

# Getting Ready For a New School Year *Normal, Illinois*



Cleaning and maintenance crews work all summer to get Harrison County school buildings and grounds ready for students. Here, crews get the exterior of Lincoln High School looking its best for the start of the fall semester.

By Jim Hunt for the News and Journal



On my list of cities, I would like to visit, I place Normal, Illinois near the top. I have always been fascinated by a place named “Normal” since I met Sonja and Jerry Reece at a National League of Cities event many years ago. Sonja was a member of the Normal Town Council and Jerry was her husband. I can remember Jerry smiling when he let me know that he and Sonja were the only two “normal” people at the conference.

This started a years-long friendship, and my National League of Cities events weren’t complete until I got to see my normal friends from Normal. Jerry passed away in 2010 and Sonja was heartbroken but kept her passion for community involvement until this

day. The town of Normal was originally named North Bloomington but the name was changed in 1865 and officially incorporated on February 25, 1867. The name was taken from Illinois State Normal University which was what teacher training institutions were called at the time. The town’s population is over 52,000 and the Bloomington-Normal metro area is the seventh most populous community outside the Chicago metropolitan area. State Farm Insurance Company is the region’s largest employer with over 13,000 employees and EV manufacturer contributes another 7,500 employees. The Bloomington-Normal Metro area is often cited for having a great quality of life and was ranked the No. 1 Happiest City in the U.S. by Zippia.com and No. 2 ranked Best City for Recent College Graduates. In my book, The Amazing City-7 Steps to Creating an Amazing City, I emphasized the importance of branding and I think that Normal

*See “Hunt” on Pg 3*

## Citizens of the Month

### Those Who Gave Their Lives In the Katherine Mine #4 Explosion Eight Decades Ago

By Elicia Drummond Kuhl  
Great Granddaughter of Daniel Kenneth Drummond

It’s been 80 years since the Katherine Mine #4 Explosion. I didn’t realize as we planned this trip to Shinnston that it would be in the midst of a monumental year of that tragedy but here we are my sister Becky, my husband Gary and me. Our journey started

with a plan to travel to Shinnston and bring our Great Grandmother and Great Great Grandmother’s dresses to be displayed at the Bice Ferguson Memorial Museum. Actually this journey started when my Great Aunt Mary (Mary McGinnis Milligan) gave me my grandmothers dresses when I was 20 years old. They were both homemade, one with a lace kerchief around the neck of the dress and a black pin carved

intricately into a bird sitting on a tree branch pinned at the neckline. The other one was different but still homemade with buttons and a jeweled pin but there’s more to these dresses than the material. They were worn by two women that were connected, mother and daughter (Florence Ash Drummond and Savilla Swiger Ash). Both shared an experience that changed their lives

as well as many others. Our great grandmother married into the Drummond family becoming Florence Ash Drummond. We have an old photograph of the Drummond family taken, which I believe was the last picture that captured my grandfather, Daniel Kenneth Drummond.

He was standing in the back row along with his brothers, the other siblings in front of them and on a couch.

*See “Citizens” on Pg 7*

*The Shinnston News & Harrison County Journal has named Those Who Gave Their Lives In the Katherine Mine #4 Explosion as Citizen of the Month, a recognition sponsored by Dorsey Funeral Home in Shinnston – locally owned and operated.*

## Harrison County Board of Education Hears Presentation on Mountaineer Middle’s Project ISAAC

By Stephen Smoot

Aside from other business featured on the agenda, the Harrison County Board of Education last week heard a presentation from Roger Deems and Mary Jo DeMarco Bastin. They came to discuss the progress of Project ISAAC at Mountaineer Middle School. On the Harrison

County Schools website, it describes Project ISAAC as giving students a number of opportunities through attending an afterschool program. It states that they will “increase academic performance in basic skills with concentration on reading and math,” join in “enrichment activities” that could include music, the arts, technology, and more,

“participate in activities to improve health, wellness, social and emotional behaviors,” and present those involved with viable career or college tracks to adult success. Project ISAAC does not assign grades and involves students in a non compulsory fashion, but, as Roger Deems told the Board, involves “applying learning to real world situations.”

It also includes “no worksheets,” but emphasizes “hands-on learning.”

The hands-on approach often took the form of field trips to learning opportunities

*See “Project” on Pg 3*

By Stephen Smoot

Although Harrison County has enjoyed its 36th “wettest year to date over the past 130 years,” the 31st driest June on record, plus continuing dry and hot conditions through July, have pushed part of the county officially into drought. The drought categorization comes from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Integrated Drought Information System.

The system provides alerts and vital information concerning droughts or other impacts of temperature and precipitation for each county in the United States.

Until last week, about 85 percent of Harrison County, all but a sliver of the southern portion, was not placed in any drought or limited precipitation category. Southern Harrison was in the category of “D0 abnormally dry.” Now, the abnormally dry portion has entered “D1 moderate drought.”

Drought categories also include “D2 severe drought,” “D3 extreme drought,” and “D4 exceptional drought.”

According to NIDIS, 10,501 people live in the area of Harrison County affected by the drought, a little more than 15 percent of the population.

The last 30 days have seen the entire county enjoying less than the historical average of

*See “Drought” on Pg 3*

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# Transportation Option From LHS to Robert C. Byrd Announced

Attention parents and guardians of students currently attending Liberty High School, or students who will be beginning high school at Liberty in the fall: With the planned 2025 merger of Liberty High School and Robert C. Byrd High School, Harrison County Schools will be providing a bus from Liberty High School to Robert C. Byrd for students who currently

Schools will provide a transportation option for students who would like to begin this 2024 school year at Robert C. Byrd High School. Harrison County Schools will be providing a bus from Liberty High School to Robert C. Byrd for students who currently

ride a bus to and from Liberty High School. Students will ride their normal bus route to Liberty and then be transported to Robert C. Byrd around 7:40. Students will return to Liberty High School around 2:25 each day. There will be offered a year-long physical

education class (for credit) during the time between afternoon drop off from RCB and pick up at Liberty, if needed. To ensure there are enough students to utilize this transportation option, we are asking that any interested parent please come to

Liberty High School on Wednesday July 17th through Friday July 19th to complete a transfer request for the school change. School administration will be available from 8 am until 2 pm these days, and then again Wednesday (July 17) and Thursday (July 18)

from 6 pm until 7 pm. Parents will enter the front doors at Liberty to complete the necessary paperwork. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Liberty High School at 304-326-7470. Robert L. Herrod II Principal Liberty High School

## N&J Briefs

### FROM AROUND HARRISON COUNTY

*The Shinnston News provides a calendar of events free of charge to churches and nonprofit organizations. Please submit your listing two weeks prior to the event. Send via email to [newsandjournal@yahoo.com](mailto:newsandjournal@yahoo.com)*

Clarksburg First Friday Festival, 4:30-8 p.m., Uptown Event Center on Washington Avenue. Craft and Food Vendors; School Book Bag Giveaway; Live music by The Fridley Boys (5PM-8PM); Mobile Library; Art Gallery at Merchants Bank Building will display space photography and John W. Davis art and artifacts; Clarksburg History Museum will feature their schoolroom exhibit; Model Railroad Club open; Book Sale at the Library; List of business and restaurant specials on our Facebook page; Contact Clarksburg Visitors Bureau at 304-622-2157.

\*Saint James Catholic Church (2107 Pride Avenue in Clarksburg) will celebrate its 100th anniversary; Open House at the former school (1-4 PM); Mass at 4:30 PM; John Angotti Concert at 5:30 PM; Catered dinner at 6:30 PM; All are welcome, but prior reservations required for the dinner; Additional parking will be available at the North View United Methodist Church (corner of Pride Avenue and North 19th Street.) Contact Mike Spatafore for more information. (304-641-5764)

Block party for Shinnston and Lincoln High School graduates and students will be held on Aug 17 between noon and 10 PM. Entertainment is free and attendees are encouraged to buy their food and drink locally

Shinnston Soccer Association will hold a pool party and registration event at Shinnston Pool on July 29 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM  
Baxter Volunteer Fire Department is holding an elimination dinner on Fri Sept 20 at 6 PM  
Harrison County Schools Open House Information  
OPEN HOUSE DATES & TIMES All Open Houses will run from 3:00pm to 6:00pm Elementary - August 15, 2024 Middle School - August 13, 2024 High School - August 14, 2024

Harrison-Clarksburg Health Department has partnered with StateFoodSafety.com to offer ONLINE Food Workers Card Permit Training. Trainings cost \$15.00 for a 1 year, \$20.00 for a 2 year and \$25.00 for a 3 year printable card(you must have a printer available to print your card). You must have a credit card to pay for the training. You also have the option to take the training for a statewide card. Training cost \$25.00 for a 1 year, \$30.00 for a 2 year and \$35.00 for a 3 year printable card. Training is full Audio/Visual and available in English, Spanish, Korean, Mandarin and Vietnamese.

### “Hunt” From Pg 1.

has embraced its quirky character and created an Amazing city for its residents. They renamed their business district to Uptown Normal and have made major investments to create a live, work, play environment for both businesses and residents. The relationship between Illinois State University and the Town of Normal has created a healthy, “Town-Gown” atmosphere and the

21,000 students create opportunities for civic engagement and school pride. The Town of Normal and Illinois State University have been active members of the International Town & Gown Association whose mission is to help solidify town and gown partnerships. The city hosts events throughout the year with children’s events, theater, and golf being

prominent attractions. The Children’s Discovery Museum is in Uptown Normal and provides a variety of experiences for children to inspire a love for learning through the power of play. Parks and recreation are also abundant in the Town of Normal and an active public art program has displays in local parks and the Uptown Station. I’m planning a visit to Normal in 2025 and hope to see my friend,

Sonja for a personal tour. Sonja lives in a high rise in the Uptown Normal district and posts a picture of the activity out her window, almost every day on Facebook. I was also pleasantly surprised to read that Sonja Reese had been chosen as the 2024 Citizen of the Year in Normal for her continued efforts to make her community a better place to live.

### “Drought” From Pg 1.

rainfall for this time of year. The northwestern third and southeastern corner of the county have only had between 25 and 50 percent of normal rainfall. Between 75 and 100 percent of normal amounts fell along the US 50 corridor and surrounding areas extending west from Clarksburg. The remainder of Harrison County, including Shinnston, got between 50 and 75 percent. Over the past 60 days, the US 50 corridor actually got between 100 and 150 percent of

normal rainfall, while most of the rest of the county outside of the northwestern third, including Shinnston, got between 75 and 100 percent of normal precipitation. The rest lay between 50 and 75 percent. Temperatures for the entire county over the past 30 days have run between four and six degrees more than normal. Over the past seven days, the temperatures rose to between six and eight degrees above normal. Drought conditions have also affected local

waterways. The West Fork River, measured at the Harrison-Marion County line is categorized as having a below normal streamflow. Some relief may come soon. Over the next week, most of the northern part of the county is predicted to receive between three-fourths of an inch and an inch of rain while the county south of US 50 may get between one half and three-fourths of an inch. The rain, according to predictions, will not prevent drought

conditions from continuing to get worse throughout the county. The website uses a 30 year period as a historical baseline from which to compare temperatures, precipitation, and other metrics. Over the course of the 21st century so far, Harrison County has escaped severe drought conditions. The last D3 and D4 conditions came during the late 1980s. The 1960s and 1930s featured much longer stretches of sustained and damaging D3 and D4 conditions.

### “Smoot” From Pg 2.

Some delegates could be persuaded by vague promises of consideration down the line, such as support for them in their elections or even the possibility of a federal job. Through much of the 19th century, the federal workforce was dominated by political appointees because no civil service policy controlled hiring. Going into a convention, the favorite often had to face a spectrum of opponents. Almost all featured some kind of “favorite son” candidates, for example, Pennsylvania’s delegation to the 1860 Republican National Convention voted first for fellow Keystone Stater Simon Cameron. Aside from these, who rarely got much traction in any convention, conventions also featured serious alternatives to the odds on favorite going in. Practicality, strategy, and ideology all went into battle in the quest for delegates, because each delegate was moved by different considerations - and sometimes those considerations changed from balloting to balloting. The convention would

continue balloting like a public Papal Conclave until one nominee took a majority. After expressing their support for Cameron in the first ballot, Pennsylvania’s delegation all switched to Lincoln even though each delegate could vote his own conscience. One of the main differences between brokered conventions and primary election based nominations lies in the ideological dynamics behind them. Brokered conventions usually forced the party to the middle to compromise on someone - anyone - who could win the support of the majority. In 1860, even many abolitionist Republicans found Seward too radical on the biggest issue of the day, slavery. Brokered convention delegates understood that their job lay in selecting not a President, but a candidate capable of winning the presidency. They had enough political savvy to grasp the difference and generally acted accordingly. In other words, a majority of the delegates likely had no problem with Seward,

but believed that his aggressive abolitionism would cost them states such as Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana in the general. Lincoln occupied the more moderate, and therefore the compromise, position. Primary elections, however, reflect more the desires of the base, particularly the ideological. A common saying is that candidates run to the wings for the primary, then back to the center for the general, at least in the days before ideology grew into a consuming force in politics. Primary elections, thus, encourage the nomination of more radical candidates than brokered conventions did, at least generally speaking. Conventions that did nominate radicals, such as when the Democrats repeatedly chose William Jennings Bryan, did their party no favors. Vice presidential selections, such as when President William McKinley chose Theodore Roosevelt to run with him, would often be made to satisfy the ideological base. Why spend all of this time on a history lesson?

At the time of this writing, media reports indicate that Biden may leave the race for health reasons. While many may assume that Harris automatically steps in, that is not so. She would have to emerge victorious in a brokered convention of a fractured party that has little faith in her and realizes that, for most of America, her California background serves as a millstone around her neck rather than a help. Since few media figures know much about the concept or history of brokered conventions, they will seem novel to them. They should consider the question “is there any thing whereof it may be said, See this is new? It hath already been already of old time which was before us.” Sadly in this age, however, “there is no remembrance of former things” that would help the media understand that “the thing that hath been, is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done . . . “ “And there is no thing new under the sun.”

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# Burks Embracing New Role in Mountaineer Defense

By John Antonik

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. – We’ve spent the last 2 ½ years watching Aubrey Burks, No. 2, playing the free safety position in West Virginia University’s defense.

This year, you might see him there at times, and at other times, he will be lined up near to the line of scrimmage. This past spring, the decision was made to get Burks closer to the action because of his tremendous instincts and ball-hawking abilities.

It’s something the Oakridge, Florida, resident welcomes to further expand his game.

“I want to be playing

both,” he said last week in Las Vegas during Big 12 media days. “I’m going to play high safety and down in the box, depending upon on what teams are running and how they try and attack us.

Senior safety Aubrey Burks made two interceptions and broke up four passes in 2023 (All Pro Photography/Dale Sparks photo).

“If a team comes out in 10 or 11, I will be playing closer to the ball, and so far, I like the change,” he added. “I’ve been telling coach (Neal) Brown and coach (Jordan) Lesley that is something I want to do. They told me that my game is better closer to the ball. It’s an

opportunity this year to show how versatile I am and a great opportunity for me to show what I can do closer to the ball.”

Burks’ 29 games playing free safety has generated crooked numbers in every defensive statistical category, from 116 total tackles to 8 ½ tackles for loss, 2 ½ sacks, two forced fumbles and a recovery, three interceptions and six pass breakups.

He had a pick in last December’s Dukes Mayo Bowl victory over North Carolina and had a season-best seven tackles in the Mountaineers’ 20-13 win over Texas Tech, so moving him to another area of the field comes

with some risk.

But there is also the reward of having one of the team’s most intelligent defenders right in the middle of the action.

“I either take advantage of it or I don’t, and I’m looking forward to it though,” he shrugged.

Burks’ impressive football IQ is what has made him the player he’s become. He’s not the fastest on the field nor does he jump the highest, but his ability to diagnose and process what is happening out there in front of him significantly speeds up his game.

Defenders like Mike Lorello, Jay Henry and Reed Williams were once very productive

for the Mountaineers because of their ability to read plays and react quickly.

And Burks falls into their category.

“I want to give credit to our defensive coaching staff and everybody who has helped develop my game to where it’s at now and it’s going to be developed even more as we go through the season,” he noted. “They are putting me in the right positions to make plays, and you are never too old to be coachable or learn something new about the game because it’s always changing. There is always going to be something new to learn about this game.”

Burks said he took to heart a recent conversation he had with another player he knows about the value of football IQ and overall intelligence.

“I just had a talk with an NFL player recently, and I asked him about the NFL, what is it like? He said, ‘There are guys here who are really talented and really good, and there are guys here who are not as talented, but their knowledge is keeping them in the league,’” Burks explained. “That right there lets me know if you’ve got knowledge of the game, that can make up for not running 4.4 or if you don’t jump 40 inches.

See “Burks” on Pg 8

# Salem Softball Features 15 on NFCA Scholar Athlete List

SALEM, West Virginia - With the exciting USCAA postseason run for Salem Softball still fresh in our memories, the Tigers still have

some hardware to add to their 2024 spring campaign. However, this time, it is for their efforts in the classroom, not on the diamond. The Tigers have placed 15

on the NFCA Scholar Athlete list for their strong showing in the classroom this year. Each honoree is as follows:

Kaydee Anderson,

Fran Alvaro, Sierra Chapa, Destiny Coble, Ricki Garay, Abigail Harki, Karmen Hogan, Marissa Jeffrey, Charlee Johnson, Meladie Larance, Kendall

Lemley, MacKenzie Ringer, Syriah Trujillo, Kayla Williams, Brooke Wise

The Salem Athletic Department would like to congratulate

our Tigers for this accomplishment, and all their hard work in the classroom as they prepare for their 2025 spring campaign.

# Salem Volleyball Debuts Schedule for 2024 Fall Campaign

SALEM, West Virginia - As summer preparations are still in the works here in the Valley of Learning, the Salem Volleyball, under the guidance of 2nd year Head Coach Matt Carpenter, is excited to announce their full schedule for the fall 2024 campaign.

The Tigers open up the season in the comfort of T. Edward Davis Gymnasium when old West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic

Conference rival West Virginia Tech comes to town for a 7 pm matchup on September 5th. They then hit the road to take on a pair of USCAA foes (Kent State-Tuscarawas and Penn State-Dubois) on September 7th. Both of those contests will be hosted in New Philadelphia, Ohio on the campus of Kent State-Tuscarawas.

After returning to the Mountain State for a road contest at West

Virginia Wesleyan on September 10th, Salem will then compete in a round robin event hosted by Bluefield State on September 13th and 14th where they will match up with Shorter, Erskine, Bluefield State, and West Virginia Wesleyan.

Salem comes back home on September 17th against Glenville State before heading over to Circleville, Ohio for a pair of matchups against Ohio Christian

and Olivet. Similar to the earlier event at Kent State-Tuscarawas, both those contests will take place on Ohio Christian’s campus on September 21st.

The rest of the fall campaign for the Tigers breaks down as follows (Home Games in Bold):

**September 24th - vs. Davis & Elkins - 7 PM**

**September 27th - vs. West Virginia Wesleyan - 7 PM**

October 1st - vs. West Liberty - 7 PM

October 4th - at Frostburg State - 7 PM

**October 8th - vs. Fairmont State - 7 PM**

October 10th - at Appalachian Bible - 4 PM

**October 11th - vs. Wheeling - 7 PM**

October 15th - at Point Park - 7 PM

October 18th - at Glenville State - 12 PM

October 19th - at Concord - 12 PM

**October 22nd - vs. Appalachian Bible - 6 PM (Senior Day)**

**October 25th - vs. West Virginia State - 7 PM**

**October 26th - vs. Charleston - 12 PM**

October 29th - at West Liberty - 7 PM

November 1st - at Davis & Elkins - 7 PM

November 4th - at Fairmont State - 7 PM

**November 8th - vs. Frostburg State - 7 PM**

November 12th - at Wheeling - 7 PM

November 15th - vs. Point Park - 7 PM

# Greene Nominated for Allstate Wuerffel Trophy and AFCA Good Works Teams

By Mike Montoro

NORTHBROOK, Ill. - Allstate is partnering with the Wuerffel Foundation to bring together two of the most meaningful awards in college football.

The Allstate Wuerffel Trophy will honor a student-athlete who is inspired to serve others and make a positive impact on society. Together with the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team, whose 2024 nominees are announced below, the awards will mark college football’s premier honors for community service.

“Student-athletes deserve recognition for their contributions both in and out of sports” said Troy Hawkes, Allstate executive vice president and general manager. “The Allstate Wuerffel Trophy doubles down on Allstate’s commitment to celebrating college football athletes for outstanding performance on the field, in the classroom,



West Virginia University quarterback Garrett Greene emerged as one of college football’s best last year.

and in their community.”

The Allstate Wuerffel Trophy, college football’s premier award for community service, is presented annually to the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) player who best combines exemplary community service with leadership and

performance on and off the field. Named after Heisman Trophy winner and College Football Hall of Famer Danny Wuerffel, the award honors the former NFL quarterback’s commitment to inspiring greater service and unity in the world.

“Our partnership with

Allstate and the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team builds upon the purposeful impact of these awards,” said Wuerffel. “We want to inspire college athletes to be community-minded, live for others, and sacrifice their own interests for the benefit of other people.”

The 2024 Allstate Wuerffel Trophy recipient will be selected by a national voting committee and announced on The Home Depot/ESPN College Football Awards Show in December. Only FBS players elected to the

Allstate AFCA Good Works Team are eligible for the honor, which replaces the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team captain.

Established in 2005, this year marks the 20th anniversary of the first Wuerffel Trophy, awarded to Rudy Niswanger of LSU, followed by eighteen recipients. Georgia’s Ladd McConkey was most recently honored with the award and named to the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team in 2023. Throughout this season, the Wuerffel Foundation will reflect on these first nineteen recipients and honor the history of college football’s premier award for community service.

Established in 1992, the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team recognizes college football athletes for their unwavering commitment to community service and their “good works” off the field. This year’s

See “Greene” on Pg 8





## UHC One of Seven WVU Medicine Hospitals Recognized

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. – Seven member and affiliate WVU Medicine hospitals have been named by U.S. News & World Report to its 2024-2025 Best Hospitals as High Performing hospitals for 16 Procedures and Conditions. This is the highest distinction a hospital can earn for U.S. News’ Best Hospitals Procedures and Conditions ratings.

WVU Medicine J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital, which received its fifth-consecutive ranking as the top hospital in West Virginia, was also named High Performing in four specialties: Cancer; Gastroenterology and GI Surgery; Orthopedics; and Urology.

The following WVU Medicine hospitals were recognized as High Performing in the Procedures and Conditions category:

Berkeley Medical Center – Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder (COPD), Heart Attack, and Heart Failure

Camden Clark Medical Center – COPD, Heart Failure, and Pneumonia

Princeton Community Hospital – COPD, Heart Failure, and Knee Replacement

Ruby Memorial Hospital – Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, Acute Kidney Failure, Aortic Valve Surgery; COPD; Colon Cancer Surgery; Heart Attack; Heart Bypass Surgery; Heart Failure; Hip Replacement; Knee Replacement; Lung Cancer Surgery; Pneumonia; Leukemia, Lymphoma, and Myeloma; Back Surgery; Stroke; TAVR

Thomas Memorial Hospital – COPD

United Hospital Center – Acute Kidney Failure, COPD, Heart Attack, Heart Failure, and Pneumonia

In addition, Weirton Medical Center, which announced plans to join the WVU Health System in early 2025, was recognized as High Performing in Heart Failure. It has been a clinical affiliate of WVU Medicine since 2020.

“Our pledge to our patients has always been to provide them with the care they need where they need it. This recognition is proof positive that we’re delivering on that promise to bring the services that are most vital to our patients to them in their home communities,” Albert L. Wright, Jr., president and CEO of the WVU Health System, said. “My most sincere appreciation goes out to the dedicated teams who care for our patients and whose hard work make this recognition possible.”

The annual Procedures and Conditions ratings are designed to assist patients and their healthcare providers in making informed decisions about where to receive care for challenging health conditions or elective procedures.

U.S. News evaluated nearly 5,000 hospitals across 15 specialties and 20 procedures and conditions. Hospitals awarded a “Best” designation excelled at factors such as clinical outcomes, level of nursing care and patient experience.

“For 35 years, U.S. News has been a leading resource for patients navigating their healthcare decisions,” Ben Harder, chief of health analysis and managing editor at U.S. News, said. “The ‘High Performing’ designation acknowledges hospitals that consistently deliver high-quality care for specific medical procedures and conditions. This recognition highlights their expertise and commitment to patient well-being.”

To calculate the Best Hospitals rankings, U.S. News evaluated each hospital’s performance on objective measures such as risk-adjusted mortality rates, preventable complications, and level of nursing care.

The Best Hospitals Specialty rankings methodology and Procedures and Conditions ratings methodology measure patient outcomes using data from millions of records provided by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

This year, among other methodology refinements, U.S. News incorporated new data on care provided to patients with Medicare Advantage insurance and on care provided to outpatients, nearly doubling the number of patients included in its annual data analysis. The Procedures and Conditions ratings are based entirely on objective quality measures.

## \$24,000 in Ann Bramer Scholarships Awarded to Local Students

The Auxiliary to United Hospital Center is pleased to award twelve \$2,000 scholarships to very deserving local students for the upcoming school year. All students are pursuing careers in healthcare and are attending West Virginia Schools & Universities. The scholarships are renewable if requirements are met. Five of these recipients are renewals. These students are:

Maci Cook of Bridgeport, WV, a sophomore nursing major at WVU, who has maintained a GPA of 4.0. Maci is the daughter of Brian and Patti Cook.

Ezra Myers, of Bridgeport, WV, who is a sophomore at Shepherd University majoring in Biochemistry, maintaining a 3.59 GPA. Ezra is the son of Kevin and Sara Myers of Bridgeport.

Gabrielle Parrish, of Shinnston, WV, is a freshman at Fairmont State University, working on an Associate Degree in Nursing,



Emma Elliot

maintaining a GPA of 3.76. She is the daughter of Brian and Kristy Parrish.

Maddie Stallman, of Bridgeport, WV, is a freshman nursing student at WVU maintaining a 3.8 GPA. Her parents are Rob and Libby Stallman of Bridgeport.

Sydney Vilain, of Clarksburg, WV, is a sophomore at WV Wesleyan College majoring in Biology with a GPA of 3.94. Sydney is the daughter of Surin and Jocelyn Vilain of Clarksburg, WV.

The new recipients of this \$2,000 scholarship are:

Cheyenne Batton, a 2024 graduate of Lincoln High School where she



Alexis Williams

maintained a 4.22 GPA. She is the daughter of Jacob and Becky Batton and will be a nursing major at Fairmont State University.

Aliyah Elder, a 2024 graduate of Lincoln High School, will be attending Pierpont Community & Technical College. She graduated with a 4.096 GPA and will major in Radiologic Technology. Her parents are Christopher and Whitney Elder.

Trinity Eldridge is the granddaughter of Joseph and Scarlett Bishop of Bridgeport, WV. She graduated from Lincoln High School in 2024 with a 4.0 GPA and will be a student in the UHC Radiologic Technology



Katelyn Novisky

program through Pierpont Community & Technical College.

Emma Elliott will be a Radiologic Technology major at Pierpont Community & Technical College. She graduated from Liberty high School in 2024 with a 4.19 GPA. Emma is the daughter of Marc and Kristy Elliott of Clarksburg, WV.

Kayla Greathouse, a 2024 graduate of Grafton High School, with a 4.3 GPA will attend WVU majoring in Exercise Physiology, with plans to become an Occupational Therapist. Kayla is the daughter of Karl and Donna Greathouse of Flemington, WV.



Kayla Greathouse



Cheyenne Batton

Katelyn Novisky is a 2024 graduate of Grafton High School with a 4.4 GPA. Katelyn will attend WVU, majoring in Exercise Physiology. She is the daughter of John Novisky and Sabrina Weber of Grafton, WV.

Alexis Williams, graduated from Lincoln High School with a



Aliyah Elder



Trinity Eldridge

4.16 GPA and is the daughter of Jeffrey and Melissa Williams. Alexis will be pursuing Radiologic Technology at Pierpont Community & Technical College.

The Auxiliary to United Hospital Center wishes the best to these outstanding students in their chosen careers and future.

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## Introducing the Newest Member of the UHC Medical Staff: Nathan A. Hicks, MD

Bridgeport, WV—Joining the Family Medicine Clinic at Medpointe is Nathan A. Hicks, MD.

Most recently the Kentucky native was a resident physician

in Family Medicine at United Hospital Center, where he was awarded the 2024 Resident Teacher Award from the residency

program and the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STEM). Dr. Hicks received a Bachelor of Science degree from the

***See “Hicks” on Pg 6***



Hicks



# Justice, WVDNR Announces Lottery Opening for Twin Falls Hunt

S O U T H CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Gov. Jim Justice announced today that the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) will begin accepting applications for an archery lottery deer hunt at Twin Falls Resort State Park and that one lucky hunter will be chosen to participate in an episode of Whitetail Frenzy TV. Applications will be available starting July 15.

“I’m thrilled to announce this lottery hunt at Twin Falls and to be part of providing an unforgettable experience for one lucky hunter,” Gov. Justice said. “With gorgeous scenery, abundant wildlife and incredible opportunities like this, West Virginia continues to be the best place in the world to go hunting.”

There are 15 spots on the Twin Falls lottery hunt, but only one grand prize winner will get to hunt with the Whitetail Frenzy TV film crew. They’ll also receive a special prize package, including lodging at Twin Falls Resort.

“I want to thank Whitetail Frenzy for partnering with the WVDNR to offer this extraordinary opportunity,” said WVDNR Director Brett McMillion. “This hunt not only highlights our state’s natural beauty and abundant wildlife but also supports our efforts in promoting sustainable hunting practices and wildlife conservation.”

The lottery hunt is open to residents and non-residents, and applications must be submitted online at WVhunt.com. Hunters must use their existing Electronic Licensing and Game Checking System account or create one to apply. Once logged in, applicants must select “Enter a Lottery Drawing” and choose one of the available options.

STATE PARK CONTROLLED DEER HUNT LOTTERIES

Gov. Justice and the WVDNR also announced dates and locations for controlled hunts at Beech Fork, Bluestone, Cacapon Resort and Twin Falls Resort state parks.

Beech Fork State Park (Nov. 4–6 and Nov. 11–13)

Bluestone State Park (Nov. 4–6)

Cacapon Resort State Park (Nov. 6–8 and Nov. 13–15)

Twin Falls Resort State Park (Nov. 6–8 and Nov. 11–13)

Applications are available starting July 15 and must be submitted online at WVhunt.com by Aug. 31. Hunters may apply for multiple hunts as an individual or as part of a group, but can only enter each hunt once. There is a \$15 application fee for each entry.

CLASS N/NN DEER HUNT LOTTERY

Applications to hunt in 12 limited permit areas during the 2024 antlerless deer season will also be available starting July 15. Hunters have until midnight on Sept. 6 to apply. Locations for these hunts include:

Camp Creek State Forest

Greenbrier State Forest

Hillcrest WMA

National Forest Land (Pocahontas County)

Public Land (Randolph County)

Boone County

Clay County (South Portion)

Greenbrier County (North Portion)

Kanawha County

(North Portion)

Kanawha County

(South Portion)

Nicholas County

Webster County

Hunters who receive a permit may hunt antlerless deer on private and public land in the 12 limited permit areas on the following dates: Oct. 24-27, Nov. 25 to Dec. 8, Dec. 12-15 and Dec. 28-31.

West Virginia hunting regulations apply to all controlled hunts. All hunters 15 and older must have a valid West Virginia hunting license, unless legally exempt from purchasing a license. To learn more about lottery hunts or to purchase a hunting license, visit WVdnr.gov/wv-lottery-hunts.

## “Project” From Pg 1.

as different as martial arts training and making their own ice cream. Deems said “the kids really enjoyed that. They talked about chemical reactions.” He also discussed when the students went on a fishing trip, explaining that most adults assume that all kids have experienced it. “These kids don’t know how to fish,” he said, going on to say that “this is literally a lifelong recreational opportunity that they can learn.”

Another opportunity enjoyed by the students involved a trip to Pierpont Community and Technical College. There, Brad Gilbert, president of the college, personally taught them how to put rivets in sheet metal.

“I wanted to make it exciting for them, so we had a ton of field trips,” shared Bastin. For some students, however, the experience was more powerful. One young lady wrote her to say “thank you for letting us become family. It’s a great place to be.”

The program also took place over the summer, with the relaxed attendance expectations helping it to include athletes. Summer programming, however, relied on grant funding to cover costs. Without a grant going forward, they can continue the program through the school year, but not into the summer.

In other business, the Board heard from a number of concerned Quiet Dell residents over the proposal to sell a historic there that once housed a school, but now hosts a crafts co-op and the West Virginia Civilian Conservation Corps museum. The county commission took possession of the building at one point from Harrison County Schools and both parties have looked into selling the property and splitting the proceeds.

The building entered the National Register of Historic places in 2001. Joyce Harlan from West Virginia Heritage Crafts described diligent work done to populate the museum with artifacts and expand its offerings over the years and 28 craftsmen and women who produce their wares there. “I am very emotional” about this, she shared to the Board.

Board members also heard about the plan to bus former Liberty High School students who want to get a jump start on consolidation plans and attend Robert C. Byrd High School this year. A bus will take those students from Liberty to RCB and vice versa at the end of the day.

## “Hicks” From Pg 5.

University of Kentucky and went on to earn a Doctor of Medicine degree from Ross University School of Medicine, Bridgetown, Barbados.

He continued at Ross by becoming a junior faculty member and medical simulation teaching assistant, instructing more than 600 medical students in an Internal Medicine Foundation course in conjunction with Cleveland Clinic Florida. He had numerous other duties, including guiding medical students to help them improve critical thinking and clinical reasoning skills. Dr. Hicks also had a leading role in helping with the shift to a new virtual format.

Earlier experience includes working as a pharmacy technician, filling prescriptions and interacting with customers, answering their questions.

He is certified in several areas including advanced cardiac life support, pediatric advanced life support, and neonatal resuscitation program.

Dr. Hicks is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Medical Association, American Society for Colposcopy, and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecology.

Dr. Hicks can be reached at Medpointe, located at 469 Emily Drive, Clarksburg. For more information, please call 304.423.5180.

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## Super Crossword

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OBITUARIES



Randy Bragg

Randy Bragg, 72, of 306 McKenzie Drive, Mannington, WV, passed away July 20, 2024 peacefully at his home that he loved and built. With his loving wife Brenda and his best bud, “Apache”, their German Shepherd, by his side.

A son of the late Raymond and Doris Bragg of Four States. He was born December 24, 1951. Randy was a graduate of Monongah High School, class of 1970, where he excelled in sports. He loved both baseball and football. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, hiking and

watching drag racing. He was a coal miner by trade and worked for 43 years and retired from Loveridge in 2016.

He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Brenda Christine (Ott) Bragg, whom he married on November 10, 1997; two sisters: Dottie Harbert of Monongah and Sherry (Tony) Puccio of Monongah; two brothers: Don (Linda) Bragg of SC and Rick (Debbie) Bragg of AL; mother-in-law, Sherry L. Owens of Monongah as well as several nieces, nephews and friends.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by two sisters: Jean Coleman and her husband John and Wanda Harbert and her husband Ted; one brother, Junior and his wife Rose; brother in law, James F. Harbert and an infant brother in law, Howard Russell Ott.

The family would like to thank Care Partners

for the care they gave an also Home Health and Hospice Care of WVU Medicine. Also, heartfelt thanks go out to Carol Myers, Cindy Shaver (who stepped down due to illness), Brittney Weaver and Kyle Newell who stepped in and helped take care of Randy like family, that the grew to be. Extended thanks to the pall bears: Ricky Bragg, Kyle Newell, Brennan Harbert, Sam Thompson, Brad Harbert, Richard Huskin, Mike Straight and Brett Hutchinson.

Family and friends will be received at Dorsey Funeral Home, 701 S. Pike St., Shinnston, on Tuesday, July 23, 2024 from 11:00am until time of service 1:00pm with Brother Wade Newell officiating. Interment to follow to Ott Cemetery.

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



Bernadine Mae “Bernie” Godfrey

Bernadine Mae “Bernie” Godfrey, 65, of Fairmont, passed away on Saturday, July 20, 2024 at United Hospital Center. She was born December 23, 1958 a daughter of the late Junior Burl and Geraldine Jenkins Godfrey.

Bernie is survived by her loving sons, Eric Cottrell and his wife Jessica of Brandenburg, KY; and Charles Cottrell and his wife Julie of Rivesville; her grandchildren, Zack Cottrell and his wife

Cheyenne; Nick Cottrell; Jake Cottrell; Brie-Anna Cotrell; McKenzie Cottrell; Madison Cottrell; Sophia Cottrell; Rayanah Cottrell; and Abi Faucette; eight great-grandchildren; her brothers, David Godfrey and his husband Brad of San Antonio, Mexico; Richard Godfrey of Clarksburg; and Brent Godfrey of Shinnston; her sisters, Carel Case of Texas; Debra Godfrey of Clarksburg; Wendy Williams and her husband Delrico of OH; Candy Godfrey; and Ginger Godfrey of Clarksburg; her brothers-in-law, Pat Matheny of Pine Bluff; and Albert Bailey; her best friend, Mary Beth Cross; as well as several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Bernie was preceded in death by her sisters, Karen Sue Matheny and Tracey Bailey; and her brother, Mark Randal Godfrey.

Bernie was a caretaker by trade and by heart. She was a loving mother to

her boys who will cherish her memory forever. In her life of caring for others, Bernie could always be found sitting with the elderly, grocery shopping for shut-ins, or acting as a taxi driver for her extended family. She will be missed by all who knew her and depended on her.

Friends will be received at Perine Funeral Home, 1348 S. Pike St. Shinnston, on Tuesday from 2-8pm. A funeral service will be held at the funeral home on Wednesday, July 24th at 11:00am. Interment will follow at the Pine Bluff Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Marion County Humane Society at 2731 Locust Ave. Fairmont, WV 26554. Online memories and condolences can be shared with the family at [www.perinefunerals.com](http://www.perinefunerals.com)

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

“Citizens” From Pg 1.

The photo included our Great Great Grandmother Savilla Swiger Ash (Florence Drummond’s mother) sitting on one end of the couch. She was wearing the exact dress that was donated to the Museum. This is the thing, at that time neither one knew that after that picture was taken their life would change. I’m not really sure of the date of the picture but after March 1944, his face (Daniel Kenneth) would no longer be part of a family photograph.

Over the last forty six years, these two dresses mostly sat in a box in my cedar chest with only a few opportunites to be shown to family or friends. Actually I have pondered what

Grandmother Ash’s dress was highlighted at several of my church functions as part of a display. The years prior to my ownership I can only imagine the milestones that came.

Were these “Sunday go to meeting” dresses, worn to visit friends, only for really special occasions or did tears fall on the hem as they mourned the death of a son and grandson, Daniel Kenneth Drummond. I’m not sure but I was honored to care for them and thankful that they are now back in their hometown to be seen and maybe even bring comfort to others that look upon them.

I have pondered what

life would have been like for my dad (Daniel Thomas) had his dad (Daniel Kenneth) lived instead of dying in the Katherine #4 Coal Mine explosion.

For my dad it would have been a different life. Probably one that would have allowed him to grow up in West Virginia, find a wife and have children, but I think that those children would not have included me. But in truth my Grandfather Drummond did die in that mine explosion and was no longer part of my dad’s, Daniel Thomas Drummond, life. I have to say this, my grandfather willingly became part of a fire team to put the

flames out so he went back inside not to save lives but to save the mine. I believe that tells you my grandfathers character; dedicated, which describes all of the men that lost their lives that day.

My grandmother, Kathleen Mona McGinnis Drummond, later picked up the pieces of her loss, and remarried ending up in Florida where our dad met Jo Ann Pope Drummond, our mom. Four children out of five (Elicia Ann, Teresa Jo [deceased], Lyneese Daneen, Daniel Thomas II, and Rebecca Jolene) were raised by amazing parents. I believe our Grandfather Drummond (Daniel Kenneth)

would have been proud of the man our dad became not without imperfections but one that loved his family, a jokester like his dad, a carpenter who built homes that dazzled the best of them and lived a life that cared about people. Many times I remember him picking up people on the side of the road hitchhiking (complete strangers), delivering them to their destination. Even taking in family and friends to help them get on their feet. I would call that being a servant. So we as his children have fallen into his footsteps by serving people through our ministries,

our work opportunties and our gifts.

We didn’t have a lot of contact with our Drummond family in West Virginia but I do have a letter a letter Grandmother Drummond wrote to my mom in 1958 that showed she wanted to see us but in reality the distance kept that from happening. As an older child one trip I remember is my sister Dannen and I went to see Great Grandmother Drummond. We sat on the stairs at her house (41 Main Street) and ate hotdogs. Funny I remember looking back up the stairs and her gazing down at

See “Citizens” on Pg 8

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Out of the Past

Memorable photographs from around Harrison County



The New York Times featured coverage of the tragic Katherine Coal Company’s 1944 mine explosion



“Burks” From Pg 4.

“Knowledge can take you a long way. The more you know about the game the more you can play this game. I’m not the fastest guy on the field, I’m not the biggest and I’m not going to jump the highest, but my football IQ is pretty high,” he said.

Going back to last January, the coaching staff has added a lot of pieces to surround returning defenders Sean Martin, Hammond Russell IV, Eddie Vesterinen, Trey Lathan, Anthony Wilson Jr. and Burks.

Northwestern transfer Garnett Hollis Jr., Duquesne transfer Ayden Garnes and Gardner-Webb transfer Ty Fajden French could wind up as starters, while Ohio State transfer Reid Carrico, Troy transfer T.J. Jackson II, Colorado State transfer TJ Crandell, Northwestern transfer Jaheem Joseph, Charlotte transfer Dontez Fagan and Jacksonville State transfer Kekoura Tarnue will be battling for playing time.

Burks loves all the new pieces that have been added to the defense during the offseason.

“There are no complaints,” he said. “The pieces we’ve added put their heads down and just work. They are not complaining if we’ve got to do some extra running, or if we’ve got to wake up early and come back. That’s just something I like and that just lets me know that they are willing to work and are not here to BS or anything like that.

“It’s been good, the pieces we’ve added, and I like what we’ve added,” he added.

Burks is also really high on freshman spear Zae Jennings, a Cincinnati resident who is still a little bit undersized at 192 pounds.

“He is going to be a great player for West Virginia as the years go on,” Burks predicted. “He’s still got to hit the weight room and take in the nutrition piece, but as far as just knowing the game and just playing fast and playing fearless, that’s one incoming freshman that I like.”

We also saw some flashes last season from senior spur Tyrin Bradley Jr., particularly in the bowl game when he made an athletic, one-handed interception that made the rounds on social media. Burks says Bradley Jr. has made those types of plays multiple times in practice.

“He played quarterback in high school, so we already knew about the athleticism that he’s bringing to our team,” Burks said. “That is an athletic guy, and he can pretty much do it all. One thing I can say about TB, he has taken his work ethic this year to a whole other level. He hasn’t asked to be a leader, but he has stepped up and is being a leader and he’s the more vocal guy on the defense. He breaks us down before we hit the field and just small things like that. He’s kind of that Lee Kpogba now on our defense.”

Burks lists Jackson II, Garnes and redshirt freshman middle linebacker Josiah Trotter as others to keep an eye on. He also believes big Sean Martin is ready to emerge and become a dominant force this fall.

“I don’t think he has really showed everybody what he’s really about to bring to the game this year,” he said. “I think it’s going to show this year and I think he’s going to have a great season.

“There are a lot of guys on our team, including me, who feel like they are going to make a big jump,” he added.

Burks mentioned the biggest challenge facing Penn State in the season opener will be stopping the Nittany Lions’ two marquee running backs, Nicholas Singleton and Kaytron Allen.

The pair combined to run for more than 1,600 yards and scored 14 rushing touchdowns last season.

“First challenge is to stop the run and the second biggest challenge is to keep your composure when you are out there,” he admitted. “It’s the first game of the season and everybody is going to be bouncing off the wall, so treat it like a regular week-one or week-seven game. You’ve just got to play the game and let the game develop as it goes along. Just try and not do too much while you are out there – just be yourself.

“Penn State has got good players over there. It is what it is. They are going to make plays and when they make plays, we can’t lose our focus. We’ve got to stay calm. If I lose my focus as a leader of the defense everybody is going to follow behind,” he concluded.

“Greene” From Pg 4.

178 nominees champion causes including mental health awareness, youth mentorship, hunger relief, domestic abuse prevention, and many more. In addition to being actively involved with a charitable organization or service group, each player must also maintain strong academic standing to be considered for a spot on the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team.

“You’ll never regret making someone else’s life better,” said Tim Tebow, two-time national champion, Heisman Trophy winner, 2008 Wuerffel Trophy recipient, and 2009 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team member. “Year after year, I’m inspired by these incredible nominees who go above and beyond to help others.”

The final roster of 23 award recipients announced later in September will bring together:

- 11 players from the NCAA FBS
- 11 players from the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (FCS), Divisions II, III and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)
- 1 honorary head coach

All members are selected by a voting panel of former Allstate AFCA Good Works Team members, current and former head coaches and journalists who look for exceptional leadership on and off the football field.

Fans can join the conversation on social media with #GoodWorksTeam throughout the season.

**About the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team**

The Allstate AFCA Good Works Team was established in 1992 by the College Football Association, recognizing the extra efforts made by college football players and student support staff off the field. AFCA became the governing body of the award in 1997 and continues to honor college football players who go the extra mile for those in need. Allstate worked to present the award starting with the 2008 season.

The Southeastern Conference (SEC) leads all conferences with 84 selections to the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team since it began in 1992. The SEC is followed by the Atlantic Coast Conference with 55 selections and the Big 12 Conference and Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, both with 41 selections. Georgia is in first place with 23 honorees to the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team. The Bulldogs are followed by Kentucky and Bethel (Minn.) with 17 honorees.

“Citizens” From Pg 7.

us. I wonder what she was thinking? Did we resemble her son (Daniel Kenneth) or just remind her of the loss?

Well, we never asked and she never shared her thoughts.

I wrote a poem to commemorate and honor our dad and grandfather. I also want to remember the others that gave their life that day.

Grandfather Drummond will always be remembered and our dad continues to be loved and cherished.

Elicia Drummond Kuhl

July 21, 2024

Forever a Coal Miner

I’m a coal miners granddaughter

And still feel the sting of loss

It’s only through pictures we see

And a moment I came across

The explosion was at Katherine Mine

His brother knew where Dan would be

But the mine was sealed, no way out

All hope lost, oh such a travesty

That explosion took his life

Our daddy was the only heir

Grandma’s pain cut like a knife

All they knew now was despair

A tornado struck, more lives taken

So opening the mine was not to be

Even with a little boy wanting his dad

Nor a fragile wife loosing her sanity

Months passed from this tragedy

Then finally the time had come

Death came where his brother said

Now all they could feel was numb

He was laid to rest in 1944

But remembered beyond that year

We heard he was a jokester at heart

A memory from grandma made clear

Grandpa stopped on top of the bridge

Pulling her from the car they began to dance

I wonder about the song that played

But I’m just glad they had the chance

Grandpa, Daniel Kenneth Drummond

A jokester will always be your legacy

You have generations of sons

That make people laugh most certainly

Congressman Mooney Proclamation Honors 45 Years of the Italian Heritage Festival

On Wednesday members of the West Virginia Italian Heritage Festival gathered at their office in Clarksburg. The occasion was to receive a Proclamation from United States Representative Alex Mooney. The Proclamation was to recognize the 45th anniversary of the upcoming festival. Making the presentation to CHAIRMAN Boyce was Rhett Dusenbury, Senior District

Representative for Congressman Mooney. Upon receiving the Proclamation Boyce thanked Dusenbury for honoring the event and extended an invitation to Mooney to attend the festival this year.


The WVIHF Board of Directors is busy tying up loose ends for the 45th Festival which will be held in Clarksburg on Labor Day Weekend. The festival will open on Friday at noon with the coronation of Harrison County resident, Antonia Folio as Regina Maria 45. It will close on Sunday afternoon. Pre festival events will include a Golf Tournament and the Honorees Award ceremony. Plans have also been finalized for the Bocce Tournament and the Pasta Cookoff. The festival office is



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located on Main Street in Clarksburg. Schedule of events and further information can be had by contacting the office. Get your red, white and green out and get ready to celebrate and until next week “Now You Have Heard It Through The Grapevine”





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# Dr. Samantha Jette and Bridgeport Family Dentistry

## Opening new state-of-the-art dental office at Charles Pointe

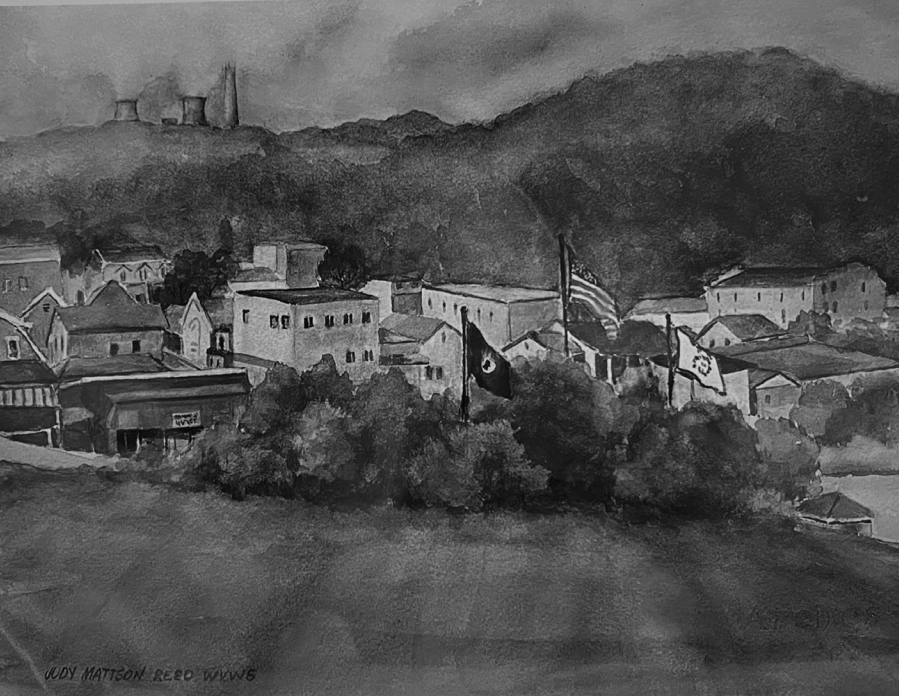
Bridgeport, W.Va. Dr. Jette and her staff will host an Open House for the public on Friday, July 26, starting at 10:00am. A ribbon cutting will take place at about 10:30am courtesy of the Harrison County Chamber of Commerce. Bridgeport Family Dentistry's history began in Clarksburg with Dr. Robert Wanker in the early 1970's. Dr. Wanker operated a dental office in the Stealey community. Dr. Stephen Broughton purchased Dr. Wanker's practice in 2003. He expanded the business by opening a dental office on Steele Street in Bridgeport in 2009. Dr. Broughton retired in 2021 and sold the business to Dr. Jette. In 2023, Dr. Jette expanded the business when she purchased the practice of Dr. Tom Condron located on Court Street in Clarksburg. The Court Street office will remain open. Bridgeport Family Dentistry's new office is located at 110 Daniel Drive at Charles Pointe in Bridgeport. The 4,000 square foot modern building is located between Mountain State Brewing Company and The House of Fashion. It is conveniently situated just off of WV 279 and WV 131 near Cubby's Day Care Center and the Harrison-Taylor 911 Center. The new office consists of ten (10) spacious treatment rooms - all of which are equipped with state-of-the-art dental equipment. In addition to a comfortable customer waiting area, the new office has plenty of convenient parking. Bridgeport Family Dentistry's new office was built by City Construction Company of Clarksburg. Dr. Samantha Jette is an alumnus of West Virginia University and a veteran of the United States Navy. Other members of her staff include Dr. Marissa Fletcher, DDS, and Registered Dental Hygienist Erica Bastin. Dr. Jette and her team have been recognized for safe, effective, affordable, and quality dental care offered to patients of all ages. Bridgeport Family Dentistry specializes in preventative and restorative dental care as well as extractions. They also specialize in a number of affordable cosmetic services to include Botox, lip filler, and teeth whitening. Bridgeport Family Dentistry also offers reliable emergency care. "We're really excited to open the area's newest and state-of-the-art dental office featuring the latest tools and technology to serve our patients," said Dr. Jette. "We want our current patients and future patients to know that the care they receive here is the best the area has to offer." Dr. Jette said that she and her staff would like to extend an open invitation to attend the open house, especially to residents and employees of the Charles Pointe community.

# Shinnston Views Featured On Paintings at The Palette This Week

By Bethany Nuzum

The Palette, located at 225 Pike St., in Shinnston is exhibiting work by Linda Elmer and Jeannine Romano. The Shop at the Palette features prints of watercolor paintings by Judy Mattson Reed of Shinnston's Big Elm and a view of Shinnston. The Palette is open Tuesdays 5-7:00pm, Thursdays 1-3:00pm, and Saturdays 11:00am-2:00pm.

Check thepalettewv on Facebook/Instagram for more upcoming classes and events. Email Bethany Nuzum at thepalettewv@gmail.com to register and or more information.



The Palette is showing beautiful watercolor art featuring views of Shinnston



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# Detachment, concentration, pragmatism

From L'Osservatore Romano

It must have been a wary and somewhat disappointed Jesus who gathered his twelve closest disciples together to do two things: to entrust them with his own mission (he began to send them out), rendering them thereby “apostles”, persons sent; and to establish a missionary methodology. Today’s Gospel follows directly from last Sunday’s, where Jesus met cynicism and refusal

in his home-town, where he could do no mighty work, blocked by their unbelief. God has confined his power within the boundaries of our welcome. He doesn’t impose: he wants us to want him.

The twelve, of course, were regular guys, just like the prophet Amos in the first reading (I am no prophet ... but ... a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees), drawn from a range of lifestyles. Not one of them was “religious” by profession. Jesus teaches

them how to carry out the mission, underlining three principles: firstly, detachment: they must travel light. Secondly, concentration: they are to be undistractedly focussed on their essential task. Thirdly, pragmatism: they must adjust to failures and move on. He gives them the content of what they are to do, once again emphasising three elements: firstly, they are to preach conversion, the possibility of a change of life for the better; secondly, they are to

oppose evil, rather than tolerating it or, worse, acquiescing in it; thirdly, they are to bring healing, which includes the gifts of consolation and mercy.

It is clear that not all Christians are sent out in the same way. Saint Paul reminds us of the variety of God’s gifts, and, in today’s second reading, of his glorious grace which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. Today’s teaching to the twelve, however, is eminently relevant to our daily lives, whatever we

may do: it is best not to journey with too much baggage, and often that baggage is not a matter of possessions, but rather of spiritual and psychological burdens from the past, that require forgiveness, healing and the acceptance of healing. The focus on the task means that we do not relate everything to ourselves

and our personal needs, constantly seeking affirmation and approval. The pragmatism means that we are entirely realistic with regard to ourselves, our situation and our relationships, guided by calm hope and not by inflated fantasies. How is that for a challenge! By FR EDMUND POWER, OSB

## DoHS to Implement Structured Decision Making Tool

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Department of Human Services (DoHS) has partnered with Evident Change to design and implement the Structured Decision Making® (SDM) intake tool for its Centralized Intake for Abuse and Neglect and will host a two-day SDM Project Kickoff event on July 17-18, 2024.

The Project Kickoff meeting on Wednesday, July 17, 2024, will provide staff with an overview of the SDM system and project activities, while focused sessions on Thursday, July 18, 2024, will be geared toward Centralized Intake staff, Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) and policy teams, and training staff. All meetings will be virtual. “We are excited to

collaborate with Evident Change as this initiative represents a significant advancement in our efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of children and adults across West Virginia,” said Jeff Pack, DoHS Bureau for Social Services Commissioner. “By using the Structured Decision Making® tool, we can make more informed decisions that will positively impact the lives of families in our communities.”

The SDM model is a suite of decision-support tools that promote the safety and well-being of children and adults. A series of evidence-based assessments are used at key points in child and adult protection casework to support staff in making consistent, accurate, and equitable decisions throughout their work with families.

The SDM system also helps organizations to better understand their data, manage limited resources, and direct resources to families with the greatest need.

“The introduction of the Structured Decision Making® tool is not just a milestone for child and adult protective services; it is also a pivotal first step toward establishing a differentiated response system within the Centralized Intake for Abuse and Neglect,” said Cynthia Persily, Ph.D., Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Human Services. “This system will enable the Department to better serve families in West Virginia, particularly in cases that do not meet the standards for abuse and neglect investigation but still require our attention and support. This Department’s goal is to

provide a more tailored and effective response to the unique needs of each family in West Virginia, ultimately strengthening the community as a whole.”

The Project Kickoff event marks the first stage of planning for the SDM development process with the goal of statewide implementation in January 2026.

If you suspect the abuse or neglect of a child or adult, call the Centralized Intake for Abuse and Neglect at 1-800-352-6513. To view and apply for careers in the child welfare field to support West Virginia families, visit [dhhr.wv.gov/Pages/Career-Opportunities--Social-Services-and-Health-Facilities.aspx](https://dhhr.wv.gov/Pages/Career-Opportunities--Social-Services-and-Health-Facilities.aspx).



**Ginger Soy Chicken Breasts**  
Submitted by Debra Smith  
Explore new flavors over an open flame this summer!

Just about anything can be cooked over an open flame. No matter the type of grilling they are using, cooks who prepare meals over an open flame can’t help but notice the distinctive flavor that is unique to grilled foods.

Trying something new this grilling season can open cooks eyes to a host of flavors they might not instantly associate with grilling. The following recipe for “Ginger Soy Chicken Breasts” is one such meal that can open cooks eyes to the many wonderful foods that can be cooked over an open flame.

Ginger Soy Chicken Breasts	
2	tablespoons grated fresh ginger
3	garlic cloves, crushed
2	tablespoons dark brown sugar
2	teaspoons sesame seeds
2	teaspoons toasted sesame oil
1	tablespoon medium dry sherry
1/2	cup soy sauce
4	boneless chicken breast halves, slashed (see below)
	Salt
	Black pepper
1	recipe Cilantro Coconut Sauce (see below), optional

Combine ginger, garlic, sugar, sesame seeds, sesame oil, sherry, and soy sauce. Add chicken and toss to coat evenly. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes, turning once. Grill according to instructions below. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Serve hot with Cilantro Coconut Sauce (optional).

With a sharp knife, cut 3 parallel slashes through skin, about 1/4-inch deep.

Outdoor grill: Grill skin-side down on medium-hot coals until crisp, about 7 minutes. Turn and continue grilling until chicken is opaque with no trace of pink, another 5 minutes.

Indoor grill: Preheat broiler. Broil skin-side up until skin is crisp, about 7 minutes. Turn and continue cooking until chicken is opaque with no trace of pink, another 5 minutes.

Cilantro Coconut Sauce Makes 2 1/8 cups	
1	handful cilantro leaves
1	handful fresh mint leaves
4	garlic cloves, crushed
1	green chile, seeded and chopped
1	avocado, peeled, halved and pitted
1/2	teaspoon grand cumin
1	teaspoon sugar
3	tablespoons fresh lime juice
1 1/2	cups coconut milk
	Salt
	Tabasco sauce

Place cilantro, mint, garlic, chile, avocado, cumin, sugar, lime juice, and coconut milk in a food processor or blender; pulse to a puree. Add salt and Tabasco sauce to taste. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes to allow flavors to blend.

Serve chilled.  
Remember, readers, if you have a favorite recipe that you would like to share, we welcome your submissions. Email 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.

## Join Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center for 2024 PACT Act Claims Clinic

On Thursday July 25th the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center will host the Huntington Veterans Benefits Administration team for a PACT Act Claims Clinic to jointly assist North Central W. Va. Veterans with PACT Act claims, general service-connected disability claims, and healthcare eligibility and enrollment.

The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history, and in March 2024 it expanded Healthcare Eligibility Benefits to millions of Veterans who have served. The PACT Act was signed into law by President Biden in August 2022 with the intent of expanding VA healthcare

services and benefits to Veterans who were exposed to toxic chemicals, radiation, or contaminated water during their service.

Last year’s Claims Clinic was a resounding success for LAJVAMC and Huntington VBA, with over 300 individual claims submitted and over 500 Veterans served. This year we have

extended the event hours from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will host the event in Clarksburg’s Nathan Goff Armory (206 Armory Rd., Clarksburg WV 26301) to better accommodate the influx of Veterans, ease accessibility, and offer more VA benefits education. Multiple food trucks will be available throughout the day.

## W.Va. Symphony announces Student Piano Concerto Competition

CHARLESTON, W.VA. (7/17/24) – The West Virginia Symphony Orchestra (WVSO) announces a 2024 Student Piano Concerto Competition for West Virginia students ages 12-22.

The winner will appear as a guest soloist with the WVSO on November 18 as part of its Young

People’s concert series in Charleston. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, August 28. Online applications are available at <https://shorturl.at/4c0Wt>. The WV Department of Arts, Culture and History serves as stage host for this prestigious competition.

“We are excited to celebrate the

incredible piano talent throughout the region,” said Music Director Maurice Cohn. “Our Young People’s concerts are core to our mission at the WVSO, and we are thrilled to be able to present a young soloist as a part of the program in Charleston this year.”

Applicants will

present a piano concerto movement of their choice (maximum of 15 min. duration). A listing of pre-approved pieces and more information can be found at [wvsymphony.org/piano](https://wvsymphony.org/piano). Questions should be directed to Betty King at [bking@wvsymphony.org](mailto:bking@wvsymphony.org) or (304) 957-9878.