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Harrison County Commission Supports Bridgeport Park Initiative, Beekeepers' Event

By Stephen Smoot

Last week, the Harrison County Commission met for their regular meeting at 11 AM. Patsy Trecost III opened the proceedings with an invocation, praying for the well-being of all in attendance and finishing with "we ask all of these things in Your name."
 Susan Thomas, Harrison County Commission President, started the meeting on a fun note, saying "we have a birthday

boy in the room!" She then identified Commissioner Trecost as said birthday boy. Commissioners' work centered on three major items. First, they heard from the county attorney. He informed commissioners that the letter of intent for mobile infrastructure at the new parking lot in Clarksburg was squared away. Once approved by the commission, construction on the lot could commence. Next came a special funding request

from the Marion County Beekeepers' Association. They came to request \$500 toward a \$13,000 project to hold a state convention in Marion County in late March 2025. Deonna Crowe, vice president of the Harrison County Beekeepers' Association, explained the importance of supporting bee populations through the work of the different associations. She added that there would be a

Harrison County based event in October for beekeepers, saying they would start small, but "we're going to do it annually."
 Other representatives said that the statewide convention, not to be confused with the October event, would take place on March 28 and 29 of next year and should attract between 2 and 300 attendees, many from out of state. After hearing a brief description of the

See "Event" on Pg 4



Street scene in the city of Bath

City of Bath and Stratford Upon Avon



Jim Hunt for the News and Journal

was a visit to the city of Bath and Stratford Upon Avon, the birthplace of William Shakespeare. While I had heard of both cities, I knew very little about them. As we approached the city of Bath, I was amazed at the size of the city, more than 94,000 citizens and the impressive architecture throughout. The city of Bath, in Southwest England Stonehenge, we embarked on the last two 1st century AD by the Romans who

See "Hunt" on Pg 3

LHS Students Help to Ready Shinnston Community Garden For Growing Season



On Tuesday, April 30, 2024 students from Ms Julie Yearego's National Technical Honor Society and EPIC Tourism Grant Executive Planning Committee came to the Shinnston Community Garden to volunteer as a work party. They removed the mine belt walkways and ground cover used to control weeds to enable plowing, cleared raised beds of weeds and stubble, and added bags of soil to the raised beds in preparation for the 2024 planting. Thank you, All, for your hard work. It is much appreciated.
 Students from National Technical Honor Society and EPIC Tourism Grant Executive Planning Committee: left to right: Grant Nuzum, Nick Beatty, Mrs. Julie Yearego, Trinity Eldridge, Sierra Menendez and Cameron Patton. Not pictured: Kasey Ketterman and Laken Wiles.



Brittany Bunnell, one of Shinnston's finest, addressed the Garden Club.

Shinnston Garden Club Resumes Meetings, Supports Local Projects

By Debra Herndon

The Shinnston Garden Club has resumed meeting after a winter hiatus. A luncheon meeting was held at the Sunset-Ellis restaurant on March 28, 2024. Guests were Mrs.

Julie Yearego, Kasey Ketterman, Sierra Menendez, Trinity Eldridge, Cameron Patton and Nick Beatty from Lincoln's EPIC Tourism Grant Executive Planning Committee. They presented a City project of purchasing benches

See "Garden" on Pg 3

Protest Against Trans Athlete Participation Results In Suspensions and Court Cases

By Stephen Smoot

Last month, a federal court struck down West Virginia's law that aims to prevent biological males from competing on girls' sports teams. This happened just in time to allow a 13 year old Bridgeport Middle School athlete to participate in the Harrison County Championships. The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals struck down the "Save our Sports Act" passed by the West Virginia State Legislature. The panel of three judges ruled two to one to set aside arguments that the law protected "fair competition" in scholastic sports

and claimed that the individual had no actual choice. Circuit Judge Toby Heytens stated that "The question before us is whether the Act may lawfully be applied to prevent a 13-year old transgender girl who takes puberty blocking medication and has publicly identified as a girl since the third grade from participating in her school's cross-country and track teams. We hold it cannot." At the subsequent shot put event, the athlete, Becky Pepper-Johnson, won the event by more than three feet over the biological female participants, giving her first place over a field of biologically female

athletes. Several athletes from Lincoln Middle School actively disqualified themselves at the event in protest of the court's decision and the athlete's participation. As a result, they were suspended from the next meet. WDTV interviewed one of the athletes, Sabrina Shriver, and her mother Deborah. Sabrina Shriver told WDTV "we were shocked and disappointed that (the athlete) was allowed to participate with us." Several of the girls then "scratched," disqualifying themselves from the event. Because it was done as a protest, West

Virginia Secondary Schools Athletic Commission rules came into play. They read that "the penalty for a violation by a student will not involve ejection during that particular contest, BUT shall also involve that student not being a part of the school's team for the next regularly scheduled contest." Four of the parents filed suit against the Harrison County Board of Education while West Virginia Attorney

See "Protest" on Pg 3



Each week copies of the News & Journal are distributed in each hospital to patients compliments of these community-minded sponsors listed:
 UNITED HOSPITAL CENTER, LOUIS JOHNSON V.A. HOSPITAL, HIGHLAND CLARKSBURG HOSPITAL & WV VETERANS NURSING FACILITY

OPINION

Enough Is Enough

By Stephen Smoot

Would Columbia University, or any other institution of higher learning for that matter, allow the Ku Klux Klan to claim pieces of their campus, to obstruct classes, finals, and graduation ceremonies, or to menace, threaten, and even harm minority peoples who happened to come within their range?

Would blue state officials from Governors and attorneys general down to sheriffs and city police chiefs permit violence and disruption from the Ku Klux Klan or other anti Semitic groups?

The Ku Klux Klan has the Constitutional right, thanks to the American Civil Liberties Union, to hold rallies, to spread hate, and to march in the streets. That is part of United States Supreme Court case law. When they do so, however, the authorities hold them to the strictest standards of civil behavior.

And rightly so. One step out of line and law enforcement breaks up the demonstration and all go home peaceably.

Make no mistake. The pro Hamas movement in its ideals, goals, and mission is at least as bad as the Ku Klux Klan. They make no secret of letting anyone in earshot know that they support the destruction of the State of Israel and the annihilation of the Jewish people.

Yet government authorities and law enforcement have

been woefully, almost criminally, negligent in protecting Jews and civil society from their law breaking.

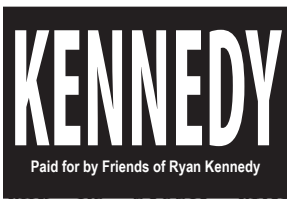
The keffiyeh and the Palestinian flag have grown as symbolic of anti Jewish sentiment and action as much as sheets, burning crosses, and the Confederate flag are seen as representing racial oppression.

Jewish people worldwide have historically seen the United States as a safe haven from the hateful traditions perpetuated around the world. Jewish people fought in the War of Independence and figured on both sides of the Civil War. Ironically for the Ku Klux Klan, one of the men represented by the Confederate battle flag when he was Secretary of War was Judah P. Benjamin. That august personage also served the Confederate States as attorney general and secretary of state.

Perhaps nine Jewish men served as Union generals.

By the 1930s, two decades of the resurgence of the KKK and the rise of National Socialist Germany brought forth the first major antisemitic sentiments in America. Groups such as the KKK, the Silver Shirts, and the

See "Smoot" on Pg 3



Super Crossword QUALITY COUNTERFEITING

- ACROSS 1 Pour drippings on 6 J. Edgar Hoover's org. 9 Blocks up 14 Sailing 19 Earthy hue 20 Arsenal for weapons 22 Limericks, e.g. 23 Start of a riddle 25 Color qualities 26 Drain-clearing chemicals 27 Forster's "— With a View" 28 Frequently, to a bard 30 Unadorned 31 Brandy fruit 33 Riddle, part 2 38 Halt 40 Everyday worker 42 Disembarked 43 Sings Alpine-style 44 "Listen up!" 46 Vaping device brand 47 Crafty 48 Riddle, part 3 51 Analyze, as an alloy 56 Belgian painter James 57 Pro photog's camera 58 Bamboozle 60 "Pride and Prejudice" actress Jennifer 61 Fleming who created Bond 64 Shaving balm brand 67 Handheld telescope 69 Riddle, part 4 75 Golden-coated horse 76 "Star Wars" princess 77 To this point 78 Uganda's Idi 79 Side in sports 81 Pewter metal 83 Kinds 88 Certain believer in God 90 Riddle, part 5 95 Marina del —, California 97 Bucks' mates 98 Car fuel 99 Walk over 103 Trig ratio 104 Uses teeth 105 Australian state: Abbr. 106 End of the riddle 109 See 10-Down 111 Best Picture of 2012 112 Arbor Day mo. 113 Poker champion Stu 115 "Ticklish" doll 118 Top hats' go-withs 120 Riddle's answer 125 Old TV parts 126 Captive's angry shout 127 — Carlo 128 "Full House" actor Bob 129 Walk over 130 Crimson, e.g. 131 Limerick penner Nash DOWN 1 Cereal holder 2 In need of a massage, maybe 3 Border collies, e.g. 4 In need of a massage, maybe 5 History unit 6 "M*A*S*H" actor Jamie 7 Small streams 8 "No more for me" 9 Federal health agcy. 10 With 109-Across, Beatles song or album 11 Brand of nail polish 12 Start to melt 13 Rod's partner 14 Liable 15 "It's a shame" 16 Upper House of Congress 17 Celebrity chef Lagasse 18 Size up 21 Rikishi's sport 24 Golfed acceptably 29 "Bye 4 now" 32 Pithy saying 34 Membrane enclosing a fetus 35 Supermodel Heidi 36 — Olay (face cream brand, formerly) 37 Boxer Oscar de la — 38 Additionally 39 12:00 p.m. 41 "Either you do it — will" 45 "Rock and Roll, Hoochie —" (1974 hit) 46 Amount of jelly or olives 47 Visit casually 49 Smeltery stuff 50 Sammy with 609 homers 52 Part of SASE 53 — -Pei 54 Additionally 55 Polite rural assent to a lady 59 Singer Lovett 62 Doing the job 63 A ripe old age 65 Sports draw 66 The way things stand 68 Scrams 69 Tablet since 2010 70 Appoint 71 Livy's 552 72 Bits in physics 73 Ark crafter 74 Alexander of Reagan's Cabinet 80 Military doc 82 Match under the stars, maybe 84 Hooting bird 85 Bonn's region 86 Sunbathes 87 Gumbo, e.g. 89 Horse gait 91 The last Mrs. Chaplin 92 Rod's partner 93 Not, to Scots 94 Whirling 96 "Exile" New Age singer 99 Noisy kisses 100 Albanian capital 101 Yule drink 102 Singer Snow 103 One hanging ten 104 Ember 107 Eye-teasing paintings 108 San — Obispo, California 110 Envelop in haze 114 In the sack 116 Put in silent mode 117 Yaks, e.g. 119 Former Brit. Airways jet 121 Corrida shout 122 Stephen of "Roadkill" 123 Incensed 124 Angsty rock genre

Grid for Super Crossword puzzle with numbers 1-131 indicating starting points for words.

FIND THE SUPER CROSSWORD ANSWERS ON PAGE 6!

THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

Charleston WV - The following events happened on these dates in West Virginia history. To read more, go to e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia at www.wvencyclopedia.org. May 9, 1800: Abolitionist John Brown was born in Torrington, Connecticut. His 1859 raid on Harpers Ferry galvanized the nation, further alienating North and South in the lead-up to the Civil War. May 9, 1843: Confederate spy "Belle" Boyd was born in Martinsburg. On July 4, 1861, Boyd shot a Yankee soldier and started her spy career. May 9, 1863: Confederate raiders arrived at Burning Springs, Wirt County. There they set fire to 150,000 barrels of oil, oil tanks, engines for pumping, engine

houses, wagons, and oil-laden boats. May 10, 1863: Just before dying of wounds suffered at the Battle of Chancellorsville, Stonewall Jackson uttered the words, "Let us cross over the river and rest under the shade of the trees." He is buried in the Stonewall in Lexington, Virginia. May 10, 1908: The first official observance of Mother's Day was held at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton and simultaneously in Philadelphia. The holiday resulted from a vigorous campaign by Anna Jarvis, who wanted to commemorate the spirit of her mother's work as a social activist. May 10, 1960: John F. Kennedy defeated Hubert Humphrey in the West Virginia primary. It dispelled the

widely held belief that being a Roman Catholic was an insurmountable obstacle to becoming president. May 11, 1909: Filmmaker Ellis Dungan was born. After years of working in the feature film industry in India, he settled in Wheeling, where he shot documentaries and produced films for the state and the region. May 11, 1930: Physician John C. Norman, Jr., was born in Charleston. A noted thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon and researcher, he was best known for his work toward creating an artificial heart. May 12-14, 1921: Bullets peppered down on about a dozen mining towns in the Matewan-Williamson area, and nonunion miners fired back, in what became known as the Battle of the Tug. Three people were shot and killed. May 13, 1962: Editorial cartoonist Henry Payne was born in Charleston. In 1989,

Payne was the first editorial cartoonist in the country to make his work available via computer. May 14, 1878: Photographer Rufus "Red" Ribble was born in Blacksburg, Virginia. For nearly 40 years he traveled the coalfields making panoramic photographs of miners, towns, family reunions, church congregations and school groups. May 14, 1906: Social reformer Mary Behner was born in Xenia, Ohio. From 1928 until 1937, Behner worked in the coal camps along Scotts Run near Morgantown, fighting poverty and creating social and educational outlets for families. May 14, 1943: Alan Mollohan was born in Fairmont. Mollohan served in the U.S. Congress from 1983 to 2011. May 15, 1880: The state's first telephone exchange was placed in service in Wheeling with about 25 subscribers.

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

Of Italian Families and Election Season

As I read the paper this morning I saw many ads tied to the election and I had a little weak spot in my heart. First off I want to assure you that I am not making this column a political football because my readers mean so much to me but I felt I would be remiss if I didn't make a few personal remarks about my son in law, Dixon Pruitt.

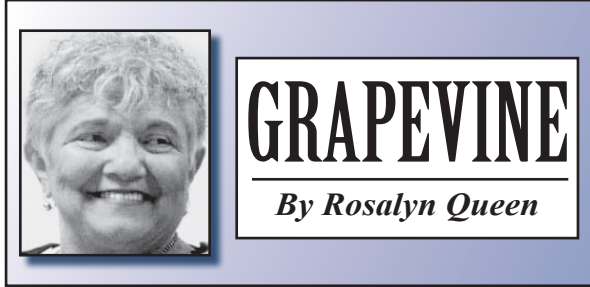
I first met him when he started dating my daughter, Leslie. With her being a Court Reporter and Dixon being a police officer I guess it was inevitable that their paths would cross and cross they did and ending up in a lifetime commitment.

I often think that I should feel sorry for

anyone joining our family. We are a very family oriented bunch. There are customs that we just do not give up on and we expect everyone to be a part of them. So we put Dixon to the test and he passed with flying colors.

First he loves to have family dinners at their home. Leslie does the cooking but Dixon does the set up, sometimes for 24 people. He likes to interact with everyone and no one enters his home who is not greeted and treated warmly.

Several years ago during one of my transitions I moved in with Les and Dixon. I thought I might be a part of that mother in law syndrome, but it did



GRAPEVINE
By Rosalyn Queen

not happen. I remember warmly waking in the middle of the night to enjoy a sweet snack with Dixon and to him making my first cup of coffee in the morning. I was with him when they lost two of their dogs. His grief was that of a good person enduring a loss.

He is one of those few gentlemen left who opens doors for a lady. Whether a car or the house he was there. I came to expect it from all men,

They decided they were going to hike the Appalachian Trail. And I was included in the trip. Now it never was intended that I was going to hike. We went to Charles Town and stayed at a very nice hotel. During the day. While they were hiking, I relaxed, read and visited the Casino. When they got home Dixon made sure that I got to visit all the tourist attractions in the area. Never once did Dixon

make me feel like I was the fifth wheel.

You know in Italian families there is this saying about Italian mothers and their sons. We love our daughters but those boys hold a special place in our hearts. Let me tell you that Dixon has joined that rank with my sons.

You know all those educational and work accomplishments do not mean much if you are not a kind, loving, thoughtful person. This is what we need more of in our world today and Dixon Pruitt is that. His service to his mother in law reinforces this to our community.

Thank you for allowing me to share a few kind thoughts.

By the way do not

forget to vote. It is a civic duty that you should take advantage off. Be a good citizen.

Another little family footnote, Jenna Robey is my niece. Look into her background. We really need a woman up there in that position.

Well planting has started at our house and I have a few seeds in pots and some plants in my flower boxes. I am taking it slow to make sure we are done with cold nights. My pansies are so beautiful with their tiny faces greeting me every morning.

As Lester Holt would say, "Take care of yourself and each other," and until next week "Now You Have Heard It Through The Grapevine."

How to Read Mon Power and Potomac Edison Bills

Today I would like to take a look at Monongahela Power and Potomac Edison's monthly electric bill and explain it to you.

At the top right of the bill is the date the bill was sent. Right under that is the 12-digit account number.

In bolded black lettering inside a blue box is the amount due. Right under that is the

due date. In the top left of page one, under the company's name, is the period the bill covers. Below that should be your name and the billing address for where service is provided.

Immediately below that, bracketed between two page-wide bars containing a blue field are three phone numbers. The first is an 888 emergency number. The second number is for customer service. For Mon Power, it is 1-800-686-0022. For Potomac Edison it's 1-800-686-



Guest Column
By Charlotte Lane
Chair, WV Public Service Commission

0011. The third, also an 800 number, is for payment options.

Below the telephone numbers on the left are messages from the company. On the right are four sections called: Account Summary, Usage Information, Charges from the Utility, and Detail Payment and Adjustment Information.

The "Account Summary" gives a brief financial summary for the month, the total amount owed, and the date by which it is due. "Usage" shows your meter readings. "Charges from the Utility" gives an explanation, in plan language, of the monthly charges in the total bill. The

final section discusses any payments applied or adjustments made during the billing period.

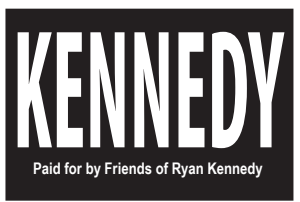
Down and to the left, a bar graph illustrates your usage over the past year. It is lined out by month for your scrutiny.

Beneath that is a tear-off sheet that asks you to write in the amount you are paying. This sheet reiterates the amount due and the due date. It also includes the address where the bill is to be mailed. The bill includes a return envelope to make it easier for you.

Page two provides additional details and repeats important telephone numbers.

This page also includes a series of five circles that look like clock faces. This is designed to help you read your meter yourself, and a number is provided to call for help.

We at the Public Service Commission hope this explanation will help you read your electric bill. Please use the utility's customer call line if you have any questions.



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

Thursday, May 16, 2024

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 31 monthly meeting, 7 pm. Post 31, Shinnston. All members welcome.

Bridgeport Public Library Book Sale

May 13 - 18, 2024 2 bags of books for \$5

May 20 - 31, 2024

Books \$3.00 a bag. Single books \$.25 each, Audio Books \$.75 each, and Music CD's \$.50 each.

Book Nook hours open M-F 11 am - 6:30 pm, Sat. 11 am - 1:30 pm.

Call (304) 842-8248 for additional information.

This Week At the Palette

By Bethany Nuzum

The Palette at 225 Pike St, in Shinnston is offering:
Watercolor II,

"Catch-Up and 6-7:30pm, \$20.
Saving Lost. Paintings" Supplies provided or
Saturday, May 11, bring your own. Join us
10:30am-12:30pm, \$30. upstairs at the Palette!
Calming Art, Check thepalettewv
Tuesday, May 14, on Facebook/Instagram

for more upcoming classes and events.
Email BethanyNuzum at thepalettewv@gmail.com to register and or more information.

"Smoot" From Pg 2.

World War I and hoped to parley sympathy for Germans into hatred against Jews.

The lowlights came in the late 30s when the German-American Bund filled Madison

Square Garden and many American city streets with angry losers shouting their hatred against Jewish people and institutions.

Too many American leaders in both parties swooned for antisemites, including Joe Kennedy and Charles Lindbergh. Even President Franklin Roosevelt cried uncle when asked to allow into the United States thousands of educated, hard working, and law abiding Jewish citizens expelled from Germany by the National Socialists.

The ships carrying them returned to Germany and most aboard died horribly in the Holocaust.

Jewish people have endured persecution, pogroms, and efforts to eliminate them for thousands of years. From

the Assyrians through to the Babylonians down to National Socialist Germany and Hamas, Jews have always had to man the ramparts to protect their people.

Then they get attacked by those who spend their lives in comfortable safety for defending themselves against absolute destruction.

Those who support the right of the Jewish people and state to exist need to speak up and speak continuously.

"Never again" is easy to say when social pressures against Jewish people are low level or non-existent. Today, the destructive impact of Red China's Tik Tok (whose algorithms pump divisive and destructive rhetoric over and above positive messaging) and bought and paid for "protesters" have made it costly for some to support Israel and the Jewish people.

But it costs much more to actually be Jewish in such an environment.

X RODNEY STRAIT

Due to a clerical error, I will be an official write-in Candidate for Shinnston City Council.

I have been privileged to serve as a city councilman for the past 14 years.

I hope to continue to serve my community!

Write in Rodney Strait and check the box! Remember to vote for me on May 14, 2024.

WRITE - IN RODNEY STRAIT AND CHECK THE BOX.

X RODNEY STRAIT

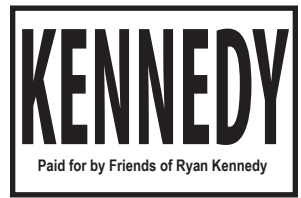
Thank you for your support.

☆☆☆
RODNEY STRAIT
Paid for by the candidate.

SHINNSTON MCDONALD'S

BOGO*
(buy one get one FREE)
BIG MAC SANDWICH
(Not to be used with a combo meal purchase)
Expires May 15, 2024

*BOGO - Buy One Get One Free
One per customer per visit, not to be used with any other offer, discount or within an EVM purchase. Valid at the Shinnston McDonald's only. Cash value 1/20 of 1 cent LwC. Must present this coupon prior to ordering.



Getting Hot At the Right Time

Timing is crucial in sports. The old saying “it’s not how you start, it’s how you finish” really comes home to roost in the world of sports. The Lincoln High School softball team is a prime example. After sputtering to a seven and nine start, the Cougars have picked up the pace and put the pressure on the other teams in their section.

At the end of last week, Lincoln had won five straight contests and seven of their last nine games. The Cougars had also won the first two games of the sectionals (which we will take an in-depth look at later in this article) over a pair of highly seeded opponents.

What was the key to the turnaround? At the forefront was the steady hand of veteran mentor Yancey Weaver. Weaver has been around the game for a long time and he knew there was no need to push the panic button. Weaver had a very talented roster heading into the campaign that just needed some time to develop. Once his squad had the opportunity to gel, the wins started to mount up.

It was a snowball effect for the Cougars.



The Bottom Line

By Bill Nestor
Sports Editor

The better they played, the more they won, and as the wins piled up, the confidence started to build.

The turning point to the season came on April 20th. Lincoln had lost the night before to Wheeling Park and suffered a pair of setbacks to Washington High School and Petersburg High School by a total score of 27 to two. It was the worst day of the year for Weaver and his team. It led to the only three game losing streak of the campaign and it was a gut check for the group.

Weaver had to wonder how his team would respond. They could throw in the towel and start preparing for next year, or they could reach deep and look for the pride that the program has been known for since Weaver has been in charge.

After a day off to recharge the batteries, Lincoln defeated Grafton 12 to two and Liberty 17 to one with

a pair of losses to go two and two in the four game stretch. The Cougars have not lost since then, outsourcing opponents 65 to 17 in the process. North Marion, Bridgeport, and East fairmont fell victim to Weaver and company to close out the regular season, giving momentum to the underdog team from Shinnston.

The Cougars entered sectional play ranked number three behind Phillip Barbour and Robert C. Byrd, which meant that Lincoln would be on the road to start second season play. Last Tuesday, a trip to Clarksburg led to a lock-up with Robert C. Byrd. It would provide a rubber match as both teams had garnered a win in the regular season series. The Cougars nabbed a second consecutive win over the Flying Eagles, eight to three.

Riley Pearlman led the attack, going three of four with a pair of home runs and a double.

Alexis Williams earned the win and also had a pair of hits in the affair. Haleigh Gump and Angelina Wright chipped in with a pair of hits in the triumph.

The next night, Lincoln was back on the road, making a trip to Phillippi for a lock-up with the Colts. P. B. had only played 20 regular season games and the two programs met just once during the regular season, in which the Colts took a 16 to six win. P. B. took a nine game win streak and an 18 and two record into Wednesday’s clash. When the dust settled, Lincoln claimed a 15 to seven victory. It was the most runs given up by the Colts all season.

Adriana Elder earned the win while going three of four from the dish, including a three run hime run. Williams was three for three with a home run and four runs batted in. Pearlman had two hits and three RBIs while Wright added a solo home run in the win. The Cougars are proof positive that hard work does pay off.

Stay tuned for the next chapter! That will do it for now. Until next week . . . take care and God bless!



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

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

Harrison County Athlete Spotlight

By Bill Nestor

The Harrison County athletes in the spotlight this week are Lincoln’s Riley Pearlman and Adrianna Elder.

Cougar softball players Riley Pearlman and Adrianna Elder helped their team to a pair of sectional wins last week. Pearlman went three of four with a pair of hits and three runs batted in in

a victory over Phillip Barbour. Elder earned the win in the circle over the Colts and had an impressive effort at the plate against P. B.. She was three for four, including a three run home run.

Congratulations to Lincoln’s Riley Pearlman and Adrianna Elder for shining bright in the SN and HCJ spotlight!

“Event” From Pg 1.

expected economic impact, Thomas said that the Harrison County Commission favors the idea of mutual aid for beneficial projects across county lines.

“We’re all in this together,” she noted.

Next, the commission heard from Cheri Gonzalez on behalf of the Friends of

Bridgeport Recreation Incorporated. Gonzelez came to request support from the commission for an ongoing effort to raise money for an “inclusive playground” in Bridgeport.

Gonzalez and the group accompanying her described the need for inclusive playgrounds for the

developmentally disabled. In the past, when thought of at all, playgrounds with special equipment for the disabled stood alone or as a small add on to what the disabled refer to as facilities for “typicals.”

The proposed \$1.3 million inclusive playground will be in

the Bridgeport complex. It will seamlessly offer equipment designed for the developmentally disabled alongside and intermingled with traditional playground items.

Advocates for the park also discussed how the rarity of such facilities could make the inclusive playground

a destination for many whose hometowns lack such amenities. They also described how Bridgeport mayor Andy Lang and his wife Lisa have spearheaded ongoing efforts to raise \$1.3 million for the facility on which ground has already been broken.

Gonzeled requested

and received \$5,000 to go toward a \$25,000 donation that would put her son Ivan’s name on a plaque or a piece of playground equipment in memorium of him. Ivan Gonzalez, who played in the Bridgeport challenger league, passed away at the age of seven last July.

“Hunt” From Pg 1.

capitalized on the natural hot springs as a thermal spa. It became a center for the wool industry in the Middle Ages but evolved into a city known for its healing waters. An interesting connection to West Virginia is that the Town of Bath in Morgan County, West Virginia was named in honor of England’s spa city, by the Virginia General Assembly in December 1776.

We walked through the historic streets and were impressed by the architecture and uniqueness of how

they incorporated the landscape with the beautiful buildings. We had lunch at a small restaurant and enjoyed the atmosphere in this amazing city. Bath has over 6 million visitors yearly making it one of ten English cities visited most by overseas tourists. In addition to tourism, Bath also has two universities and a popular theatre district.

One of the most impressive buildings in the city of Bath is the Royal Crescent, a row of 30 terraced houses laid out in a sweeping crescent, that is one of

the greatest examples of Georgian architecture in the United Kingdom. The design of the Royal Crescent blends the stately building with the greenery that opens in front of each residence. While originally design as 30 individual housing units, only 10 are still full-size townhouses and 18 have been split into flats of various sizes. Number 1 Royal Crescent is now a museum and the Royal Crescent Hotel and Spa occupy what formerly was Units 15 and 16.

Leaving Bath, we

headed to Stratford-Upon-Avon, a town, about 90 miles from London with a population of just over 30,000. The settlement which later became known as Stratford was first inhabited by Anglo-Saxons in the 7th-century. While not as architecturally stunning as the city of Bath, Stratford is a quaint town with the distinction of being the birthplace and burial place of playwright and poet William Shakespeare, whose image is seen on many of the buildings and a large

statue in the city center. The city is a popular tourist destination and over 2.7 million visitors a year walk on the same streets as a young Shakespeare did more than 400 years ago.

We visited the King Edward VI school, which was attended by William Shakespeare and my wife Pam and granddaughter Emery, got to practice writing with a quill pen and ink well, at the desks where William Shakespeare sat. Although no records or registers exist from that time, historians have noted that in all

likelihood, William attended the school because of his father’s position on the town council. The school still operates as a grammar school and currently has 767 students.

One thing is for sure and that is there is plenty to see in these two historic cities and it was impossible to see every interesting site. I know that if I ever return to London, I would want to take the train and spend a couple of days exploring the countryside in these beautiful and historic cities.

“Garden” From Pg 1.

and garbage cans. The Club voted to give \$1000 towards the project.

The Club congratulated member Tori Drainer for her new

role as City Manager of Shinnston.

Former Mayor Wanda Ashcraft presented Drainer with a bouquet of orange roses and Garden Club President presented Drainer with a large striking plant. In attendance were current Mayor Rodney Strait and former Mayor Pat Kovalck. The Club met

again on April 25th at the Bice-Ferguson Memorial Museum for a lunch of pizza, salad, fruit and cookies. Special guest was Officer Brittany Bunnell who spoke on what it is like

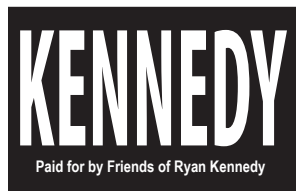
to be a female police officer in a small town. President Dorothy Rota suggested that the Club fully fund

the new flower urns planned in the Tourism Grant Project in honor of Lota Ferguson Bice and Donald Bice who had graciously bequeathed the Garden Club money several years ago. A motion was made and seconded and the funding was approved.

Lovely door prizes were won at both

meetings. Members attending one or both meetings were President Dorothy Rota, Vice-President Wanda Ashcraft, Secretary Letha Stutler, Treasurer Debra Herndon, Paula Harrison, Shirley Bowen, Marjorie Jackson, Susan Thomas, Donna Post, Jan Kelton, Kathleen

Panek, Deborah Starkey, Tori Drainer, Rocky Romano, Joyce Miker, Linda Comer, David Harbert, Debbie Harbert.



HCSCC SPOTLIGHT

Featuring news from the Harrison County Senior Citizen Center

The HCSCC Board of Directors met on Thursday, April 25, 2024, in a hybrid fashion in-person in the ballroom and via Zoom. At the meeting, the Board: Accepted the draft changes to the By-

Laws brought forth by the Ad Hoc By-Laws Committee and by unanimous vote moved to place the changes on the agenda for the next Board meeting. Approved that the staff should be move forward with

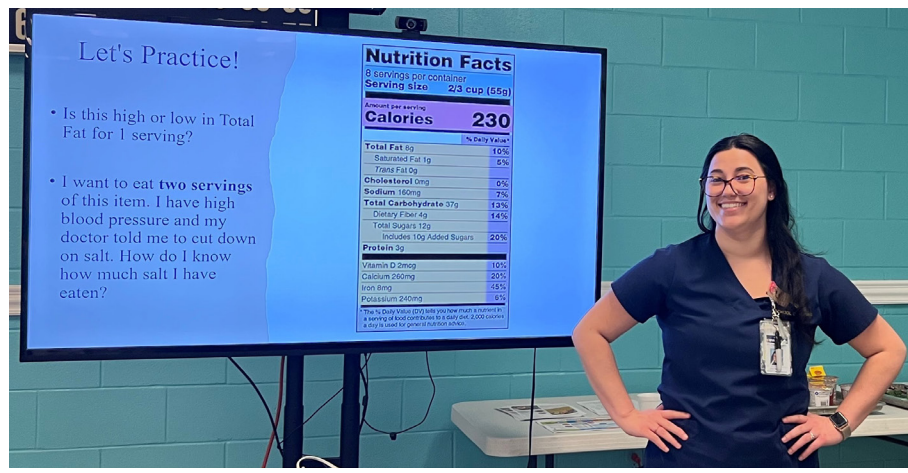
developing a “donate button” with a monetary goal with a date certain for donations and the Board will review it at the next Board meeting. The next Board meeting, which will be the Board’s Annual Meeting, will be held on

Thursday, June 27, 2024, at 9:30 am in person in the boardroom and via Zoom. The remaining meeting schedule for 2024: June 27, September 26, and October 24. All meetings will be held

at 9:30 am in hybrid format. **Board Officers & Members**
E. Ryan Kennedy, President, Bill O’Field, Vice President, Franklin Hairston, Secretary, Betty Waddy, Treasurer, Carol E. Brown, Don Burton, Janet Dotson, Will Hyman, Harley Jeffries, Bill Phillips, Donna Stuart, and Susan Thomas.



Attendees were: Carol E. Brown, Tai Chi Senior Trainer and Event Organizer, Jim Corley, E. Ryan Kennedy, Cecilia Reid, Sue Marks, Michelene Sheppard, John Vaughn, Avis Franklin, Randy Kesling, Carla Kesling, Donald Leggett, Mark Coffindaffer, Tai Chi Master Trainer, Mike Book, Sheila Book, Beth Fitzgerald, and Bill O’Field.



Melanie Maroun

Melanie Maroun, WVU Nursing Student, Teaches Bingocize Class about Nutrition

As part of her nursing education requirements, Melanie Maroun prepared a fun-filled presentation for the HCSC Bingocize class on April 17, 2024. In her presentation she informed the class members on the finer points of reading food product nutrition labels. The scheduled 15 “Bingocizers” delivered the information by the “Bingocizers” delivered the information by the well prepared presenter.

HCSC Celebrates World Tai Chi Day

HCSC Tai Chi Class along with the Harrison County YMCA Tai Chi Class celebrated World Tai Chi and Qigong Day at Harrison County Parks & Recreation Gazebo and Pavilion on Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 10 AM. On World Tai Chi Day, groups begin the celebration at 10 AM to create an ongoing wave of Tai Chi and Qigong around the globe to promote good health and to aid in falls prevention. For the last several years, these two groups have come together at various Harrison County locations to celebrate the day by practicing Tai Chi and sharing a potluck luncheon.

HCSC Begins May Older Americans Month with Haircuts

Every May, the Administration for Community Living leads the nation’s observance of Older Americans Month (OAM). The 2024 theme is Powered by Connection, which recognizes the profound impact that meaningful relationships and social connections have on our health and well-being.



Pictured L-R: Standing – Pamela Tenney, Beth Davis, Seated – Ruth Ann Jeffries, Donna Chipps, Sandra Walker, Mickey Knight, and Donna Dolan.

To help us begin the month looking our best, Pam Tenney, Admission Marketing Director from Bridgeport Healthcare Center, brought their facility beautician, Beth Davis, to the

senior center for free a bowling outing and painting party in celebration of Older Americans Month. For more information, call the Senior Center at 304.623.6795. HCSC is planning

HCSC Hosts Meet the Candidates for Sheriff

On April 30, 2024, the HCSC hosted a Meet the Candidates event for Harrison County Sheriff in the ballroom. All six candidates on the ballot attended for a social and informational program. Each candidate was allotted six minutes to present their qualifications and platform for the office with a three minute summation after a short break. After the program, candidates were available to answer questions one-on-one from attendees at their respective tables. As tradition holds, HCSC staff provided a variety of freshly baked cookies for the event.

HCSC Membership Information

Membership Term is October 1 to September 30 each year. HCSC Membership is \$10 yearly and open to those age 50+. Activities and services available include, fitness room, Exercise group, Toning group, Tai Chi class, Bingocize class, Line Dance group, Ceramics class, Bingo Fun Club, Senior Olympics, daily cards and game playing in the café, puzzle & TV room, computer lab, transportation, food box programs, in home caregiving programs, socialization, and Kinley Café food service. The center is open M – F, 8 AM – 4 PM. In addition to the main center in Clarksburg at 500 W. Main St., there are 12 senior center satellite groups in Harrison County that meet at

various times and locations throughout the month. For more information on senior center activities, services, or satellites, call 304.623.6795, or visit our Harrison County Senior Citizens Facebook page or website at www.hcscwv.org



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304.623.6795
www.hcscwv.org
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Transportation ~ In-Home Services ~
Exercise Groups: Tai Chi, Bingocize,
Toning, M/F Exercise, & Line Dancing.
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Tickets now on sale for 'Disney's Newsies JR.'

Tickets are on sale now for Disney's Newsies JR., presented by Fairmont State University's Academy for the Arts Youth Theatre Company.

Newsies JR. runs May 16-18 at 7:30 pm and May 19 at 2:00 pm. All performances take place in the Wallman Hall Theater. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online at www.fairmontstate.edu/boxoffice or in person at the Fairmont State Box Office in Wallman Hall.

Disney's Newsies JR. is based on the 1992 film inspired by the rousing true story of newsboys in turn-of-the-century New York City. Newsies JR. features a Tony Award-winning score by Alan Menken and Jack Feldman and a book

by Tony Award winner Harvey Fierstein.

When powerful newspaper publishers raise prices at the newsboys' expense, newsies from across the city strike against the unfair conditions; together, the newsies learn a valuable lesson.

Co-directed by Elizabeth Wotring Nelson and Shannon Yost, choreographed by Desiree Sowards, with Technical Direction by Troy Snyder, this production of Disney's Newsies JR. promises to deliver a rousing score, fun and iconic dance numbers, beautiful set and lighting design, and all the heart that the Academy Youth Company brings to its productions.

"It is always an incredible experience to

work with such talented young individuals," said Director Elizabeth Wotring Nelson. "We have all put a lot of time and hard work into bringing this powerful tale to the stage, and I am truly amazed at the dedication and creativity these performers, our staff, and artistic teams have brought to the project."

"Directing Newsies JR. has been a great experience! With its iconic dancing and vibrant music, the show offers something for everyone," said Director Shannon Yost. "Our talented young actors have many opportunities to connect with their characters and showcase their skills. I can't wait to see how they captivate the audience with their

performances. It's definitely a show you will want to attend."

"This cast of young people have a beautiful fighting spirit for all that's good, right, and fair," said Choreographer Desiree Sowards. "You will be swept into their passion with every musical number; you may just want to jump from your seat and join the revolution!"

The cast features Dominic Secreto as Jack Kelly, Riley Moore as Katherine, Jamyson Posey as Davey, Sophia Schroeder as Pulitzer, Avery Moore as Crutchie, Cylas Hawkins as Les, Lydia Hatten as Wiesel, and Ella Griffith as Medda. The Newsies are played by Jack Santee (Race), Ella Hatten (Albie),

Lila Sowards (Muriel), Grace Keener (Nancy), Finn Santee (Elmer), Aslyn Sowards (Specs), Salem Pollastrini (Pigtails), Iris Nelson (Hazel), Millie Vass (Pebbles), Savannah Farcin (Buttons), Eva Moore (Comet), James Treu (Romeo), Camele Stevens (Jo Jo). The Bowery Brigade is played by Shaila King (Ada), Miriam Strickland (Fanny), Shayla Wotring (Olive), Auria Smith (Eugenia), Aubrey Treu (Ethel/Dorothy), Morgan Carter (Kitty). Hallie Moore (Darcy), Cole Miller (Snyder), Kyler Berry (Morris Delancy), Emmery Dugan (Oscar Delancey), Emily Ward (Hannah), Journey Maher (Bunsen), Joanna Dugan (Seitz), Sam Cox (Bill),

Kate Woodard (Spot Conlon), Jonathan Demary (Pat/Teddy Roosevelt), And Weston Treu, Jackson Griffith, Lennox Conrad, Matthew Devito, Francis Triplett, Aaron Treu, Elsie Stevens, Cecily Warner, Landon Yost, Ivan Speakman, Rocco Kopischke, Ezra Secreto, Connor Anderson, Reilyn Bainbridge, Weston Treu, and Jackson Griffith.

Come and carry the banner and enjoy an evening of live theatre in Wallman Hall full of spirit and heart. Tickets for Disney's Newsies JR. are on sale now at www.fairmontstate.edu/boxoffice or in person at the Fairmont State Box Office in Wallman Hall.

"Protest" From Pg 1.

General Morrissey pledged to take the fight for the law to the United States Supreme Court.

Two Lincoln Middle School athletes, as was reported on WOWK TV, testified that they had no awareness of

the voluntary scratch rule cited as the reason for suspension in the next meet. They told the court that they had to do "Indian Runs" drills at the next practice and claimed it was for punishment.

The potentially

problematic part of the application of the voluntary scratch rule is that it was, as the coaching staff admitted, "unwritten." It had, however, been applied in meets in different situations over the years, which gave it a basis in practice.

The court also heard evidence that athletes on the same squad were not sanctioned for wearing shirts in support of keeping athletes born male off of female sports teams.

Judge Thomas Bedell was quoted by WOWK TV saying "even though there was no malice found on either part of the defendants, the plaintiffs have met their burden and the temporary injunction has been granted."

Last week, the

Harrison County Board of Education responded to the lawsuit in a press release. They stated that the Board "strongly denies any form of retaliation against the Lincoln Middle School students who voluntarily chose to scratch from an event at the Harrison County Middle School Championship Track Meet."

It went on to say that Lincoln Middle School coaches were aware of the possibility of protest, allowed it to go without sanction, and only applied a rule in place that forbade the protesting athletes from participating in the same event at a

subsequent meet.

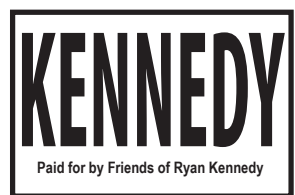
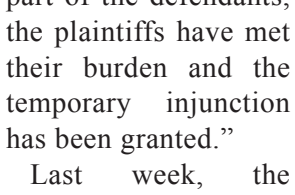
"To be clear," the release read, "no students have been retaliated against or penalized for expressing their views at the Harrison County Middle School Championship Track Meet."

Morrissey issued a press release the same day saying "I want to say to these students and their parents: I have your backs." He stated that the Harrison County judge who heard the case

about the suspensions issued "a preliminary injunction, allowing the girls to compete in shot put at future track and field meets."

He also lauded the athletes because they "didn't disrupt anything when they protested."

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OBITUARIES



Stephen Carl Sisler

Stephen Carl Sisler, 80 years old passed away peacefully on April 27, 2024. Steve was born January 12, 1944 in Red House, MD. He worked with his dad raising black angus cattle in Red House, MD. He later went to Elkhart, Indiana, where he worked as a welder for many years. When he retired, he moved to Keyser, WV and later to Clarksburg, WV. Steve will be sadly missed by family and friends.

There will be no visitation or services.

Online memories

and condolences may be shared at www.harmerfuneralhome.com

A service of Harmer Funeral Home, Shinnston.



Bernard L. "Buck" Swiger

Bernard L. "Buck" Swiger, 70, of Clarksburg, passed away on Monday, April 29, 2024, at the Beulah Land Assisted Living in Grafton. He was born in Clarksburg, October 22, 1953, a son of the late Eugene Bernard and Patricia Jane "Peg"

Sweeney Swiger.

Buck was also preceded in death by three sisters, Jeanette Vauhn, Patricia J. Swiger, and Martha R. Vanaman.

Surviving are two brothers, Harley Gene Swiger, and Nelson Bryan Swiger, two nieces, Tamra Leann and Heather Dawn Zannino; and two nephews, Daniel Lee Murray and Bryan Earl Swiger; and a host of church family and Judson Baptist Camp friends.

Buck was a member of the Bethlehem Baptist Church and a long-time regular at Judson Baptist Camp. He was affectionately known as the "Candy Man". He enjoyed being around his many friends and church camp family. Buck could always be found sharing the love of Christ with whomever he came

in contact with. He visited many families always bringing pizza or hot dogs. He enjoyed watching his friends and their families at sporting events all over the county and was very caring and supportive to everyone, always giving sound biblical advice.

Friends will be received at the Perine Funeral Home, 1348 S. Pike St., Shinnston, from 2-8pm, Friday, where funeral services will be held at 11am, Saturday, with Pastor Tim Sandy officiating. Interment will be in the Wallace Lions Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Judson Baptist Camp at the funeral home or by mail to 1348 S. Pike St., Shinnston WV, 26431. Condolences may be extended to the family at www.perinefunerals.com. The Perine Funeral

Home is honored to serve Buck's family.



Timothy Clark Victor

Timothy Clark Victor, 64, of Shinnston, passed away on May 1, 2024 at United Hospital Center. He was born July 8, 1959 in Grafton, WV to Rosalene Madge (McDonough) Victor and the late William Justinas Victor.

Timothy served in the United States Navy then worked as an electrician. He enjoyed collecting antiques, working on computers and was a ham radio operator. Timothy is also

survived by one sister: Margaret Vance of Shinnston; two brothers: William F. Victor and wife Kimberly of Clarksburg and Lynn E. Victor and wife Beth of Flemington; two granddaughters: Alexia Batson and husband Shane of Rosemont and Olivia Lipscomb of Flemington; one great grandson, Jordan Batson as well as several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his father, Timothy is preceded in death by his maternal grandparents: William F. and Evelyn McDonough and his paternal grandparents: Pete and Elizabeth Victor.

In keeping with the family's wishes, Timothy will be cremated.

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

Jenny Santilli Announces For School Board

I'm running for school board because I care for our children and want to ensure they have the best public education possible. Public education is vital to the well-being of our society; and, as a concerned citizen, I have a vested interest in preserving it. As a mother of public school graduates, an educator for 43 years - 39 serving children and colleagues in Harrison County, a mentor for pre-service and novice teachers, a teacher leader and an adjunct professor, I know the following needs to happen.

First, we must recruit and retain quality teachers and support

staff. County school systems don't control state legislation, but we can take concrete measures to show our employees how valued they are in educating and caring for our children. Employees can be given more input in how their professional development is structured. We can continue to give them benefits not provided by the state, such as dental and optical insurance and payments for out of pocket medical expenses.

Second, more so than in any time in my career, wrap around services for our children and their families are crucial. Children who are hungry, have chaotic home lives, have emotional issues or aren't fluent in English need support to enter the classroom



ready to learn. These needs are more than school employees alone can meet. Thus, we need to

use all available funds and programs to support these children and their families.

Third, the school system provides multiple opportunities for communication with families. We need to ensure families are aware of these. Open, honest and consistent communication between schools and families is essential to student success.

I appreciate your

support and vote.

Estoy una candidata para el comité escolar porque me importan nuestros niños y quiero asegurar que tengan la mejor educación pública posible. La educación pública es vital al

bienestar de nuestra sociedad y como una ciudadana preocupada, tengo un interés investido en conservarla. Como una madre de graduados de las escuelas públicas, una maestra por 43 años

39 en servir a los jóvenes y colegas en el Condado Harrison, una mentora para maestras estudiantiles y maestras principiantes, una líder y una profesora ajunta, sé que los siguientes necesitan pasar.

Primero, tenemos que contratar y retener a maestros y al personal de

apoyo de buena calidad. Es difícil porque los sistemas escolares de condados no controlan la legislación estatal, pero podemos tomar unas medidas concretas para mostrarles a nuestras empleadas que son tan valuades en educar y cuidar a nuestras niñas. Eles empleadas se pueden dar más voz en como su desarrollo profesional es diseñado. Podemos continuar darles a les empleadas beneficios que no son provistos por el estado, por ejemplo, el seguro dental y pagos para los gastos medicales de su propio bolsillo.

Segundo, más que en alguna época en mi carrera, los servicios integrales para nuestra juventud y sus familias son esenciales. Eles niños que tienen hambre, vidas familiares

caóticas, problemas emocionales o no tienen fluidez en inglés necesitan apoyo para entrar la aula listas

para aprender. Estas necesidades son más que cualquiera maestra, ayudante, enfermera o consejere soles puedan satisfacer. Por eso, necesitamos usar todos los fondos y los programas disponibles para apoyar a estos jóvenes y sus familias.

Tercero, el sistema escolar provee varias oportunidades para comunicarse con las familias. Necesitamos asegurar que las familias sepan de ellas. La comunicación abierta, honesta y consistente entre las escuelas y las familias es esencial para el éxito estudiantil. Estoy pidiendo su apoyo y su voto el 14 de mayo.

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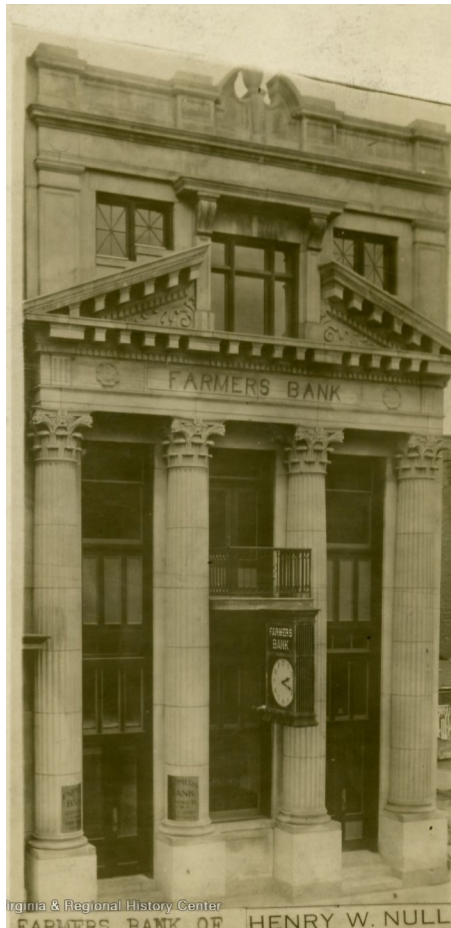


Photo courtesy of West Virginia University

Henry Null snapped this photograph of the Farmers' Bank in Shinnston some time between 1904 and 1925.

Historia & Regional History Center
FARMERS BANK OF HENRY W. NULL
SHINNSTON, W. VA. PHOTOGRAPHER

State Attorney General and Harrison County BoE Address Transgender Protest Case

CHARLESTON — West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey issued the following statement after a Harrison County Circuit Court judge on Thursday heard a case involving the female middle school students who protested a recent appeals court ruling against West Virginia's Save Women's Sports Act.

The judge issued a preliminary injunction, allowing the girls to compete in shotput at future track and field

meets. The Attorney General filed an amicus brief in support of the female athletes.

"I want to say to these students and their parents: I have your backs. You saw unfairness and you expressed your disappointment and sacrificed your personal performances in a sport that you love; exercised your constitutionally protected freedom of speech and expression.

These girls didn't disrupt anything when

they protested. They should be commended, not punished. We need to teach them that it is noble to stand firm in their beliefs and address their grievances within the protections guaranteed by our constitution.

They need not to be silent. They have won by having their voices heard.

So glad we were able to weigh in on behalf of these courageous young girls and that they are able to play."

Harrison County Board of Education Addresses LMS Protest

The Harrison County Board of Education has issued the following statement on Thursday, May 2nd, 2024:

The Harrison County Board of Education strongly denies any form of retaliation against the Lincoln Middle School students who voluntarily chose to scratch from an event at the Harrison County Middle School Championship Track Meet.

The students were permitted to engage in their selected form of

protest without issue. In fact, the coaches and principal were aware of the likelihood of the protests and permitted the students to remain on the roster for their events.

Those students, like all of the other students on the team, however, were subject to a team rule that any player who scratches in an event cannot participate in that event at the next track meet. This neutral, school-specific rule was in place before the students' protests and

has nothing to do with those protests in any way.

Other than not being permitted to participate in the same event in which they scratched at the next track meet, the students have competed in track meets and events following their protests without restriction.

To be clear, no students have been retaliated against or penalized for expressing their views at the Harrison County Middle School Championship Track Meet.

The elderly must not be abandoned

From L'Osservatore Romano

On Saturday morning, 27 April, Pope Francis received in audience the grandparents, elderly and grandchildren who participated in the meeting, "The caress and the smile", organized by the Fondazione Età Grande [a foundation for seniors]. The following is a translation of the Holy Father's words to those present in the Paul VI Hall.

Dear grandparents and dear grandchildren, Good morning and welcome!

I greet Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia and all those who collaborated to organize this moment of celebration. And particular thanks go to the many show-business personalities who wished to participate. Thank you! We all have a grandfather or a grandmother, two grandfathers, two grandmothers. Having a grandparent is a beautiful experience. But even Italy has a "grandfather", and for this reason, I want to greet "the grandfather of Italy", [Lino Banfi (pictured)], who is present here.

It is nice to welcome

you here, grandparents and grandchildren, young and not so young. Today we see, as the Psalm says, how good it is to be together (cf. Ps 133). One has but to look at you to understand this, because there is love between you. And it is precisely on this that I would like us to reflect a moment: on the fact that love makes us better, it makes us richer and it makes us wiser, at any age.

First: love makes us better. You too show this, that you make each other better by loving each other. And I say this to you as a "grandfather", with the desire to share the ever-youthful faith that unites all generations. I too received it from my grandmother, from whom I first learned about Jesus who loves us, who never leaves us alone, and who urges us too to be close to each other and never to exclude anyone. I still remember the first prayers my grandmother taught me. It was from her that I heard the story of that family where there was the grandfather who, since he could no longer eat easily at the table and got dirty, had been sent away to eat alone. And it was not a good thing — my grandmother told me that story... It was not a good thing, on the contrary, it was very

bad! So, the grandson — continues the story my grandmother told me — the grandson tinkered around for a few days with hammer and nails, and when his dad asked him what he was doing, he replied: "I'm building a table for you, so you can eat alone when you get old!" My grandmother taught me this, and I have never forgotten this story. Do not forget it either, because it is only by being together with love, not excluding anyone, that one becomes better, one becomes more humane!

Not only this, but we also become richer. How so? Our society is full of people who are specialists in many things, rich in knowledge and useful means for everyone. However, if there is no sharing and each person thinks only of himself, all that wealth is lost; rather, it becomes an impoverishment of humanity. And this is a great risk for our time: the poverty of fragmentation and selfishness. The selfish person thinks he is more important if he puts himself in the foreground and has more things, more things... But the selfish person is the poorest, because selfishness impoverishes. Let us think, for example, of some expressions we use: when we talk about the "world of youth", the

"world of the elderly", the "world of this or that"... But there is just one world! And it is made up of many realities that are different precisely in order to help and complement each other: generations, peoples, and all differences, if harmonized, can reveal, like the faces of a big diamond, the wondrous splendour of humanity and creation. This too is what your being together teaches us: not to let diversity create rifts between us! Not to pulverize the diamond of love, the most beautiful treasure God has given us.

At times we hear phrases such as, "Think of yourself", "Don't need anyone!". They are false phrases, which mislead people into thinking that it is good not to depend on others, to do things by yourself, to live as islands, whereas these are attitudes that only create a great deal of loneliness. Such as, for example, when because of the throwaway culture, the elderly are left alone and have to spend the last years of their life far from home and from their loved ones. What do you think about this? Is it good or is it not good? No! The elderly must not be left by themselves, they must live within the family, in the community, with everyone's affection. And if they cannot live

with their families, we must go visit them and stay close to them. Let us think about it for a moment: Isn't a world in which no one has to be afraid of living their last days alone much better? Clearly yes. So let us build this world, together, not just by devising care programmes, but by cultivating different projects of existence, in which the passing years are not considered a loss that diminishes someone, but an asset that grows and enriches everyone, and as such are appreciated and not feared.

And this brings us to the final aspect: the love that makes us wiser. It is curious: love makes us wiser. Dear grandchildren, your grandparents are the memory of a world without memory, and "when a community loses its memory, it's over" (Address to the Community of Sant'Egidio, 15 June 2014; ore, 20 June 2014, p. 8). I ask: what is a society that loses its memory like? [They all answer: "It's over".] It's over. We must not lose our memory. Listen to your grandparents, especially when they teach you, with their love and with their witness, to cultivate the most important affections, which are not obtained by force, which do not appear

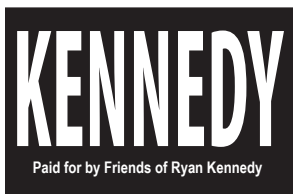
through success, but which fill life.

It is no coincidence that it was two elderly people, I like to think two grandparents, Simeon and Anna, who recognized Jesus when he was taken to the Temple by Mary and Joseph (cf. Lk 2:22-38). It was these two grandparents who recognized Jesus before everyone else. They welcomed him, they took him in their arms and they understood — only they understood — what was happening: that God was there, present, and that he was watching them through the eyes of a child. Do you understand? These two elderly people, only they realized, seeing the infant Jesus, that the Messiah had come, the Saviour everyone was waiting for. It was the elderly who understood the Mystery.

Elderly people wear glasses — almost all of them — but they can see far. How come? They can see far because they have lived for many years, and they have many things to teach: for example, how bad war is. A long time ago, I learned this precisely from my grandfather, who had lived in 1914, at the Piave, the first World War, and through his stories he made me understand that war is a horrible thing, that must never be done. He also taught me a beautiful song, that I still remember. Do you want me to tell you? [The young people say, "Yes!"]. Think about it well, the soldiers at the Piave sang this: General Cadorna wrote to the Queen: if you want to see Trieste, look at a postcard! It is beautiful! The soldiers used to sing it.

Turn to your grandparents and do not marginalize them, for your own good: "The marginalization of the elderly [...] corrupts all seasons of life, not just that of old age" (Catechesis, 1

See "Elderly" on Pg 9



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WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Division of Highways
NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia, until June 11, 2024 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project(s):

Call	Contract	State Project	Federal Project	Description
018	2022840003R1	S384-REC/AL-24.00	STBG-2024(005)D	PAVEMENT MARKINGS D-4 RECALL STRIPING 2024 DISTRICT WIDE COUNTY: DODDRIDGE, HARRISON MARION, MONONGALIA, PRESTON, TAYLOR

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

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

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

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The PY 2024-2028 Business Plan for the Region VI Workforce Development Board (WDB) is available for public comment beginning May 6, 2024, through May 18, 2024. It can be viewed on the Region VI WDB website at www.regionviwv.org under the Public Information tab. A copy of the plan may also be requested by calling the Region VI WDB office at (304) 3689530. Public comments on the plan can be mailed to: Maria Larry, Executive Director I Region VI Workforce Development Board, 17 Middletown Road, Fairmont, WV 26554.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program
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Notice of Public Comment Period
State of West Virginia
Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Water and Waste Management
601 57th Street, SE
Charleston, WV 25304
Telephone: (304) 926-0440
Fax: (304) 926-0463

Public Notice No.: SM-40-2024
Public Notice Date: May 7, 2024

**GENERAL WV/NPDES WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PERMIT
STORMWATER DISCHARGES FROM SMALL MUNICIPAL SEPARATE
STORM SEWER SYSTEMS
WV/NPDES PERMIT NO. WV0116025**

The Division of Water and Waste Management is proposing to reissue the West Virginia National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Water Pollution Control Permit WV0116025. The General Permit covers discharges to waters of the state from small municipal separate storm sewer systems as defined in the General Permit. It is proposed that this General Permit be issued for a five-year term.

The reissued General Permit will supersede the existing General Water Pollution Control Permit No. WV0116025, which expired on August 11, 2019.

The Director of the Division of Water and Waste Management retains authority to require any owner/operator to apply for and obtain an individual WV/NPDES Permit. This authority will be exercised when the Director determines that such individual permits will better protect the receiving water.

The draft permit and fact sheet are available on the WVDEP website at https://dep.wv.gov/WWE/Programs/stormwater/MS4/Pages/default.aspx. Hard copies are available for review at WVDEP headquarters in Charleston or any of the agency's regional field offices, and can be mailed upon request.

Hearing impaired individuals having access to a Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD) may contact our agency by calling 1-800-422-5700. Calls must be made between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Any interested persons may submit written comments on the draft permit. Comments will be accepted until June 21, 2024. They should be addressed to:

Sharon Mullins
Division of Water and Waste Management
601 57th Street SE
Charleston, WV 25304
Attention: Sharon Mullins
E-mail: Sharon.A.Mullins@WV.gov

All comments received within this period will be considered prior to acting on the draft General Permit. Correspondence should include the name, address and telephone number of the writer and a concise statement of the nature of the issues raised.

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(2021-S-00000401 - Harrison County - NAJ LLC)

To: STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA HARRISON COUNTY MAGISTRATE CLERK, JAMES RAY, ESTATE OF SUE E. RAY C/O JAMES RAY, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT CLARK CLARKSBURG CORP MAP 18 PARCEL 0576 0000

You will take notice that NAJ LLC, the purchaser of the tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2020-S-00000401, 1 LOT PT 8 MR GOFF ADD, located in CLARK CLARKSBURG CORP, which was returned delinquent in the name of RAY SUE E, and for which the tax lien(s) thereon was sold by the sheriff of Harrison County at the sale for the delinquent taxes made on the 4th day of November, 2021, has requested that you be notified that a deed for such real estate will be made to him or her on or after June 26, 2024, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount you will have to pay on the last day, June 25, 2024, will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to June 25, 2024.	\$ 271.25
Amount of subsequent year's taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to June 25, 2024.	\$ 154.12
Amount paid for the Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest from January 1, 2022, following the sheriff's sale to June 25, 2024.	\$ 1,125.48
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to June 25, 2024.	\$ 230.33
Total Amount Payable to Sheriff - cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable Robert Matheny, Sheriff and Treasurer of Harrison County.	\$ 1,781.18
Cost of Certification of Redemption - cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable John B. McCuskey, State Auditor.	\$ 35.00

You may redeem any time before June 25, 2024, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

Return this letter and both certified funds to the WV State Auditor's Office, County Collection Division 1900 Kanawha Blvd East, Building 1, Room W-114 Charleston, West Virginia 25305. Questions please call 1-888-509-6568 option 2

“Elderly” From Pg 8.

June 2022). In the other diocese, I used to visit retirement homes for the elderly, and I always used to ask: “How many children do you have?” “Many, many!” “And do they come to visit you?” “Yes, yes, always” — I remember once — “they always come”. And when I left, the nurse would say to me, “How good that woman is, how she covers up for her children:

they come twice a year, no more”. Grandparents are generous: they know how to cover up bad things. Please, seek out your grandparents, do not marginalize them: it is for your own good. The marginalization of the elderly corrupts all the seasons of life, not just that of old age. I like to repeat this. Instead, you learn wisdom from their strong love, and also from

their frailty, which is a “magisterium” capable of teaching without the need for words, a true antidote to the hardening of the heart: it will help you not to remain stuck in the present, and to savour life as a relationship (cf. Benedict XVI, Greeting at the home for the elderly “Viva gli anziani”, 12 November 2012). But not only that: when you, grandparents and

WV IJDC announces \$14.2 million in funding for sewer and water projects around state

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council announced \$14.2 million in funding for sewer and water projects around the state at its meeting on May 1. Details for the projects are listed below.

Greater Harrison County Public Service District

The council approved a \$6.4 million loan to the Greater Harrison PSD for improvements to its water system. These funds, along with funds from other funding programs, provide \$11.4 million for this project.

Town of Burnsville

The council approved a \$1 million grant and \$221,750 loan to the Town of Burnsville in Braxton County for improvements to its sewer system. These funds, along with funds from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, provide \$3.6 million for this project.

Flatwoods Canoe Run Public Service District

The council approved a \$1 million grant and a \$1.2 million loan to the Flatwoods Canoe Run PSD in Braxton County for improvements to its water system.

Fountain Public Service District

The council approved a \$1 million grant to the Fountain PSD in Mineral County for a water extension along Parrill Hollow Road to serve 35 homes. These funds, along with funds from the Drinking Water Treatment Revolving Fund (DWTRF) and the Mineral County Commission (ARPA), provide \$2.3 million for this project.

Frankfort Public Service District

The council approved a \$500,000 grant to the Frankfort PSD in Mineral County for improvements to its water system. These funds, along with funds from the DWTRF, Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS), CDS Match

and other funding programs, provide \$1.6 million for this project.

Town of Harrisville

The council approved a \$500,000 grant to the Town of Harrisville in Ritchie County for improvements to its wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and sewer system. These funds, along with funds from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), the Ritchie County Commission, the Town and other funding programs, provide \$3.9 million for this project.

Monumental Public Service District

The council approved a \$500,000 grant to the Monumental PSD in Marion County for improvements to its water system. These funds, along with funds from the DWTRF and other funding programs, provide \$5.1 million for this project.

Ravencliff McGraws Saulsville (RMS) Public Service District

The council approved a \$500,000 grant to the RMS PSD in Wyoming County for improvements to its McGraws Water Treatment Plant (WTP). These funds, along with funds from the DWTRF and other funding programs, provide \$1.5 million for this project.

Ravencliff McGraws Saulsville Public Service District

The council approved a \$500,000 grant to the RMS PSD in Wyoming County to extend water service to 53 homes along Route 97, between McGraws and Pineville. These funds, along with funds from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), DWTRF, Wyoming County Commission (ARPA) and other funding programs, provide \$4.7 million for this project.

Sissonville Public Service District

The council approved a \$335,000 grant to the Sissonville PSD in Kanawha County for

improvements to its WWTP. These funds, along with funds from CWSRF, Kanawha County Commission (ARPA) and other funding programs, provide \$5.2 million for this project.

City of Spencer

The council approved a \$500,000 grant to the city of Spencer in Roane County for improvements to its water system. These funds, along with funds from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers the Roane County Commission and other funding programs, provide \$2.4 million for this project.

Other Business

The council also approved technical reviews and requests to pursue funding for an additional two sewer and water projects. The approval of these reviews and requests helps cities, municipalities and public service districts save taxpayer money and keep their projects moving. The two projects found to be technically feasible and approved to pursue funding are listed below.

Brooke County Public Service District: Beech Bottom WWTP improvements project estimated to cost \$12.1 million

Lewis County Economic Development Authority: Water system extension project to serve 20 homes along Corridor H estimated to cost \$5.7 million

About the West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council

The WV IJDC was created by the West Virginia Legislature in 1994 to serve as a funding clearinghouse for water and wastewater projects around the state. Gov. Jim Justice serves as council chairman, with Senior Advisor Ann Urling serving as his designee.

he said to his mother, ‘Woman, behold your son!’ Then he said to the disciple, ‘Behold your mother!’ And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home” (Jn 19:26-27). With those words he entrusted to us a miracle to perform: that of loving us all as one big family.

Dear friends, thank you for being here, and thank you for what you

are doing with the Età Grande Foundation! Together, united, you are an example and a gift to all. I remember you in prayer, I bless you, and please, do not forget to pray for me. Thank you, thank you very much!





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