

## Goff Describes Rise In West Fork River Rail Trail Criminal Activity to Harrison County Commission

By Stephen Smoot

“We’re still having trouble with the trail,” Wallace Goff told the Harrison County Commission last week, citing “uncontrollable traffic, things like that.” Goff represents himself and his partners who operate Trinity Experiences, a non profit organization working

to create a recreational facility along the West Fork River. He came to the Commission to share their experience with thoughtless and harmful criminal activity on and around his property. Those “things” he described included relating that “somebody parked on our trail about a week and a half ago and broke into our pole

barn and pretty much stole every tool I own.” He later added “they’re cutting cables to come out onto the property.” An earlier proposal that permanent barriers block traffic on the trail met an explanation from county officials that they needed access for their maintenance

vehicles. Goff came to counter offer, asking that barriers be placed on the trail in exchange for a permanent right-of-way agreement. That would allow county officials access to the trail through his property while blocking hooligan criminals from robbing and defacing

See “Trail” on Pg 3



Better in the driver’s seat than the rear bench seat, Hunt poses in a brand new Pittsburgh Police SUV.

## International City/County Management Association Conference



By Jim Hunt for the News and Journal

I had the opportunity to attend the Annual Conference of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) this past week in Pittsburgh. It was

an informative and enjoyable event. Pittsburgh has become a popular choice for national conferences, and it was interesting to hear reactions from the thousands of attendees from across the United States, Canada, and several foreign countries. In years past, it was difficult to host a national conference in the “Steel City” due to a lack of hotel rooms downtown and the perception that it was still an industrial town, as portrayed in

See “Hunt” on Pg 3

## We’re An American Band



The Lincoln High School Band went to Kingwood town to help them party down during the annual Preston County Buckwheat Festival.

## Commissioners Pool Efforts to Discuss Problems and Determine Solutions on Sunset Ellis Property and FEMA Proposal

By Stephen Smoot

The Harrison County Commission came together in collegial style to discuss and work on issues of public administration last week. Commissioner Patsy Trecost in his invocation prayed “Lord, we come to You to ask for peace and kindness in our lives . . . we pray all these things in Your name, Amen.” The three elected Commissioners heard first from Wallace Goff, who represented a non profit outdoor experience center located along a rail trail. His story appears elsewhere in this issue. Commissioners next heard a special funding request from the Harrison County Board of Education. Kelly Davisson, mental health coordinator for Harrison County Schools, came to describe the need. She told the Commission that “I’m asking for \$30,000

for the Game Changer program” and will answer any questions related to the program. Davisson also explained that the program started with three schools, Big Elm Elementary, Lincoln Middle, and Lincoln High School. In the second year, it expanded to all schools in the county outside of Bridgeport area schools and South Harrison. The elementary school part of the Game Changer program focuses on educating students to the danger of substance abuse. In middle school and high school, the program uses “coaches” to identify class leaders who help to mentor and advise other students to steer clear of dangerous intoxicating substances. Davisson told the Commission that the funds requested would establish the program in the final schools not thus far participating. Game Changer has been supported by

Governor Jim Justice and heavily promoted by former West Virginia University star basketball player Meg Bulger. Commissioners expressed confusion because they had previously allocated financial assistance to the same organization and inquired about how that money got spent. Davisson said that the previous allocation had gone to the state organization. Susan Thomas, Harrison County Commission President, wondered “does that trickle down to us?” Davisson stated that she had no access to financial information and Commissioner David Hinkle added that Dora Stutler, Harrison County Schools Superintendent and Game Changer “rep for this area,” may be a better resource to ask that question. Thomas

stated that “I’d rather that money go locally . . . that’s who we represent.” Hinkle said thatt it’s a joint venture between the schools and the state. A more thorough explanation of how the program worked came from Davisson next, including its partnership with the Hazelton Betty Ford Foundation. Part of their program uses data analysis to see what students do and do not know about drugs - especially misconceptions. They then use that to inform the educational component. Thomas replied “I think it’s a good program” and Hinkle added that Harrison County was one of the first to host Game Changer. He said “if you want to discuss it again next week, I’m fine with that.” Thomas said next “I want to support it, locally.”

See “Commission” on Pg 11

## Next Week At the Palette

By Bethany Nuzum

The Palette, located upstairs at 225 Pike St, in Shinnston is offering:

**Kids Paint**  
Tuesday, October 1, 6-7:00 pm and Thursday, October 3, 1-2:00pm for \$10.  
The Palette is currently exhibiting The Abstract Show featuring Debi Eastep, Bethany Reed Nuzum, and Betsy Spellman.  
**Kids Paint**  
Thursday, October 3, 1-2:00pm for \$10.  
Calming Art  
Tuesday, October 8, 6-7:30pm and Thursday, October 10, 1-2:30pm for \$20.  
The Palette is currently exhibiting The Abstract Show featuring

Debi Eastep, Bethany Reed Nuzum, and Betsy Spellman.  
Open Tuesdays, 5-7:00, Thursdays, 1-3:00, and Saturdays, 11-2:00 (closed October 5).  
The Shop at The Palette features handmade herbal products, etched glass, coloring sheets, candles, jewelry, original paintings, cards, and more.  
Check thepalettewv on Facebook/Instagram for more upcoming classes, events, and to see what we will be painting.  
Email BethanyNuzum at thepalettewv@gmail.com to register and or more information.













# Indians Host Crosstown Rival Robert C. Byrd

Bridgeport and Robert C. Byrd have had a crosstown rivalry going since the late 1990s. These two schools have seen their fair share of success over the years and when they lock up on the gridiron there are fireworks galore.

In recent years, the Indians have won the majority of the clashes (as they have against almost every other program) that they have faced on a routine basis. It didn't really have as much of a sting, however, as the two schools were not competing in the same class.

This year, that has changed with the most recent reclassification, as they will both now compete in Class AAA level for football.

Heading into Friday's tilt, the Tribe was dubbed the team to beat in Class AAA by the WVSSAC and the Metro News Power Index, both of which had the Indians as the top team in all of the land. Their record and statistics backed that fact up to the point of no discussion.

Bridgeport had defeated Buckhannon-Upshur, Morgantown,



## The Bottom Line

By Bill Nestor  
Sports Editor

East Fairmont, and Linsley by a combined 230 to eight. The lone touchdown allowed came in the fourth quarter of this game at Linsley. The Tribe had only punted the ball once this year and had only faced nine third downs, converting on seven of them. They had allowed less than 100 yards of offense per game with most of those coming against their second and third team players.

The ground game has always been Bridgeport's bread and butter and this year is no exception. Heading into last Friday's battle with Byrdm the Tribe was averaging 372.5 rushing yards an outing. Josh Love had 454 of them with eight scores. Tim Jeffries (230 yards and three touchdowns) and Alex Moses (200 yards and six scores) were also major contributors as well.

Signal caller Jack Spatafore is no slouch in

the rushing department, but he is also a capable thrower for the Indians. Spatafore had 170 yards on the ground with six touchdowns while completing 10 of 13 passes for 309 yards and three scores.

The Flying Eagles went into the tilt without their starting quarterback, Junior Smith, and big lineman Trevor Dean. Smith was the team's leading rusher with 464 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Bridgeport won the coin toss, took the ball, and scored on the first play from scrimmage. Jack Spatafore connected with Donovan Williams on a 58 yard reception. Sam Goodwin ran in the two-point conversion to make it eight to nothing. After forcing a three and out, the Indians blocked a punt, leaving a short field opportunity. Love raced 15 yards on the first play from scrimmage on the second drive and

Goodwin once again ran in the two-point conversion.


Love scored his second touchdown on the next drive on a 37-yard run followed by an extra point from kicker Gavin Williams. The final score of the first quarter came with 1:26 remaining when Spatafore connected with Williams again, this time from 31-yards out to make it 30 to nothing.

Bridgeport would go on to a 56 to nothing win, continuing its dominance this season. The Indians played near flawless football in all three major aspects of the game. They are on a collision course with defending state champion Fairmont Senior in a major matchup that will be played at East-West Stadium in Fairmont.


The Flying Eagles face Point Pleasant at One Eagle Way in a must win battle as they moved to two and three with the setback to Bridgeport.

That will do for now. Until next week . . . take care and God Bless!!!


## Harrison County EMS



HARRISON COUNTY



EMERGENCY SQUAD



## Athletes of the Week

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

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

# Harrison County Athlete Spotlight

By Bill Nestor

The Harrison County athletes in the spotlight this week are Bridgeport's Allie Callahan and Liberty's Isiah Heflin

Indian soccer player Allie Callahan scored five goals in a win over Lewis County this past week. Callahan's effort helped her squad to an impressive five game win streak at the time.

Mountaineer quarterback Isiah Heflin led his team to a 42 to 27 win over Grafton this week. Heflin scored six touchdowns in the affair. He picked up 115 yards on 15 rushes, including four scores. Heflin was seven of nine, passing for 91 yards and two touchdowns.

Congratulations to Bridgeport's Allie Callahan and Liberty's Isiah Heflin for shining bright in the SN and HCJ spotlight!

# Reveling in Rolling Over Rivals



The LHS Cougars took back to back 10 to nothing wins over Liberty and Robert C. Byrd last week.

# Getting Upfield



LHS forward Landon Davis makes a move to evade a Preston defender in a recent contest

# INTRODUCING THE NEWEST MEMBER OF OUR MEDICAL STAFF: GRAHAM T. ENDLER, DO

Bridgeport, WV— Before going on to the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, Lewisburg, Graham T. Endler, DO, graduated from West Virginia University with a Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science.

After receiving his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine where he was an honors graduate, Dr. Endler went on to post-graduate training, first at Duke LifePoint Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center, Johnstown, PA, for his general surgery residency, and from there to the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, MS, where he completed his vascular surgery



fellowship.

Dr. Endler has a number of vascular surgery areas of expertise and interest: Aortic repair, carotid disease, aortic/iliac occlusive disease, infrainguinal disease, venous disease, hemodialysis access, amputations, and wound care.

He has received certificates in advanced cardiovascular life support, fundamentals of laparoscopic surgery, advanced

trauma life support, and fundamentals of endoscopic surgery. He belongs to several medical societies, including the American College of Surgeons, American College of Osteopathic Surgeons, American Osteopathic Association, and Society of Vascular Surgery.

Dr. Endler has had articles printed in medical journals and has been involved in presentations at medical conventions.

Joining the United Vascular and Vein Center practice of John A. Adeniyi, MD, Dr. Endler is located at 527 Medical Park Drive, Suite 501, Bridgeport. For more information call 304.842.3993.

# WVU Medicine United Hospital Center Opens New Intermediate Care Unit

Bridgeport, W.Va.— In keeping with its mission to deliver high-quality care to patients in North Central West Virginia, UHC dedicated a new 18 bed Intermediate Unit (IMU) today. These aesthetically enhanced private rooms, located on the seventh floor, include a patient-centered design that provides specialized care to patients who typically require longer stays.

H o s p i t a l administration held a ribbon cutting on Tuesday, September 24, with area residents and dignitaries in attendance. The new IMU will officially open to patients on Tuesday, October 1.

“The need for IMU services only became more apparent with the

continued growth at UHC,” said David F. Hess, MD, CEO, UHC. “We are now much better positioned to meet the needs of our patients, as more and more require complex care in our evolution to become a regional referral center for the central part of West Virginia.”

The rooms in this \$7.9 million unit will feature new cabinetry and recliners, individual climate control features, LED light fixtures, wood grain laminate flooring, soundproof ceiling tiles, and private bathrooms with walk-in showers and raised toilets. Each room will offer an expansive view of the beautiful pastoral setting offered on the UHC campus.

IMU nurses and ancillary staff have

received specialized training and education through collaboration with multiple disciplines and close partnerships with the CCU team. This partnership will continue to be fostered between CCU and IMU as the unit opens and grows.

Coinciding with the completion of the IMU at UHC are the renovations to the Emergency Department (ED) waiting area, since the ED is often the first point of entry for patients in need of critical care. The new ED waiting area now includes enhancements to lighting, ceiling, flooring, walls, fixtures, restrooms, the addition of charging stations and some seating areas with partitions for more privacy.





The Lowe Public Library was originally constructed as a replica of the Abraham Lincoln Home in Illinois

# A Half Century of Service Provided By Lowe Public Library Makes It the Business/Organization of the Month

By Stephen Smoot

The very first subscription library known predates almost every American university, indeed it came decades before the United States itself. The founder of the public library, however, also played a major role in founding the Republic of freedom. Benjamin Franklin established the first library in the 1730s for the use of his discussion society called “the Junto.” He took the idea of their private repository and expanded it to a public subscription model, which served as the first system of public libraries anywhere. Franklin commented in his 1791 Autobiography that “these libraries have improved the general conversations of Americans, made the common tradesmen and farmers as intelligent as most gentlemen in other countries, and perhaps have contributed in some way to the stand so generally made throughout the colonies in defense of their privileges.” In other words, libraries helped to build the foundation of the American concept of natural rights and liberties, as well as

the understanding of the importance of their defense. While Shinnston’s Lowe Public Library will likely not serve as a catalyst for a revolutionary independence movement, it emulates Franklin’s work in creating a community center that is much more than merely the sum of its parts. The director, Deborah Starkey, emphasizes that fact by saying that Lowe is “a lot different than the larger libraries” in that it also serves as “a community meeting place.” Providing that space for the people not only of Shinnston, but also patrons from surrounding communities and -as far away as Fairmont, has served as part of the Library’s multi-faceted purpose since originally conceived in 1972. The building itself serves as a piece of Shinnston history. A cornerstone marks the year of the construction of the house as 1882. The house was constructed as an exact replica of the Abraham Lincoln home in Springfield, Illinois, right down to the yellow exterior and hunter green shutters.

Over the years, the family built additions to provide enough room for family and guests. The Lowe family donated the house for the use of the community as a public library. With support from the Benedum Foundation and the West Virginia Library Commission, the community repurposed the historic home into a library. Starkey states, however, that part of the mission of the Library and its Board lies in maintaining the integrity and charm from when the building served as a family home, prior to its current role as a home for knowledge and a place for the intellectually curious to meet. Previously, Shinnston’s library had served patrons from a space above G. C. Murphy Mart. Over 51 years of service, the Library’s leadership has remained remarkably stable. Four have served as director in that time, including Starkey now. Also having given years of service was Debra Herndon, who currently directs the nearby Bice-Ferguson Memorial Museum. Starkey gives

substantial credit to the Library’s Board of Directors as well. As she explains, “having a supportive Board is a blessing.” Boards of directors are unsung heroes in many organizations, helping to find resources, working with directors to create policies and vision, but also adding other types of expertise into the equation that adds up to institutional success. “They ask what is needed and help by providing input,” Starkey shared. Limited resources mean that the Library has had to make decisions that reflect key priorities. The Library has between 17 and 18,000 volumes, but to maintain a high level of variety, it focuses almost exclusively on easy, juvenile, and mature fiction. Approximately three decades ago, about the same amount of time that Starkey has devoted to the service of the facility, the current home for easy and juvenile fiction came into being. A community fundraiser, backed in large part by the generosity of veteran and former Member of the West Virginia House of Delegates, Floyd

Fullen, provided the funds to expand the building. Fullen spent years promoting library excellence at the state and local level above and beyond his service to Lowe Public Library, including a role as State President of Trustees for the West Virginia Library Association. The room that bears his name now houses the easy and juvenile fiction sections. Lowe Public Library provides a full slate of services to the community, including access to computers, fax machines, copiers, printers, tax forms, and more. Starkey stated that “upstairs we have a genealogy and meeting room” that serves those who wish to research family history or hold small discussion groups. Starkey relies on her assistant, Carrie Mancino, for support. She said “Carrie’s very hard-working. She can do a lot that I can’t do,” particularly in helping those who come in to use technology. Lowe Public Library offers a number of reading programs to inspire literary love in the young, old, and everyone in between. This includes a mature book club for those who wish to read and

discuss selections aimed at adult readers. Every summer also brings a slate of activities aimed at the young people in the community to foster a love of reading at a young age. In partnership with the day care next door, the summer reading program brings an average of 52 children per session “I love those kids!” Starkey exclaims, going on to say “when I walk in, they say ‘hi Miss Debbie!’” One of the regular sights that impresses Starkey lies in a simple, almost every day phenomenon. She describes how she will often see groups of two, three, sometimes more, friends. They will come into the Library, sit near each other, and catch up or chat together. This brings the Lowe Public Library full circle in the history of the institution in America. Benjamin Franklin, after all, originally collected books for the use of his friends and colleagues to pursue or use as reference when they gathered in fellowship. “It’s a very special place,” Starkey shared.



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Progressive Women’s Association Offers American Sign Language Classes

By Rosalyn Queen

In keeping with its mission, The Progressive Women’s Association is sponsoring a sign language class for Harrison County adults. This is a six week class which is held on Wednesday at noon and

is offered a free lunch for participants. The class is free due to the generosity of a sponsor. Teaching the class is Janelle St Martin who has over 50 years experience in signing. Having a deaf individual in her family she signs daily as a means of conversation. There

have been times when she has taught 17 classes a week. She really enjoys teaching children as their minds are so absorbent. Sometimes it appears that they have lost their sign language skills but they will always retain their knowledge of signing and in their adult life they will come

back. She has especially enjoyed teaching infants and toddlers. At the end of the class it is the goal that students will be able to converse in sign language. There may even be the opportunity when the student may be able to serve as an interpreter in a public

setting. Each of the students will receive a certificate of completion and a sign language book, compliments of James and Law, at the end of the class. Betty Waddy, PWA President, compliments those individuals who have taken advantage of this service and

announces that it is the hope of the PWA to sponsor another class later this year. Those who might be interested should contact the office at 304 624 6881. The PWA continues to put emphasis on their programming to serve the public.

Students of the Month



**Kale Bennett** is the daughter of Doug Bennett and Mary Hull of Wallace, and the granddaughter of Debbie and Larry Bennett of Wallace, Gloria and David Bennett of Wallace, and Andy Bates of Dola. Throughout her four years at Lincoln, Kale has consistently achieved a spot on the perfect honor roll due to her exceptional academic performance. She is ranked second in her class and has received several Top Scholar awards. Kale was inducted into the National Honor Society during her sophomore year, where she currently serves as Vice President. She has completed eight math courses and six Advanced Placement classes, and she is among the top 10 ACT

and SAT scorers in her school. Kale has completed 36 college credit hours within her time at Lincoln High School. Additionally, Kale has been recognized by the College Board’s for their Rural and Small-Town Recognition Program. Kale has been an active member of the Student Council and Key Club, previously serving as the class of 2025 Secretary and a sophomore Key Club board member. She is currently serving as the Student Body President, Key Club Historian, and National English Honor Society Treasurer. She has dedicated many hours towards her community by volunteering for various local businesses and programs such as Angel Luv, Feed-a-Family, LHS class of 2025, Trunk or Treat, Big Elm Field Day, Big Elm Fall Fest, Lumberport Field Day, and Field Day with Friends. Kale is also involved in the Athletic Council and the Caring Cougars Club. As a four-year member of the softball team, Kale has lettered and been a valuable team player, earning the title of 2nd team all-county for the 2023-2024 school year.

She has contributed to her team’s success in winning multiple Big 10 sectional championships and aims to help secure a regional championship this year. Kale plans to further her education by pursuing a degree in chemistry with the goal of becoming a physical therapist.



**Ashton Cole Fulton** is the son of George “Parker” and Shannon Fulton of Shinnston (formerly Shannon Butler of Clarksburg) and the grandson of Linda Fulton and the Late George Fulton Sr. Throughout his four years at Lincoln, Ashton has been ranked #1 in the Class of 2025, boosting an outstanding GPA of 4.38 at the end of his junior year. He has also achieved high scores on many standardized tests, obtaining the highest ACT and SAT

scores in Lincoln. Impressively, he has also received perfect scores on 3 AP Exams, winning the national title of AP Scholar with Distinction. In addition, Ashton has also worked hard to achieve many college credits throughout his high school career, amassing over 48 college credit hours after his senior year. Beyond his academic accomplishments, Ashton has played a vital role in many of the school’s extracurricular activities. He serves as the Vice President of the Student Body, where he has been the student leader for the 2023 and 2024 Homecoming Parades and Top Scholar Events, among other various school initiatives. He also serves as the President of the National Honor Society, working to improve our school and community via a new tutoring system for students and contributing to projects such as Feed-A-Family, Angel Luv, Book Drives, Clothing Closets for students, and Reading Programs with local Elementary Schools. This year, Ashton will serve his second year as the president of the school’s National English Honor Society, which is

relatively new to our school. He has shaped this club into an excellent example that recognizes students excelling in English and supports our community, creating endeavors within Big Elm Elementary to plan reading events and support their annual book fair. To top this off, Ashton is also a proud member and Officer of DECA, our school’s business club, and a member of the Key Club. Due to Ashton’s extraordinary academic record, he has received many academic awards, earning 19 Top Scholar Awards, and being named Top Scholar of the Year for the past three years. He has also received many national

titles, being named a National Small and Rural Town Award Recipient, a National First-Generation Award Recipient, and the National Merit Scholar Semifinalist, where he will move on to compete for finalist standing. Ashton has also competed in state competitions within DECA, where he won first place in the Principles of Business Administration category during his sophomore year. Ashton plans to attend West Virginia University with a major in biology on the pre-med track and eventually attend medical school to become a Neurologist.

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OBITUARIES



Carolyne Sue Davis

Carolyne Sue Davis, 76, formerly of Lumberport, passed away on September 22, 2024 at Friendship Manor North in Roanoke, VA. She was born in Clarksburg on September 29, 1947 to the late Russell Cottrell and Ruth Ellen (Hutson) Cottrell.

She loved to play piano, scrapbook and decorate for Christmas.

Carolyne is survived by three sons: Stephen L. Davis and wife Ann of Wirtz, VA, Brian L. Davis and wife Tracy of Cove City, NC and Nathan L. Davis of Lumberport; two sisters: Barbara Hall and husband Eugene of Mannington and Linda Rowley and husband Doug of Wausau, WI; one brother, David Cottrell of Lumberport; eight grandchildren; eight great grandchildren as well as several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Carolyne is preceded in death by her husband, Richard Lee Davis and one son, Rodney Allen Riffle.

Friends and family will be received at Dorsey Funeral Home, 701 S. Pike St., Shinnston, on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 from 4:00pm – 8:00pm and on Thursday, September 26, 2024 from 9:00am until time of service 11:00am with Pastor Robert Shingleton

officiating.

Interment to follow to Lumberport Lions Club Cemetery.

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



John Henderson

John Henderson, born September 19, 1943, passed away peacefully in his home surrounded by family. He was the son of the late Henry Henderson and Maxine Cunnginham Henderson Griffith Mangelo. He shared 48 years of marriage with his beloved wife, Virginia Henderson, before her passing in 2013.

John is survived by his three children: Tammy Erpenbeck of Clarksburg, Pamela Revels and husband Randy of Shinnston, and his son, Sammy Henderson and partner Marie Kendall of Shinnston.

John was a proud grandfather to: Chester Robinson and wife Christina of Morgantown, Charles Robinson and wife Emily of Fairmont, Randy Lee Revels Jr. and partner Preston Rice of Buckhannon, Heather Lupo and husband Matthew of Fairmont, Joshua Revels of Fairmont, Steven Revels and fiancée Cassie Wolfgang of Fairmont, Amber Braun and husband John of Richland, Washington, and Sarah Quinn and husband Justin of Four

States.

He thought the world of his great-grandchildren: Brayden Robinson, Aaron and Brandon Crossland of Morgantown, Brielle and Maddie Lupo of Fairmont, Izzy Woodson of Wallace, Annabelle Grogg of Meadowbrook, Joseph and Evelyne Revels of Fairmont, Maya and Owen Braun of Richland, Washington, and Hazel, Emma, and Topanga Quinn of Four States.

His memory as a brother will be cherished by his siblings: Richard “Dick” Henderson, Terry Griffith and wife Linda, Harry Griffith and wife Deborah, Jeff Griffith, Stella Mace and husband Bill, Ann Dodd, Jennifer Spurgeon, Helen Davis, Roy Griffith and wife Diane; and Charles Griffith and wife Rita.

He was preceded in death by his siblings Mike Henderson, Albert Henderson, and Inez Cash, and his son-in-law, Russ Erpenbeck.

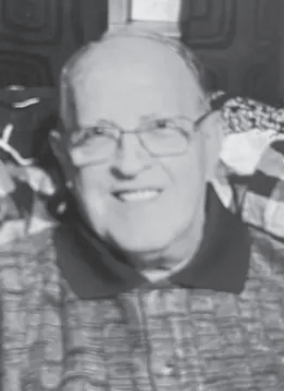
John took immense joy in being a grandfather and spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who always brought a smile to his face. He shared a special bond with his son, Sammy, as they spent countless hours in their garage working on race cars and always being ready for the next race.

He worked at Gear Masters in Illinois until his retirement in 1978.

A celebration of his life will be held at Perine Funeral Home, 1348 S. Pike St., Shinnston from 4-8pm, Tuesday, where funeral services will be held at 10am, Wednesday, September 25th, with Pastor Tim Sandy officiating. All are welcome to share their memories and

honor the legacy of a truly remarkable man. Interment will be in the Shinnston Memorial Cemetery. The family would like to thank the staff of Amedysis Hospice Care for their wonderful care of John. Condolences may be extended to the family at [www.perinefunerals.com](http://www.perinefunerals.com). The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Henderson family.

John’s spirit will forever live on in the hearts of his family and friends.



R. David Lantz

R. David Lantz, 82, of the Glenwood Hill Addition of Clarksburg, went to see Jesus on Friday, September 27, 2024. He was born on December 7, 1941, on Indian Fork in Barbour County.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years Ronda (Williams) Lantz; his son and daughter in law, Philip and Becky Lantz of Clarksburg; one daughter in law, Kimberly Lantz of Clarksburg; grandchildren Olivia and Colton Conner of Bridgeport, Broderick and Camryn Lantz of Sardis,

Miya Lantz of Clarksburg, Sophie Lantz and her fiancé, Landon Beverly, of Clarksburg, Graham and Brandt Lantz of Clarksburg; great grandchildren: Sebastian, Channing, Farrah and Kennedy

Conner; along with a sister, Genevieve America and Chuck Lantz; and loving nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents Ernest and Ruth Lantz; son, Ryan Gail Lantz; seven brothers and sisters, Opal, Billy, Mary, Troy (Buddy), Daryl and Geraldine.

He retired from Lockheed-Martin Aeronautics after working there for 35 years, previously working for Ingersoll-Rand.

He was a member of the Reynoldsville Baptist Church where he served as a Deacon, Trustee, Sunday School Teacher and Treasurer. Later in life, he attended Higher Rock Ministries.

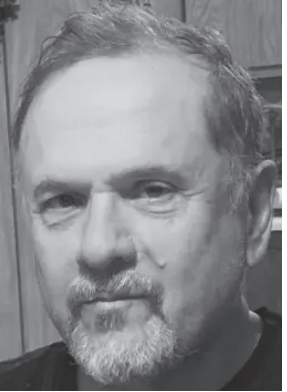
David loved the game of baseball, having coached Babe Ruth for many years. He was an avid Pittsburgh Pirate and Pittsburgh Steelers fan. He really enjoyed watching his grandkids play sports of all kinds. He was the 2023 Ridgerunner of the year and a member of the Adamston Lion’s Club where he enjoyed serving the community any way that he could.

We would like to thank the staff at River Oaks Health Care Center for their care over the last year and a half.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, October 5th from 12:00-4:00 at Higher Rock Ministries, located at 305 Haywood Drive, Shinnston WV with services to follow at 4:00 with Pastor Jeff Perine, Pastor Timothy Sandy and Pastor Nate Moore. Condolences may be extended to the family at [www.perinefunerals.com](http://www.perinefunerals.com). The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the

Lantz family.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Camp Consumed 200 Braxton Ave. Clarksburg, WV 26301.



Jack Wayne Leep

Jack Wayne Leep, 73, of Hepzibah, passed away on Monday, September 23, 2024, at his residence following an extended illness. He was born in Clarksburg, November 6, 1950, a son of Arnett Marcellous Leep and the late Betty Lou Short Leep.

Surviving are his wife, Connie Virginia Morgan Leep, whom he married, May 6, 1972; two sons, Joshua Ryan Leep and his wife Heather, and Zackery Tyler Leep and his wife Stephani, both of Hepzibah; two granddaughters, Rylee and Raegan Leep; one sister, Charlotte Shira, Freemont, CA; and several nieces and nephews. Jack was also preceded in death by his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Clarence Freeman and Virginia Ruth Morgan.

Jack was a school teacher and retired from Doddridge County Elementary School with over 20 years of service. He was a member of the Hepzibah Baptist Church where he sang in the choir. Jack enjoyed hunting, golfing, and watching sports. He was an avid Pittsburgh Steelers and Pirates fan, but more than that,

See “Obits” on Pg 8

## NORTH AMERICA'S #1 Selling Walk-In Tub

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*Now you can finally have all of the soothing benefits of a relaxing warm bath, or enjoy a convenient refreshing shower while seated or standing with Safe Step Walk-In Tub's FREE Shower Package!*

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## Out of the Past

Memorable photographs from around Harrison County



West Virginia & Regional History Center

Residents of eight West Virginia mountain counties still remember the flooding devastation wrought by Hurricane Juan on November 7, 1985. This photograph shows Rowlesburg in Preston County.







LEGAL

(2023-C-000902 - Harrison County - H3 LLC)

To: JIM DAWSON, DAWSON JIM, JIM DAWSON, JIM A. DAWSON, JIM ALEXANDER DAWSON, JAMES DAWSON, JAMES A. DAWSON, JAMES ALEXANDER DAWSON, 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 TENMILE OUTSIDE DISTRICT MAP 9999 PARCEL 0695 4695 0000

You will take notice that H3 LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, Cert. No. 2023-C-000902, located in TENMILE OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, .0010 INT 116.76 AC OIL HALL RUN (ANT/API#5723-38), which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of DAWSON JIM and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of HARRISON County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 8, 2024. H3 LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after February 1, 2025, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before January 31, 2025 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2022 - 60980.	\$	86.33
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	\$	0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2023 - 61616.	\$	22.51
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	120.50
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	927.95
Additional Statutory Fees with interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	1,157.29

You may redeem at any time before January 31, 2025, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

Given under my hand August 27, 2024

G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.

G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.

Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and

Nonentered Lands of GREENBRIER County, State of West Virginia

Please return this letter and payment to the  
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections  
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Building 1, Room W-114  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305  
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568

LEGAL

(2023-C-000991 - Harrison County - H3 LLC)

To: MARTHA ELIZABETH GARRITANO, HEIR OF PATTY KUHN, CHRISTINA LYNN JOHNS, HEIR OF PATTY KUHN, JEFFERY MICHAEL KUHN, HEIR OF PATTY KUHN, JAIME NICOLE ANDERSON, HEIR OF PATTY KUHN, ELIJAH IMMANUEL ANDERSON, HEIR OF PATTY KUHN, KUHN PATTY, PATRICIA A. KUHN, DAVID THAYOR KUHN, DAVID T. KUHN, MARTI E. GARRITANO, MARTHA ELIZABETH GARRITANO, CHRISTINA LYNN JOHNS, CHRISTINA L. JOHNS, MELINDA R. ANDERSON, JEFFERY MICHAEL L KUHN, JEFFERY KUHN, JAIME NICOLE ANDERSON, JAMIE ANDERSON, ELIJAH IMMANUEL ANDERSON, ELIJAH ANDERSON, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT UNION OUTSIDE DISTRICT MAP 9999 PARCEL 0674 4703 0000

You will take notice that H3 LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, Cert. No. 2023-C-000991, located in UNION OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, .0041 INT 64.102 AC O&G STUTLER FORK (THAD-DEUS CURR, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of KUHN PATTY and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of HARRISON County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 8, 2024. H3 LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after February 1, 2025, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before January 31, 2025 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2022 - 71332.	\$	86.33
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	\$	0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2023 - 72149.	\$	22.51
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	103.86
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	979.03
Additional Statutory Fees with interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	1,191.73

You may redeem at any time before January 31, 2025, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

Given under my hand August 27, 2024

G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.

G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.

Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and

Nonentered Lands of GREENBRIER County, State of West Virginia

Please return this letter and payment to the  
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections  
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Building 1, Room W-114  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305  
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568

LEGAL

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 November 19, 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
009	2023830010	U383-33-0.00 00	HSIP-0033(501)D	GUARDRAIL 2024 D3 Guardrail Project Midpoint COUNTY:

DBE GOAL: 5% OF CONTRACT BID AMOUNT. BIDDER MUST PROVIDE WRITTEN ASSURANCE OF MEETING GOAL ON FORM IN PROPOSAL.

REMARKS:

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.

LEGAL

(2023-C-000977 - HARRISON COUNTY - H3 LLC)

To: AMERICAN PRIDE PROPERTIES, LLC, AMERICAN PRIDE PROPERTIES, LLC, ATTN: CT CORPORATION SYSTEM, STATUTORY AGENT, AMERICAN PRIDE PROPERTIES, LLC, ATTN: THE CORPORATION TRUST COMPANY, STATUTORY AGENT, CHARLES BAILEY, CHARLES VERNON BAILEY, WV TL LLC TESCO CUSTODIAN, AMERICAN PRIDE PROPERTIES, LLC, AMERICAN PRIDE PROPERTIES, LLC, ATTN: CT CORPORATION SYSTEM, STATUTORY AGENT, AMERICAN PRIDE PROPERTIES, LLC, ATTN: THE CORPORATION TRUST COMPANY, STATUTORY AGENT, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT UNION OUTSIDE DISTRICT MAP 9999 PARCEL 0663 9319 0000

You will take notice that H3 LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, Cert No. 2023-C-000977, located in UNION OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, .0022 INT 172.99AC O&G KINCHE- LOE (LON-EPINE)#2855, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of BAILEY CHARLES, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of HARRISON County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 8, 2024. H3 LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate on or after March 1, 2025, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before February 28, 2025, will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2022 - 67007.	\$	87.08
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number.	\$	0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2023 - 67701.	\$	22.72
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	166.05
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	1,026.03
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	1,301.88

You may redeem at any time before February 28, 2025, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

Given under my hand September 19, 2024

G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.

G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.

Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and

Nonentered Lands of HARRISON County, State of West Virginia

Please return this letter and payment to the  
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections  
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Building 1, Room W-114  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305.  
Questions, please call 1-888-509-6568

LEGAL

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Division of Highways

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Call	Contract	State Project	Federal Project	Description
020	2024830010	U383- 016 6.25 00	HSIP-0016(374)D	UNKNOWN 2025 DISTRICT 3 HFST +3 HIGH FRICTION SURFACE TREATMENT COUNTY:

DBE GOAL: 5% OF CONTRACT BID AMOUNT. BIDDER MUST PROVIDE WRITTEN ASSURANCE OF MEETING GOAL ON FORM IN PROPOSAL.

REMARKS:

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.



# LEGAL

(2023-C-000008 - Harrison County - JASON FRAZIER)  
To: CHARLES ROMAN JR AND HIS UNKNOWN HEIRS, JOHN VICTOR BENDA, DAVID O WEST SOLE HEIR TO SUE WEST, JOHN HEABERLIN HUSBAND AND HEIR OF JOANN HEABERLIN, SHARON WOLFE, BERNICE JEAN LUCAS, MARK ROMAN, KIMBERLY SWIGER, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF SUSAN LOUISE REYMOND, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MELISSA A EVANS, 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 OUTSIDE DISTRICT MAP 103 PARCEL 0064 0000 0000**  
You will take notice that JASON FRAZIER, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No.** 2023-C-000008, located in CLARK OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, 1 LOT 52 PARK VIEW, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of ROMAN CHARLES ESTATE and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of HARRISON County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 8, 2024. JASON FRAZIER requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after February 1, 2025, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before January 31, 2025 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2022 - 2576.	\$	89.26
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	\$	0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2023 - 27733.	\$	26.71
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	135.50
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	445.96
Additional Statutory Fees with interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	697.43

**You may redeem at any time before January 31, 2025, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.**  
Given under my hand August 27, 2024  
G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.  
G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.  
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of GREENBRIER County, State of West Virginia

**Please return this letter and payment to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East Building 1, Room W-114 Charleston, West Virginia 25305 Questions please call 1-888-509-6568**

# LEGAL

(2023-C-000102 - Harrison County - WVTK LLC)  
To: MODEL A LLC, IRS, ATTN: ADVISORY CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS, WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, 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 0319 0000 0000**  
You will take notice that WVTK LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No.** 2023-C-000102, located in CLARK CLARKSBURG CORP District, 1 LOT 2 MECHANIC ST 40 X 80, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of MODEL A LLC and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of HARRISON County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 8, 2024. WVTK LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after February 1, 2025, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before January 31, 2025 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2022 - 8453.	\$	1,940.22
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	\$	0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2023 - 8659.	\$	1,719.12
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	210.50
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	987.26
Additional Statutory Fees with interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	4,857.10

**You may redeem at any time before January 31, 2025, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.**  
Given under my hand August 27, 2024  
G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.  
G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.  
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of GREENBRIER County, State of West Virginia

**Please return this letter and payment to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East Building 1, Room W-114 Charleston, West Virginia 25305 Questions please call 1-888-509-6568**

# LEGAL

(2023-C-000901 - Harrison County - H3 LLC)  
To: SHEREE L STICKLE, STICKLE SHEREE L, 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 TENMILE OUTSIDE DISTRICT MAP 9999 PARCEL 0692 5700 0000**  
You will take notice that H3 LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No.** 2023-C-000901, located in TENMILE OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, .0015 INT 152.4 AC O&G BEAR TRACT RN (ANT/API#541, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of STICKLE SHEREE L and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of HARRISON County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 8, 2024. H3 LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after February 1, 2025, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before January 31, 2025 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2022 - 64420.	\$	86.33
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	\$	0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2023 - 65098.	\$	22.51
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	120.50
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	927.95
Additional Statutory Fees with interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	1,157.29

**You may redeem at any time before January 31, 2025, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.**  
Given under my hand August 27, 2024  
G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.  
G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.  
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of GREENBRIER County, State of West Virginia

**Please return this letter and payment to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East Building 1, Room W-114 Charleston, West Virginia 25305 Questions please call 1-888-509-6568**

# LEGAL

(2023-C-000898 - Harrison County - H3 LLC)  
To: HOWARD TIMOTHY NICHOLSON, NICHOLSON HOWARD TIMOTHY, HOWARD T NICHOLSON, 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 TENMILE OUTSIDE DISTRICT MAP 9999 PARCEL 0689 5700 0000**  
You will take notice that H3 LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No.** 2023-C-000898, located in TENMILE OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, .0063 INT 89 AC O&G GRASS RUN (CNX/API#3488) (MAP, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of NICHOLSON HOWARD TIMOTHY and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of HARRISON County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 8, 2024. H3 LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after February 1, 2025, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before January 31, 2025 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2022 - 63441.	\$	86.33
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	\$	0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2023 - 64110.	\$	22.51
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	150.50
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	927.95
Additional Statutory Fees with interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	1,187.29

**You may redeem at any time before January 31, 2025, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.**  
Given under my hand August 27, 2024  
G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.  
G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.  
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of GREENBRIER County, State of West Virginia

**Please return this letter and payment to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East Building 1, Room W-114 Charleston, West Virginia 25305 Questions please call 1-888-509-6568**

# LEGAL

(2023-C-000011 - Harrison County - WVTK LLC)  
To: WAGONER LAND HOLDINGS, WAGONER LAND HOLDINGS, OCCUPANT, IRS, ATTN: ADVISORY CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS, WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, 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 OUTSIDE DISTRICT MAP 110 PARCEL 0072 0000 0000**  
You will take notice that WVTK LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No.** 2023-C-000011, located in CLARK OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, 1 LOT #9 WESLEY ACRES SD J W CORK HRS, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of WAGONER LAND HOLDINGS and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of HARRISON County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 8, 2024. WVTK LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after February 1, 2025, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before January 31, 2025 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2022 - 3103.	\$	676.63
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	\$	0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2023 - 3287.	\$	225.31
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	210.50
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	971.18
Additional Statutory Fees with interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	2,416.62

**You may redeem at any time before January 31, 2025, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.**  
Given under my hand August 22, 2024  
G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.  
G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.  
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of GREENBRIER County, State of West Virginia

**Please return this letter and payment to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East Building 1, Room W-114 Charleston, West Virginia 25305 Questions please call 1-888-509-6568**

# LEGAL

(2023-C-000180 - Harrison County - WVTK LLC)  
To: CITY OF CLARKSBURG, ARNETTA FREEMAN FKA ARNETTA KELLY, MICHELLE BLACKWELL, ARNETTA FREEMAN FKA ARNETTA KELLY, MICHELLE BLACKWELL, ARNETTA FREEMAN FKA ARNETTA KELLY, MICHELLE BLACKWELL, ARNETTA FREEMAN FKA ARNETTA KELLY, MICHELLE BLACKWELL, ARNETTA FREEMAN FKA ARNETTA KELLY, MICHELLE BLACKWELL, OCCUPANT, IRS, ATTN: ADVISORY CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS, WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, 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 28 PARCEL 0426 0000 0000**  
You will take notice that WVTK LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No.** 2023-C-000180, located in CLARK CLARKSBURG CORP District, 2 LOTS 172-173 ALTA VISTA INC PAR 436, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of KELLY ARNETTA (MICHELLE BLACKWELL) and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of HARRISON County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 8, 2024. WVTK LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after February 1, 2025, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before January 31, 2025 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2022 - 7567.	\$	925.06
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	\$	0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2023 - 7785.	\$	776.42
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	210.50
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	1,111.63
Additional Statutory Fees with interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	3,023.61

**You may redeem at any time before January 31, 2025, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.**  
Given under my hand August 27, 2024  
G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.  
G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.  
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of GREENBRIER County, State of West Virginia

**Please return this letter and payment to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East Building 1, Room W-114 Charleston, West Virginia 25305 Questions please call 1-888-509-6568**

# LEGAL

(2023-C-000189 - Harrison County - WVTK LLC)  
To: RYAN BEASTON, CITY OF CLARKSBURG, RYAN BEASTON, WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CORP. DBA UNIVERSITY HEALTH ASSOCIATES, RYAN BEASTON, STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, RYAN BEASTON, IRS, ATTN: ADVISORY CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS, WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, 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 29 PARCEL 0117 0000 0000**  
You will take notice that WVTK LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No.** 2023-C-000189, located in CLARK CLARKSBURG CORP District, 2 LOTS PTS 97-98 E CLKSBG INCLUDES PARCEL 118, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of BEASTON RYAN M and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of HARRISON County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 8, 2024. WVTK LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after February 1, 2025, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before January 31, 2025 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2022 - 4854.	\$	2,246.71
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	\$	0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2023 - 5069.	\$	1,990.24
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	210.50
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	1,097.63
Additional Statutory Fees with interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	5,545.08

**You may redeem at any time before January 31, 2025, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.**  
Given under my hand August 27, 2024  
G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.  
G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.  
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of GREENBRIER County, State of West Virginia

**Please return this letter and payment to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East Building 1, Room W-114 Charleston, West Virginia 25305 Questions please call 1-888-509-6568**

# LEGAL

(2023-C-000990 - Harrison County - H3 LLC)  
To: GUTHERIE CATHERINE A, CATHERINE A GUTHERIE, GUTHERIE CATHERINE A, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.  
**DISTRICT UNION OUTSIDE DISTRICT MAP 9999 PARCEL 0674 4605 0000**  
You will take notice that H3 LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert. No.** 2023-C-000990, located in UNION OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, .0056 INT 64.102 AC O&G STUTLER FORK (THAD-DEUS CURR, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of GUTHERIE CATHERINE A and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of HARRISON County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 8, 2024. H3 LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after February 1, 2025, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before January 31, 2025 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2022 - 69952.	\$	86.33
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number	\$	0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2023 - 70717.	\$	22.51
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	195.50
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	940.72
Additional Statutory Fees with interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	1,245.06

**You may redeem at any time before January 31, 2025, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.**  
Given under my hand August 27, 2024  
G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.  
G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.  
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of GREENBRIER County, State of West Virginia

**Please return this letter and payment to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East Building 1, Room W-114 Charleston, West Virginia 25305 Questions please call 1-888-509-6568**



# Stonewood CEOs Receive Presentation on God’s Grace

By Estella Farnsworth

The Stonewood CEOs club met at the Congregational Missionary Church fellowship hall. The meeting was called to order by president Ladonna Tucker. Roll call by secretary Estella Farnsworth. . . . members present were Ladonna Tucker, Deloris Wilson, Estella Farnsworth, Eva Summers, Barbara Graham, April Stout, Sherry Blue, and Pam Cowdrey. Absent; Jan

Johnson, Lesita Snider, Darlene Francis, Willa Jean Green, and Betty Shreves.

Devotions were read by Estella Farnsworth entitled “God’s Grace”. 2nd Corinthians 12:9 promises that God’s grace is sufficient. Flag salutes to the American and WV flags were recited by the members. Minutes of last meeting were read by secretary and who also gave the treasurer’s report in Jan Johnson’s absence. Both reports were accepted and filed.

April Stout, head of family committee reported that Nursing Home visits are hold until further notice from the Director.

Unfinished business: Members will meet at the church on Oct 1 @ 9:30 am to go to Quiet Dell to visit their club; we are happy to have been invited and look forward to seeing everyone.

Plans for our club doing a skit for Demonstration Day on November 15 were discussed.

New business: Plans for 2025 Area meeting were discussed. Energy Express items and VA snack donations are temporarily on hold. Heritage was brought by Sherry Blue. It was a beautiful full size crocheted quilt and pillow sham made by her mother in law over 30 years ago. Each square had a different type of crocheted flower in the center.

17 jars of jelly were collected for the Mustard Seed; next month’s donation will

be Ramen noodles. Also we have been busy this summer making lap quilts to soon be donated.

2025 officers were elected. Barbara made a motion and it was 2nd by Eva Summers that the following members retaining their offices are Ladonna Tucker; president...Deloris Wilson; vice president; Estella Farnsworth; Secretary; Pam Cowdrey was elected as Treasurer.

Meeting was adjourned. Members

going to FOP for lunch after the meeting.

Next month’s meeting will be October 21 at the home of Deloris Wilson for a tea party. We are really looking forward to it. It is sure to be fun and beautiful. Hopefully everyone is ready for fall and can get out and enjoy seeing the beautiful foliage that our state has to offer.

CVH 601  
Books read 39

# Capito’s Rural Broadband Protection Act Unanimously Passes Senate

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), a member of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, applauded the unanimous Senate passage of her Rural Broadband Protection Act. The legislation now heads to the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Rural Broadband Protection Act would require a more thorough vetting and verification process for internet service providers seeking to participate in the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) high-cost programs. Additionally, this bill would provide essential safeguards to the Universal Service Fund’s High Cost program by ensuring that funding goes to companies with both a proven track record of success and those that have demonstrated sound judgment in deploying in hard-to-serve areas.

“West Virginians keep their word, and it’s time internet service providers do the same,” Senator Capito said. “This legislation expands on my previous broadband efforts, and is a product of many discussions I’ve had with small rural service providers and local leaders in West Virginia. These discussions made it abundantly clear the FCC needs congressional direction to ensure taxpayer money is being used properly to fund broadband deployment in rural areas. By verifying that providers can actually deliver on the promises made to bring high-speed internet to specific areas, we can maximize the influx of broadband dollars coming to West Virginia and move toward our goal of closing the digital divide in communities of all sizes across our state. I encourage my House colleagues to pass this important legislation quickly.”

**BACKGROUND:** The FCC’s High Cost program provides funding to telecom carriers to provide service in rural areas where the market alone cannot support the substantial cost of deploying network infrastructure and provide connectivity. Historically, it has subsidized voice service to ensure that rates in rural and urban areas are reasonably comparable. But with a series of reform orders that began in 2011, the FCC is modernizing the High Cost program to support broadband to ensure that all people in America – no matter where they live – have access to robust, affordable connectivity to fully participate in today’s society.

This modernized program is called the Connect America Fund, and it consists of a series of new funds that rely on incentive-based models and competitive bidding to award carriers a set amount of support to build out broadband to a defined number of locations in unserved and underserved areas.

## “Commission” From Pg 1.

Commissioners determined that they wanted to know if the previously allocated \$30,000 had gone to the state, then supported local programming in Harrison County. They placed the item on this week’s agenda for discussion and determination with the encouragement to the county school system to send an official who has specific financial information.

The Commission next entered executive session to discuss a property transfer. Laura Pysz-Laulis, Harrison County Administrator, stated that the agenda contained multiple items related to purchases and sales of County property.

Upon return from executive session, Trecost made a series of motions related to property matters. The first motion would allow some current bids made on County property to expire. The motion allowed that the County could auction and/or find a real estate agent to sell all County property on West Virginia Route 279 “as a whole.” Commissioners unanimously approved the motion.

Trecost and Hinkle then worked together to craft a motion to allow the County Administrator to open negotiations to purchase a property on US 19 “known as the Ellis Drive In.” Commissioners also approved this unanimously. This follows the tragic fire that damaged the Sunset Ellis Restaurant and other parts of the facility beyond repair.

The owners of the business that operated there recently declared that they could no longer continue running a business on site.

A third Trecost motion was offered to empower Pysz-Laulis to purchase a General Electric property known as the PK property for \$500,000 with a six month window to allow the County to further negotiate. This also passed unanimously.

The agenda then moved on to another motion promoted by Trecost, to “make all County owned property tobacco-free” by forbidding use of it and related products. He wished to adopt WVU Medicine’s campus policy.

Pysz-Laulis clarified the motion by bringing up both the revised and current County policies. She shared that the new County policy changed to cover vaping and Trecost amended his motion accordingly.

Thomas responded “I’m concerned about how you’re going to police it.” She added that smoking employees should stay away from the doors, and “I don’t think we have a real issue with people who visit the building.” Trecost responded by framing the issue as one of “healthy living.”

Pysz-Laulis noted that the policy includes banning use of such products in County vehicles while Hinkle inquired as to whether a ban would also include public recreational areas. When he next asked about the discipline meted out, Pysz-Laulis explained that for employees it starts as a verbal warning with increasingly stiff sanctions for further non-compliance.

For those not employed by the County, such as those using the parks or rail trail for recreation, violators must pay a \$10 fine. Hinkle suggested a dual policy, one for County employees and one for the general public. An important distinction not noted at the time was between on and off-duty County employees violating the regulation in public recreational spaces.

Pysz-Laulis raised concerns about the effect of the policy on County employees, in particular those who work at the 911 facility who cannot travel too far from their posts while on call. Hinkle agreed and said “we have a hard enough time keeping 911 employees.”

With the discussion bringing up vital points and questions, Thomas and Hinkle voted against it and it died.

After approving the signage of a letter of support for a CityNet broadband expansion project, Commissioners found themselves faced with a tough choice regarding Federal Emergency Management Administration financial support for repairs to the rail trail, which was damaged by flooding in August 2023.

Commissioners conversed online with FEMA’s State Public Assistance Director, Jason Means. He gave the Commission two choices on receiving funds from FEMA. The program from which the Commission wished to request funds is one of the most abused by applicants in the entire federal government. Therefore, Means explained, it brings with it even more arcane and Byzantine regulations than are normal even for a normal federal grant.

The County faced what at first looked like a Monty Hall-esque proposition. FEMA offered the Commission \$22,500 to pay for \$30,000 worth of work - which equals a 75 percent match. Behind the door, so to speak, Harrison County could receive much more assistance to cover most of the total cost of repairs.

The catch comes in the fact that Harrison County will have to satisfy the myriad information and other requirements of FEMA and - at the end of the process - the slight possibility exists that the County may get nothing for their efforts. Means also explained that the deadline for application to enter that process took place the Friday after the meeting, but that a waiver for time could be easily obtained. “As long as it is reasonable,” Means explained, “FEMA will consider it.”

“This is a complex and convoluted program,” Means added.

Trecost had made a motion to accept the funds offered prior to Means’ explanation. The Commission voted it down, then voted unanimously to go down the more complicated route that would likely provide more help.

Finally, Commissioners discussed Department of Homeland Security grants to get funds to shore up 911 tower site climate control, aerial and radio equipment, and a special \$45,000 all terrain vehicle for law enforcement and rescue.

Hinkle suggested that if the County has a current need, while waiting for the DHS funding for the vehicle, that they ought to purchase a commercial ATV for what he said would be approximately \$8,000 and start using them now. Thomas voiced her support for that.

He added that if an officer in mufti operated a commercial ATV without law enforcement markings, similar to an unmarked police vehicle, the County could catch more perpetrators.

“I agree with you both 100 percent,” Trecost stated. He added that the Commission could start working on the issue in the next meeting to start patrols as soon as possible. Hinkle added that the County may even succeed in getting sponsorships to help to defer the cost.

The more expensive ATVs envisioned by the DHS would come with search and rescue, climate control, and other equipment often vital to operations in the more remote and mountainous areas of the state.



# UHC Hosts Fall Aspiring Nurse Signing Ceremony

Seventeen local nursing students receive up to \$25,000 each to support life expenses

Bridgeport, W.Va. – WVU Medicine United Hospital Center (UHC) held a formal signing ceremony on September 20 for nursing students accepted into the WVU Medicine Aspiring Nurse Program. Because tuition support generally already exists for nursing students in terms of student loans, grants, and scholarships, the Aspiring Nurse Program provides each student with up to \$25,000 to support their real needs: day-to-day life expenses. A total of seventeen students were accepted into the fall 2024 cohort.

“United Hospital Center is known for excellence in receiving healthcare. We carry this commitment to excellence over to our workplace environment. We are focused on providing the best place to work in healthcare,” said David F. Hess, MD, president and CEO at UHC. “The Aspiring Nurse program is a reflection of our health system’s commitment to our nursing staff and works to provide a foundation for a successful career.”

Each student accepted into the program will receive up to \$25,000 over the course of four semesters upon hire in exchange for a three-year work commitment following graduation. Students accepted to the program will also receive support from academic success coaches and complete clinical rotations at UHC to ensure they receive high-quality, hands-on clinical immersion experiences to assist them as they transition to professional nursing practice.

Davis & Elkins, Fairmont State University, West Virginia University, and WVJC were selected among local colleges to participate in the program. The partnership between UHC and nursing programs at these educational institutions demonstrates a commitment to collaborative education and workforce development.

“This initiative is innovative in that it aims to address financial challenges faced by nursing students while simultaneously creating a pipeline for them to excel in their career after school,” said Stephanie Smart, MSN, RN, vice president of Nursing/CNO.

For more information on the WVU Medicine Aspiring Nurse Program, visit [WVUMedicine.org/Aspiring-Nurse-Program](http://WVUMedicine.org/Aspiring-Nurse-Program).

## Never converse with the devil, cast him out

From *L’Osservatore Romano*

At the General Audience on Wednesday morning, 25 September, Pope Francis expressed his closeness to the people of Lebanon, where intense bombings have claimed many victims and caused destruction in recent days. “I hope that the international community will make every effort to stop this terrible escalation. It is unacceptable!”, the Pope said. Earlier, continuing his catechesis on the Holy Spirit, he had reflected on the Gospel passage about Jesus being tempted in the wilderness. The Pope warned the faithful never to converse with the devil, but to push him away. The following is a translation of the Holy Father’s words to those gathered in Saint Peter’s Square.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Good morning!

Immediately after his baptism in the Jordan, Jesus “was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil” (Mt 4:1) — this is what the Gospel of Matthew says. The initiative is not Satan’s, but God’s. Going into the wilderness, Jesus obeys an inspiration of the Holy Spirit; he does not fall into the enemy’s snare, no! Once he has withstood the test, it is written, he returns to Galilee “in the power of the Spirit” (Lk 4:14).

In the wilderness, Jesus freed himself of Satan, and now he can deliver [others] from Satan. This is what the

Evangelists highlight in their numerous stories of deliverance from possession. To those who oppose him, Jesus says: “If it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you” (Mt 12:28).

Nowadays we are witnessing a strange phenomenon regarding the devil. At a certain cultural level, it is held that he simply does not exist, that he is a symbol of the collective subconscious, or of alienation; in short, a metaphor. But “the cleverest ruse of the Devil is to persuade you he does not exist!”, as someone wrote [Charles Baudelaire]. He is astute: he makes us believe that he does not exist, and in this way he dominates everything. He is cunning. And yet our technological and secularized world is teeming with magicians, occultism, spiritualism, astrologers, sellers of spells and amulets, and unfortunately, with real satanic sects. Driven out the door, the devil has re-entered, one might say, through the window. Driven out by faith, he re-enters with superstition. And if you are superstitious, you are unconsciously conversing with the devil. One must not converse with the devil.

The strongest proof of the existence of Satan is found not in sinners or the possessed, but in the saints! “And how can this be, Father?”. Yes, it is true that the devil is present and working in certain extreme and

“inhuman” forms of evil and wickedness that we see around us. But by this route, it is practically impossible to reach, in individual cases, the certainty that it is truly him, given that we cannot know with precision where his action ends and our own evil begins. This is why the Church is so prudent and so rigorous in performing exorcism, unlike what happens, unfortunately, in certain films!

It is in the life of the saints, precisely there, that the devil is forced to come out into the open, to place himself “against the light”. All the saints, all the great believers, some more, some less, testify to their struggle with this obscure reality, and one cannot honestly assume that they were all deluded or mere victims of the prejudices of their time.

The battle against the spirit of evil is won as Jesus won it in the wilderness: by striking with the word of God. You see that Jesus does not converse with the devil. He never conversed with the devil. Either he casts him out, or condemns him, but he never converses. And in the wilderness, he replies not with his word, but with the Word of God. Brothers, sisters, never converse with the devil! When he shows up with temptations — “But this would be nice, that would be nice” — stop! Raise your heart to the Lord, pray to Our Lady and banish him,

just as Jesus taught us to banish him. “It is written”: this is how he responds to the tempter three times. Saint Peter also suggests another means, that Jesus did not need, but we do — vigilance. “Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking some one to devour” (1 Pt 5:8). And Saint Paul says to us: “Give no opportunity to the devil” (Eph 4:27).

After Christ, on the cross, defeated forever the power of the “ruler of this world” (Jn 12:31), a Father of the Church would say, “the devil is bound like a dog on a chain. He cannot bite anyone unless, having no concern about the danger, they go too close... He can bark, he can whine and entice, but he can bite only those who go close and let him” (Saint Caesarius of Arles, Sermons 121, 6: CC 103, p. 507.). If you are a fool and you go to the devil and say, “Ah, how are you?”, he ruins you. The devil? At a distance! One does not converse with the devil. One banishes him. Distance. And all of us, everyone, we have experience of how the devil approaches with some temptation, on the ten commandments. Whenever we feel this, stop, keep your distance! Do not approach the chained dog.

Modern technology, for example, besides the many positive resources that are to be appreciated, offers

also countless means to “give an opportunity to the devil”, and many fall in the trap. Think of online pornography, behind which there is a flourishing market: we all know this. It is the devil at work, there. And this is a very widespread phenomenon, which Christians should beware of and strongly reject. Because any smartphone has access to this brutality, to this language of the devil: online pornography.

Awareness of the action of the devil in history should not discourage us. The final thought must be, also in this case, of trust and security: “I am with the Lord, be gone”. Christ overcame the devil and gave us the Holy Spirit to make His victory our own. The very action of the enemy can turn to our advantage, if with God’s help we make it serve our purification. Let us therefore ask the Holy Spirit, with the words of the hymn *Veni Creator*:

“Drive far away our wily Foe,

And Thine abiding peace bestow;

If Thou be our protecting Guide,

No evil can our steps betide”.

Beware. The devil is astute. But we Christians, with God’s grace, are more astute than him. Thank you.

Special Greetings

I extend a warm welcome to the English-speaking pilgrims taking part in today’s Audience, especially the groups from England, Australia,

India, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, Canada and the United States. My special greeting goes to the new students of the Venerable English College, together with my prayers for their preparation for the priesthood. Upon all of you, and your families, I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you!

I am saddened by the news from Lebanon, where in recent days, intense bombings have claimed many victims and caused destruction. I hope that the international community will make every effort to stop this terrible escalation. It is unacceptable!

I express my closeness to the Lebanese people, who have already suffered too much in the recent past. And let us pray for all the peoples who suffer as a result of war: let us not forget martyred Ukraine, Myanmar, Palestine, Israel, Sudan, all the martyred peoples. Let us pray for peace.

Lastly, my thoughts turn to young people, to the sick, to the elderly and to newlyweds. Always be faithful to the Gospel ideal and carry it out in your daily activities, entrusting yourselves to the Lord’s grace each day.

And please, do not forget: one must not converse with the devil, he must be cast out.

I offer my blessing to all of you!

## WorkForce West Virginia announces Oct. 2 Statewide Virtual Job Fair

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — WorkForce West Virginia today announced the next date in a series of Statewide Virtual Job Fairs. Both employers and job seekers are invited to participate in the virtual event on Wednesday, October 2, from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

“This October marks the second year that WorkForce West

Virginia is proud to offer our monthly Statewide Virtual Job Fairs,” said Scott Adkins, Acting Commissioner of WorkForce West Virginia. “We invite job seekers to join the more than 17,900 West Virginians who have registered to attend one of these convenient, virtual events and connect with employers all across the Mountain

State.”

Registration is required for both interested employers and job seekers. Register as a job seeker for the October 2 Statewide Virtual Job Fair.

“Attending the Statewide Virtual Job Fairs hosted by WorkForce West Virginia offers unparalleled convenience, allowing employers to seamlessly

connect with job seekers,” said James Bailey, Secretary of the WV Department of Commerce. “In the past two years, more than 3,000 West Virginia employers have taken advantage of this opportunity to connect with job seekers and receive more than 11,000 submitted resumes.”

When attending the event, job seekers are

encouraged to dress professionally and have a calm, clutter-free background. The Virtual Statewide Job Fair portal features a Job Seeker Training video, a list of participating employers, and channels for attendees to register and log in.

After registering for the first time, new employers will create a “Virtual Booth” to

connect with job seekers. After completion, this booth will be available during subsequent job fairs. Register as an employer for the October 2 event.

For more information about WorkForce West Virginia and the Statewide Virtual Job Fairs, visit [www.workforcewv.org](http://www.workforcewv.org) or contact [wfwvvjf@wv.gov](mailto:wfwvvjf@wv.gov).