should actually increase the number of citizens voting in our municipal election." She also stated that she and John Spires, Harrison County Clerk, would coordinate on hammering out the details of bringing the two governments' elections together in a single effort.

Either party may amend or terminate the agreement.

# THANK YOU FOR READING

### Super Crossword

#### Answers

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## OBITUARIES

**Ryan Gail Lantz**

Ryan Gail Lantz, 52, of Clarksburg, went to be with his Lord on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, due to a tragic accident at Liberty High School. He was born, November 30, 1971, a son of the David and Ronda Williams Lantz of Clarksburg.

Surviving are his wife Kim Devericks Lantz, whom he married July 23, 1999; three children: Olivia Connor and her husband Colton, Broderick Lantz and his wife Camryn, and Miya Lantz; his grandchildren: Sebastian, Channing, Farrah, and Kennedy; his brother Philip Lantz and his wife Becky; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Rhonda and Rodney McLe; nieces, Sophie, Graham, Brandt, Nicole, Elizabeth, and Chelsea; great-nieces: Emilie, Gracelyn, and Oryanna, and a great-nephew, Jayce; and his beloved dogs, Cammie and Koda. Ryan is also survived by his friends and coaching colleagues, A.J. Harman, Basil Lucas, Bruce Carey, and Justin Noble, his many teaching colleagues, his church and church camp family, and all his students and players, past and present. He loved you all.

Ryan was preceded in death by his biological father, Thomas Sutton, his grandparents, Gail

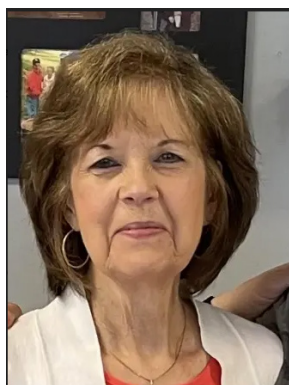
and Ruth Williams, and his mother-in-law, Patricia McCarty.

Ryan was a 1990 graduate of Liberty High School and a 1994 graduate of West Virginia Wesleyan College. He returned to West Virginia Wesleyan and graduated with a Master's Degree in 2013. He was a teacher at various schools for 11 years, most recently at Liberty High School where he taught journalism. He was an avid sports fan and coached many teams over the years including Mountaineer Middle School Football where he was the former head coach, Liberty Basketball, former head coach, also on the coaching staff for Liberty Football, RCB Freshman Basketball, and the Clarksburg Crush Travel Baseball team.

In addition to his professional career with students, Ryan was the former Youth Pastor at Jewel City Church for 10 years and faithfully attended Judson Baptist Camp where he served as Camp Pastor in past years. He loved to mentor students in life and in faith. He was saved and baptized at the age of 8 and served the Lord and the church in many capacities throughout his life. He will be deeply missed by all that loved him.

In keeping with his wishes, cremation services have been provided. The family will receive friends at Lifepointe Church, 2551 Buckhannon Pike, Mt. Clare, from 5-8pm, Friday and 2-4pm Saturday. A funeral service will be held at the church at 4pm, Saturday, with Pastors Aaron Morgan, Jeff Perine, and Tim Sandy officiating.

Condolences may be extended to the family at www.perinefunerals.com. The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Lantz family.

**Linda Darlene (Terry) Robertson**

Linda Darlene (Terry) Robertson, 76, of Willowton, West Virginia fought the good fight, finished the race, kept the faith, and entered the eternal presence of Jesus on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, with her family surrounding her. Linda was born on October 10, 1947 in Oakvale, West Virginia as the second daughter of Lafayette Hannon and Sybil Jean Terry. From the moment she arrived in that home, she grew into a young woman of integrity, tenacity, and faith—helping her daddy and momma raise her three sisters and four brothers. It was there in that white house on the banks of that small stream where Linda learned the value of hard work and perseverance, unending love and mercy, and a deep foundation rooted in relationship with her Saviour, Jesus Christ. It started with her babysitting her brothers and sisters which would often end (as she so lovingly told the story) with all of them sitting in a corner against the wall until her parents returned home. Her mother taught her how to sew and make clothes

for the family, raise and can vegetables from the garden, and wash dishes which was her least favorite chore and often ended up with several pots and pans hidden in the oven.

The most valuable thing growing in the hearts of that family in Oakvale was their legacy of faith. Growing up as a preacher's daughter, she continued that legacy as a preacher's wife. On January 2, 1965, Linda Darlene Terry became the bride of Olen Bruce Robertson and thus began a relationship that started from a proposal of "it's now or never" to a beautiful climax of "until death do us part." All of those years of listening to her daddy preach the power of Jesus and seeing her momma read the Bible every day in the same chair, at the same table, praying to the same Jesus taught Linda everything she needed to be the perfect pastor's wife, church's "First Lady," and perfect mother for her two children—Melissa and Yvonne. Reverend Olen and Linda Robertson served together in ministry for 32 years, and they were always a team. He couldn't have made it to the right places at the right times if it weren't for Linda who kept track of more than his appointments. She could find car keys, his Bible, and sermon notes at a moment's notice. Their impact as husband-and-wife ministry partners still echoes through the hollers of McDowell County where they served Maybeury, Elkhorn, and Powhatan United Methodist Churches from 1972 until 1987. They continued their ministry journey at Calvary United Methodist and

Mount Hope UMC in Clarksburg, WV from 1987 until retirement in 2004. Linda is remembered for her quiet, inviting demeanor and genuine love for the people she served as well as her beautiful alto singing voice that accompanied Olen even when he threw an impromptu song or two on her every now and then.

For most of Linda's life, she held the precious, often underrated role, of homemaker and mother to her two daughters. She never missed a party at school and walked her girls to the bus stop every morning with curlers and an orange scarf over her hair. For anyone who knew Linda, they will recognize this as a great act of love since she was particular about hair.

As a mother, she was a cheerleader, a role model, a teacher, a counselor, and a friend. As a pastor's wife, she was adamant on making others feel important. If someone were a frequent visitor at the Robertson's house for dinner, she kept a note detailing the things they liked and disliked to make sure she set the table with all their favorite food. When her daughters were teenagers, she added another role to her repertoire—dental assistant. She worked for oral surgeons Dr. Oliverio and Dr. Lattanzi in Clarksburg for sixteen years.

Linda was preceded in death by her father Lafayette Terry and her mother Sybil Jean Terry; her sister, Rita Reed; and brother-in-law, Rick Combs. She leaves behind a wealth of people who

love and miss her—the love of her life, Rev. Olen Robertson (residing in Harmony at White Oaks)—her children, Melissa (Steve) Hinerman of Clarksburg; Yvonne (Todd) Gauer of Monks Corner, SC—her siblings, Paul (Imogene) Terry of Willowton; Bernice Combs of Princeton; Barbara (Scottie) Kupner of Princeton; Wayne (Janette) Terry of Willowton; Gerald (Valerie) Terry of Elgood; and Vince (Dottie) Terry of Princeton. She also leaves behind her grandchildren—Katie (Erica) Dorshimer of Clairton, PA; Sarah (Robbie) Stevens of Waynesburg, PA; Trey Gauer of Monks Corner, SC; and Madison (Eliseo) Reyes of Phoenix, AZ. Her newest treasure is great grandson, Mateo Reyes of Phoenix, AZ.

Friends will be received at Calvary United Methodist Church, 390 South 22nd Street, Clarksburg, on Saturday, February 24th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with the service immediately following visitation at 2:00. Son-in-law, Steve Hinerman and brother, Gerald Terry will preside over the funeral services. Interment will be on Sunday, February 25th, at the Christie Family Cemetery in Willowton, WV. Flowers may be sent to Calvary United Methodist Church on the morning of the services, or in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to two of Linda's favorite ministries: Samaritan's Purse or Hatcher Union Church c/o Rebecca Baker 3877 Hall's Ridge Road, Princeton, WV

See "Obituaries" on Pg 9

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## Out of the Past

Memorable photographs from around Harrison County



From WVU Sports.com Don Vincent, "who passed away earlier this week at age 86, was once described by his coach Fred Schaus as a "ball player's ball player" because he was so unflappable on the court.

"He never brought you to your feet with a spectacular play; all he did was make every play on both ends of the floor," WVU teammate and MSN basketball radio analyst Jay Jacobs recalled earlier today. "He was a terrific player."

Vincent starred at Shinnston High in the early 1950s during a time when West Virginia high school basketball reigned supreme. WVU benefited greatly from this magnificent run of in-state talent that was a byproduct of thriving mining and chemical industries in the Mountain State following the conclusion of World War II"



# Schools Partner Up to Build Aviation Education and Career Opportunities

**CLARKSBURG & LOST CREEK**—The Harrison County School System has been partnering with Pierpont Aviation Programs this year to have 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 Aviation Program have been, and are continuing to talk with students about the aviation career opportunities available for them here in Harrison County.



**The Robert C. Byrd National Aviation Education Center hosts programs that create opportunities for students seeking careers in aviation**

On Friday, February 23, 2024, Dr. Gilbert and his team will be speaking to 8th grade students at Mountaineer Middle School at 8 a.m. then the 8th grade students at South Harrison Middle School at 10 a.m.

At the end of Pierpont’s presentation, students in every middle school and high school this year have been invited on a field trip to

the Pierpont facility at Robert C. Byrd National Aerospace Center in Bridgeport.

On Friday, March 22, 9 to 11 a.m., approximately 40 students from Mountaineer Middle School and South Harrison Middle School will be going on a field trip together to the Pierpont facility at

1050 Industrial Blvd. in Bridgeport past Maple Lake.

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.

Harrison County Schools, Pierpont Aviation programs, and our local aviation industry 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 provide year-long, countywide aviation career exploration to our students and teach them

about the opportunities in their own back yard along with 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](mailto:geraldine.beckett@k12.wv.us)

## Kroger Workers at 38 Stores May Vote to Strike This Week

**CHARLESTON, WV** (February 26, 2024) – This week, Kroger union members working at 38 stores in West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio will vote on a new contract and potential work stoppage.

The union’s bargaining committee has unanimously recommended members vote to reject Kroger’s latest offer and vote in favor of authorizing a strike at the company. Major issues include inadequate wage increases that don’t keep up with inflation, unacceptable increases to health care costs, and more.

The workers are

members of United Food & Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 400 Union. Voting will take place in select stores Wednesday and Thursday, and ballots will be tallied and results announced on Friday. If the proposed contract is rejected and a strike authorization vote passes, the committee will be empowered to call a strike at a time of its choosing. Workers will not be on strike immediately.

The potential work stoppage could impact approximately 3,000 workers at 38 stores in West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky.

## Governor and First Lady announce Communities In Schools officially in all 55 West Virginia counties

**CHARLESTON, WV** — In a landmark announcement, Gov. Justice and First Lady Cathy Justice proudly announced today that Communities In Schools (CIS) is now operational in all 55 counties of West Virginia.

Nicholas and Pleasants counties represent the final additions to the Communities In Schools program, with dedicated site coordinators already in place and the program fully implemented since the start of the semester.

“Investing in our children is the best investment we can make in West Virginia’s future,” Gov. Justice said. “That is why I’m so incredibly proud to see Communities In Schools reach every corner of our state. From one county when I took office to all 55 today is a testament to the incredible teamwork of our dedicated site coordinators, educators, families, the Department of Education, the Legislature, and all our community partners. Most importantly, the dedication from Cathy and her team has been

remarkable. Without them, this program would be a fraction of what it is. We’re already seeing the data reflect positive graduation rate changes, test scores, and overall student well-being. The bottom line is that CIS works.”

“I am so happy to witness the expansion of Communities In Schools to every corner of our beautiful state,” First Lady Cathy Justice said. “This program has the power to transform lives by providing the needed support to our students. An enormous amount of credit is due to all our site coordinators who are our ‘boots on the ground,’ as they play a pivotal role in identifying, connecting with, and helping the students who need the extra boost in academics and all-around basic needs.”

Key achievements of Communities In Schools in West Virginia:

**Expanded Reach:** 259 dedicated site coordinators, strategically placed across 272 schools, directly empower over 114,000 students through individualized

support and resource connections.

**Economic Impact:** Their annual salaries, exceeding \$18 million, contribute significantly to local economies, supporting hundreds of West Virginia families.

**Life-Changing Results:** Countless stories of transformed lives showcase the program’s effectiveness in enhancing student performance, attendance, and overall well-being.

Communities In Schools is the First Lady’s primary initiative, and first took root in West Virginia in 2018. The program’s initial phase focused on three pilot counties: Berkeley, McDowell, and Wyoming. These counties served as a springboard for the innovative approach that has now flourished across the entire state.

CIS works to forge community partnerships and bring resources into schools to help remove barriers to student learning, with a goal of keeping all students in school and ultimately graduating.

“Communities In

Schools has had a life-changing impact on thousands of students in our state,” West Virginia State Superintendent of Schools Michele L. Blatt said. “The relationships between site coordinators, schools, students, and families are at the core of this success. These students need support and structures that help them recover from setbacks and regain the confidence to believe they can do great things. Communities In Schools is essential to opening options and pathways for those needing hope and a vision for their future.”

The expansion of Communities In Schools to all 55 counties marks a triumph for Education in West Virginia, promising a brighter future for the state’s students and communities. As the CIS program continues its successful growth, it is poised to make a lasting impact on the lives of countless young individuals, shaping a more prosperous and educated West Virginia.

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[weightwatchersoffer.com/46](http://weightwatchersoffer.com/46)

Weight Watchers

\*With select plan purchase. Restrictions apply.

## Harrison County man arrested on arson charges

**CHARLESTON, W.V.** – WV State Fire Marshal investigators

and the Harrison County Sheriff’s Office have charged a Lost Creek

man with setting fire to a structure at the home he had been renting.

Randolph Scott Murray, 52 years old, was taken into custody on Feb. 5, 2024, for setting fire to a gazebo at a house located on Orchard Street in Lost Creek. Murray and his wife had been renting the house that the gazebo was located on.

Murray was charged with second degree arson.

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## 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](mailto: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.

## “Obituaries” From Pg 7

24739. Glioblastoma is an aggressive brain tumor that robbed my grandmother of her memory, her cognitive abilities, and communication. It is my desire to help eradicate this terrible disease through research. I have

started a fundraising page for my precious grandmother and others like her. Please consider donating. Help us wipe out glioblastoma for good. <https://nbtsevents.braintumor.org/fundraiser/5286245>. Condolences may be

extended to the family at [www.perinefunerals.com](http://www.perinefunerals.com).

The Robertson family would like to thank Perine Funeral Home for assisting and serving during this difficult time.

## JANUARY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production during January 2024 totaled 1.2 million pounds. This was up 12 percent from January 2023. 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 1,799,000 pounds live weight, up 15 percent

from January 2023. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,600 head, up 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 17 pounds from the previous year, at 1,145 pounds.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published because data were less than level of precision shown or not applicable.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 236,000 pounds live weight, up 14 percent

from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 800 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was down 17 pounds from the previous year, at 299 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 4.77 billion pounds in January, up slightly

from the 4.76 billion pounds produced in January 2023. Beef production, at 2.28 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year.

Cattle slaughter totaled 2.73 million head, down 3 percent from January 2023. The average live weight was up 9 pounds from the previous year, at 1,389 pounds. Veal production totaled 3.9 million pounds, 12 percent below January a year ago.

Calf slaughter totaled 22,600 head, 26 percent below January 2023. The average live weight was up 45 pounds from last year, at 294 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.47 billion pounds, 2 percent above the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 11.4 million head, 2 percent above January 2023. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 292 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 10.6 million pounds, was 4 percent above January 2023. Sheep slaughter totaled 171,700 head, 5 percent above last year. The average live weight was 121 pounds, down 2 pounds from January a year ago. January 2023 contained 22 weekdays (including 2 holidays) and 4 Saturdays. January 2024 contained 23 weekdays (including 2 holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

## Three West Virginia Towns named as ON TRAC Communities

CHARLESTON, W.VA —West Virginia Main Street is pleased to announce three new communities have been selected as West Virginia ON TRAC Communities. Moundsville, Marshall County; Ravenswood, Jackson County; and Weston, Lewis County, have been designated as 2024 West Virginia ON TRAC Communities.

selected for ON TRAC will receive resources for economic growth through evaluation, education and networking. Communities will receive training in downtown and neighborhood revitalization, an assessment of strengths and weaknesses, a technical design visit, action-planning services, access to

an online library of databases and resources, telephone consultation, scholarship and grant information, and participation in the mentoring program from the certified Main Street Programs.

To earn the designation, communities must complete an application process and a workshop. To be eligible for ON TRAC, a community must be located within

an incorporated area, served by a commercial downtown infrastructure and resources and have a sponsoring organization.

ON TRAC is the precursor to becoming a fully designated Main Street Community; participants must be an ON TRAC Community for at least two years before applying to become a Main Street Community. West Virginia Main Street

is a West Virginia Department of Economic Development program. It focuses on the economic development of historic downtown and neighborhood commercial districts by providing technical services, design assistance, and continuous training of board and committee members and program managers using Main Street America's Four-

Point Approach®. West Virginia Main Street liaises between various state agencies and organizations with the designated communities.

Currently, there are 11 accredited Main Street Communities and 14 ON TRAC Communities in West Virginia. Find the full list of Main Street WV and ON TRAC Communities here.

## Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center Presents 1st Quarter DAISY Award

CLARKSBURG, W. Va. - On Tuesday Feb. 20, 2024, the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center presented the 1st quarter DAISY Award to Registered Nurse Lauren Klug of Fairmont, W. Va. The DAISY Award is a quarterly recognition for nurses that go above

and beyond in their patient-care duties. Ms. Klug was nominated by Larry J. Dolan of Buckhannon, W. Va. for extraordinary care given while he was a patient at LAJVMC.

“Ms. Lauren Klug was very attentive to me while I was in so much pain from

my illness” read Mr. Dolan’s nomination. “She was great at taking care of me and my every need and was always courteous and helpful. I hadn’t eaten in a day and a half, and she came to my aid with some warm chicken noodle soup. Being an old person

hurting, I was tickled to death to have someone care for me as Ms. Klug did.”

The DAISY Foundation was established in 1999 by members of the family of Patrick Barnes, who was 33 when passed away from the autoimmune disease ITP.

After his passing, the family came up with DAISY – an acronym for Diseases Attacking the Immune System – to recognize the extraordinary care Pat and the family received during his 8-week illness. What started out as a thank you from the Barnes

family to their nurses has grown into a meaningful recognition program embraced by thousands of healthcare programs around the world. We are proud to partner with DAISY as we have extraordinary nurses here at the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center.

## Why West Virginia Companies should export and invest in South America

As digital advancements continue to erase traditional business boundaries, expanding beyond domestic markets and entering the world of exporting isn’t a luxury reserved for the largest corporations but a strategic necessity for businesses of all sizes. While there are many markets to consider, we want to highlight growth opportunities in South America, where West Virginia businesses can tap into new markets and drive sustainable growth.

In this blog, we’ll guide you through seven reasons why South America should be at the top of your list for market expansion, covering topics such as the economic

potential across various industries, strategic market advantages, resources, trade benefits and more. By reading this blog, we hope you’ll gain insight into how your business can succeed in one of the world’s most promising economic regions.

Robust Economic Potential Like West Virginia, South America’s economic landscape is as diverse as its geography, providing many opportunities to expand and grow your business. Countries like Brazil and Chile have emerged as leaders in agriculture, mining and technology, while countries like Colombia have growing tech industries, showcasing the region’s adaptability

and economic resilience. Peru showcases opportunities in many of the above mentioned sectors as well as aerospace, defense and security products.

For instance, Brazil is a major exporter of coffee, soybeans and beef, providing opportunities for agribusinesses. Chile is becoming a world leader in renewable energy, making this country an ideal market for businesses dealing with solar and wind resources. Colombia is investing in IT and communications technology, providing opportunities for hardware and software companies. And while Peru manufactures some small military arms, the country is unable

to produce advanced military equipment. Increased spending for defense equipment is expected in order to fill this void. These are just a few examples of the economic opportunities in South America West Virginia companies can explore and capitalize on.

Strategic Market Presence South America’s strategic location and favorable trade agreements offer West Virginia businesses a competitive edge in global trade. South America’s geographic centrality means it has access to key maritime routes that enhance connectivity to not just its own markets but also to markets around the globe. By establishing

a foothold in the South American continent, West Virginia exporters gain an advantage when it comes to entering diverse markets via efficient shipping channels.

South America’s trade agreements and economic ties with North America provide West Virginia companies with a seamless pathway to explore and expand into new territories. Establishing a presence here means leveraging these strategic advantages for broader market access and tapping into the continent’s rich economic potential.

Resource Abundance Like West Virginia, South American countries are rich in

natural resources, providing opportunities for businesses in mining, agriculture and energy. The continent’s abundant minerals, fertile lands and energy resources not only enhances supply chain stability but also reduces reliance on external sources and ensures a reliable source of raw materials for production.

Manufacturers and service providers in the mining sector will find opportunities in several South American markets, including Colombia, Chile, Peru, and Brazil. Identifying a strategic partner will help West Virginia companies engage with potential customers and navigate local laws and customs.



# From desert to mountain

From *L'Osservatore Romano*

The English word “Lent” originally meant springtime and the season itself is deeply rooted in our human consciousness and in our world. We start in symbolic terrains, large landscapes that are testing and untamed, fearsome and strangely beautiful. Desert, where we accompanied the Lord on the first Sunday of Lent, covers a third of the earth’s surface. Mountains, that we climb this Sunday, make up a quarter. Then, on the third Sunday, we abandon the wild and open and vast, and enter

the city of Jerusalem with John, there to remain until the Son of man should have risen from the dead.

The Transfiguration takes place on a mountain summit, ancient and frequent place of divine encounter, where Abraham had almost to perform the horror of human sacrifice, giving God everything and more, and where Moses saw God face to face and received the law. God spared Isaac, but he did not spare Jesus. There are three predictions of the Passion in Mark: the first comes immediately before the Transfiguration and the other two soon after.

The Transfiguration is the forward vision and barely understood epiphany of the completion of the paschal mystery. He charged them to tell no one what they had seen. But how could they, in their confusion and bewilderment? (Peter) did not know what to say, for they were exceedingly afraid.

Jesus is three times proclaimed in the gospel of Mark: at the beginning, the middle and the end. At his baptism: thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased; at his Transfiguration: This is my beloved Son; listen to him; and finally, in the prophetic voice of

a Roman centurion as the dead Jesus hangs on the cross: truly this man was the Son of God!

So, in this second week of Lent, we move forward in our baptismal journey, on our paschal pathway, towards the resolution, when suffering and death and life will come together in their just configuration. But the paschal mystery is not simply a moment in time: it is the pervasive hope threaded through our faith in Jesus Christ; it is the final exegesis of human existence, the true explanation, the end of all our longing.

By Fr Edmund Power osb



## Golden Harvest Pork Stew

Chase away chills with a thick, filling stew. Slow cookers can be unsung kitchen heroes any time of the year, but particularly during the colder seasons. That’s because slow cookers take on one-pot meals with ease. A person simply places all the ingredients inside the crock, then returns in 8 hours or so to a completely cooked meal to enjoy! Certain recipes, including stews, lend themselves well to the slow-cooking method. While beef is often associated with stew, plenty of proteins can take the place of beef, including pork. This recipe for Golden Harvest Pork Stew, utilizes pork and combines it with potatoes, carrots and corn for a stew that some may even mistake for a chowder.

### Golden Harvest Pork Stew

1 lb. boneless pork cutlets, cut into 1-inch pieces  
 2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour, divided  
 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil  
 2 medium Yukon gold potatoes, unpeeled and cut into 1-inch cubes  
 1 large sweet potato, peeled and cut into 1-inch cubes  
 1 cup chopped carrots  
 1 ear corn, broken into 4 pieces, or 1/2 cup corn  
 1/2 cup chicken broth  
 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and finely chopped  
 1 clove garlic, minced  
 1 teaspoon salt  
 1/4 teaspoon black pepper  
 1/4 teaspoon dried thyme  
 Chopped parsley

1. Toss pork pieces with 1 tablespoon flour; set aside. Heat oil in large skillet over medium-high heat until hot. Add pork; cook until browned on all sides. Transfer to slow cooker.

2. Add remaining ingredients, except parsley and 1 tablespoon flour. Cover; cook on low 5 to 6 hours.

3. Stir 1/4 cup cooking liquid into remaining 1 tablespoon flour in small bowl. Stir flour mixture into stew. Turn slow cooker to high. Cook 10 minutes or until thickened. Adjust seasonings, if desired. To serve, sprinkle with parsley.

Remember, readers, if you have a favorite recipe that you would like to share, we welcome your submissions. E-mail your recipe to us at [debra@mountainmedianews.com](mailto:debra@mountainmedianews.com). And don’t forget to stop by your local Price Cutter to purchase all of your cooking and baking needs.

## SCOTUS Hears Emergency Stay of EPA ‘Good Neighbor Plan’ Rule

CHARLESTON — West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey on Wednesday issued a statement following U.S. Supreme Court arguments on a potential stay of the administrative action related to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s ‘Good Neighbor Plan’ for the 2015 Ozone Ambient Air Quality—a plan for regulating downwind emissions.

West Virginia, along with Indiana and Ohio, filed the stay application. They argue the plan takes away the ability of states to monitor and control air quality standards in favor of a broad federal plan that empowers a massive and unresponsive

federal agency in Washington, D.C. to establish unprecedented regulatory control of emissions. The plan also requires many states to implement draconian emissions cuts to meet the standards set forth in the EPA’s plan.

“It is common knowledge that the country’s power grid is already stressed as it is, and now this administration has added more regulation that’s going to stress the grid even more,” Attorney General Morrisey said. “The EPA will keep trying to legislate and bypass Congress’s authority—and it has been settled by the Supreme Court: the EPA must regulate within the express

boundaries of the statute that Congress passed.

The three states also argued: the EPA’s plan “is likely to cause electric-grid emergencies as power suppliers strain to adjust to the federal plan’s terms.”

The Clean Air Act allows each state to develop a plan to prevent emissions within its borders from significantly affecting other states’ air quality. The EPA then reviews each state’s plan, but that review is deferential, meaning if a state’s plan meets statutory requirements, the EPA “shall approve” it, regardless of whether the EPA has a better idea for how to accomplish the Act’s goals.

The EPA in 2022 announced it was rejecting the “Good Neighbor” air quality plans for ozone of roughly half of the country’s states, and revealed its own federal plan, which the agency finalized in June 2023 despite numerous objections.

In January 2024, the Attorney General secured a temporary reprieve from the disapproval of West Virginia’s plan. About a dozen states in total—due to litigation and interim rulemaking—are similarly exempt from the plan for the time being, but the EPA insists its federal plan should still apply to the remaining states immediately.

## DoHS Reminds Potential LIHWAP Applicants of Approaching Deadline

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The West Virginia Department of Human Services (DoHS), Bureau for Family Assistance (BFA) reminds West Virginians that the application period for the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) will end on Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 5:00 pm.

LIHWAP is a federally funded program that

assists eligible West Virginia residents in paying water or wastewater bills. Eligibility for LIHWAP benefits is based on income, household size, and whether the household is responsible for paying water or wastewater bills. To qualify, the household must meet all program guidelines, which include an applicant’s annual income being at or below 60 percent

of the State Median Income.

\*For each additional person, add \$642. Households whose countable income exceeds the maximum amount are not eligible. However, some types of income may be excluded for LIHWAP.

Federal funding for LIHWAP was available for use through September 30, 2023, but West Virginia received a no-cost extension for

an additional six-month period. That period is now expiring, and the program must conclude.

Any application received after the end date will be denied.

Clients with LIHWAP questions should contact their local DoHS office. A list of local offices can be found at [dhhr.wv.gov/bms/Pages/Field-Offices.aspx](http://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/Pages/Field-Offices.aspx).

## Wisdom From “Poor Richard’s Almanack”

By Benjamin Franklin

other, and scarce in that.” days.”

“Search others for their virtues, “To all apparent beauties blind,

“Experience keeps a dear thyself for thy vices.” each blemish strikes an envious

school, but fools will learn in no “Fish and Visitors stink in 3 mind.”

[WWW.SHINNSTONNEWS.COM](http://WWW.SHINNSTONNEWS.COM)

## Congressman Alex X. Mooney Statement on Court Decision Overturning Obama-era Moratorium on Coal Leasing

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Yesterday, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit overturned a 2022 ruling from a Montana judge which

reinstated the Obama-Biden moratorium on coal leasing on federal lands.

“In 2016, the radical Obama-Biden Administration shut down coal mining on federal lands as part of their War on Coal. In 2022, an activist I’m pleased the Ninth District Court judge in Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals has overturned the federal moratorium which has now been rightfully overturned the Appeals Court.

power source, which supports hardworking West Virginia families,” said Congressman Alex X. Mooney.

In 2016, the Obama Administration Department of the Interior issued for the first time ever, a moratorium on all new coal leases on federal land. In 2017, the Trump Administration rescinded that order.

In 2022, an activist I’m pleased the Ninth District Court judge in Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals has overturned the federal moratorium which has now been rightfully overturned the Appeals Court.