The SHINNSTON News & Journal HARRISON COUNTY

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Focusing on local news throughout Harrison County.

Nov. 14, 2024 - Nov. 20, 2024

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Justice Announces Outdoor Burning Ban As Drought Persists Across the State

By Stephen Smoot

Due to the persistence of varying levels of drought statewide, Governor Jim Justice issued an outdoor burning ban for all 55 counties, with a short list of excepted activities.

The entirety of Harrison County remains locked in conditions categorized by the federal government as "D3 Extreme Drought." Predictions indicate that the area could receive up to one total inch of rain in the coming week while temperatures remain mild, but the drought is expected to persist at least through the next month, then improve.

Additionally, measurements of the West Fork River at the Harrison and Marion County line show the flow as "low," which is the most extreme category listed.

Despite the deluge of tropical system driven rains, most of West Virginia remains in some level of drought conditions.

In an area of the state north of the coalfields and west of the Allegheny Front, conditions range from D2 severe drought to the highest and most serious condition, which is D4 exceptional drought. The D4 counties follow US 33 and include Jackson, Roane, Calhoun, Braxton, and the northwestern tip of Webster.

The outdoor burning ban went into effect statewide, regardless of drought condition, on November 4. This includes campfires, burning debris, or warming.

Exceptions include: fire essential for production of chemicals, fire for commercial land-clearing that has been given a permit by the Division of Forestry, "training fires" used for instruction by government or fire departments and given a permit by DoF, fires for outdoor cooking for charitable events, but a water source for dousing must be on hand.

Liquid fueled gas grills or liquid filled gas stoves are approved for use as well.

Governor Justice issued this order by proclamation.

Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library Director, Julia Todd accepting a copy of The Entrepreneurial City for the library's collection.

The Value of Libraries

By Jim Hunt for the News and Journal

Libraries have long stood as cornerstones of our communities, representing far more than just buildings filled with books. My recent experience hosting a book signing at the Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library for my new book, The Entrepreneurial City, illuminated just how deeply these institutions are intertwined with the cultural and social fabric of our towns and cities. I was genuinely impressed by the dedication of the library staff and their unwavering commitment to serving the community through a diverse range of activities and services.

The Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library, like so many others across the country, has evolved beyond its traditional role. Today's libraries are dynamic hubs that provide essential resources and foster connections among community members. During my visit, I witnessed how the staff organized engaging cultural programs and children's

See "Hunt" on Pg 3

A postseason football berth for the Cougars may lie in the hands of state judges as challenges to the WVSSAC's classification process continue.

Legal Challenges to WVSSAC Postpone Single A Volleyball Tournament, But May Open Football Playoffs to LHS

By Stephen Smoot

At least part of the West Virginia State Volleyball Tournament will be played out in the law courts before they hit the sporting version.

Tuesday, all classes except for single A will commence play in the state championship tournament. Looming lawsuits concerning last week's decision to replace four teams in the state football playoffs with others that did not originally qualify will also likely force postponement of that sport's postseason as well.

Until last year, classification was based simply on enrollment. When the WVSSAC expanded to four classifications, it introduced a new formula.

And therein lies the rub.

The WVSSAC started using a new formula based on 80 percent enrollment, 10 percent on proximity to a city of 10,000 people, and 10 percent based on the socioeconomic status of either the school or the county.

Said Executive Director David Price to WCHS TV in Charleston last December "when you get down to any

See "LHS" on Pg 6

Voters Narrowly Approve Amendment One by Almost 6,100 Votes

By Stephen Smoot

In an election cycle with few close races, West Virginia voters did narrowly pass one important measure. Amendment One, as it was called, will elevate the current statutory prohibition against medically assisted suicide to that of a state Constitutional amendment.

The amendment was backed by six term House of Delegates member Pat McGeehan, who represents Hancock County in District 1 and also serves as dean of a private school.

McGeehan cited two reasons for backing the measure. In an opinion article released on Oct 10, he centered his argument on the fate of those seeking expensive treatments in states that allow legally assisted suicide. One case, that of a great-grandmother in Oregon, found the insurance company refusing to cover treatment for advanced lung cancer that would extend her life. In the same letter, they offered to cover assisted suicide.

See "Voters" on Pg 3

Shinnston and Bunkhouse Lodging Partner Up to Provide Free Water For Lumberport Residents

Shinnston, WV – The City of Shinnston is pleased to announce that a water tap will be made available to residents of Lumberport, WV, free of charge. This initiative is in response to the ongoing water crisis affecting the Lumberport community. The city is grateful to Bunkhouse Lodging for their partnership and helping to alleviate this issue.

Free Water Access:

Lumberport residents are encouraged to utilize this water source to meet their essential needs. This free water access is being provided to alleviate the burden caused by the water crisis. Bring whatever containers you need to transport the water.

Water Tap Location:

Bunkhouse Lodging 2

Bunkhouse Lane on the left after passing Higher Rock Church if you're traveling from Shinnston to Lumberport.

For any questions or concerns, please contact the City of Shinnston at: 204-592-2126

AMOS CARVELLI FUNERAL HOME

McDonald's of Harrison County

Each week copies of the News & Journal are distributed in each hospital to patients compliments of these community-minded sponsors listed:

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OPINION

The Free Press or the Praetorian Guard?

By Stephen Smoot

Most of those with even a passing interest in American popular culture remember the Emperor Commodus as portrayed in the epic motion picture Gladiator. Almost no one, however, remembers the real history of what came next.

Many elites had benefited from the licentiousness and poor decisions of Commodus. The ascension of the reluctant Pertinax to the purple promised a better government, especially for the common people. Edward Gibbons in The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire stated that "a hasty zeal to reform the corrupted state . . . proved fatal to himself and his country."

One institution had gained in wealth and power - the Praetorian Guard. Its primary function was that of the Secret Service today, protect the head of state. Its power, wealth, and influence, however, made it a power player in itself, desirous to protect its prerogatives.

Commodus's successor Pertinax, however, threatened the corrupt with his mandate to clean up the Augean stables. Pertinax met them like a man, face to face, which resulted in "his head separated from his body, and placed on a lance, was carried in triumph . . . in the sight of a mournful and indignant people."

Gibbons explained that their "licentious fury was the first symptom and cause of the decline of the Roman Empire." He added that "in the luxurious idleness of an opulent city, their pride was nourished by the sense of their irresistible weight" and "the best established princes were obliged to . . . flatter their pride, indulge their pleasures . . . and purchase their precarious faith."

After Pertinax, the Praetorian Guard quite often took a hand in elevating and/or disposing of a number of Roman Emperors, always to their benefit and rarely to that of the Empire.

The American media, starting decades ago, slowly evolved from an institution that covered and informed about politics into one actively manipulating them.

An egregious example happened in 1988 when Vice President George Bush appeared on the CBS Evening News With Dan Rather for what he was told was a simple profile of the man and his work.

"If this is a political profile for an election, I have a very different opinion of what one should be,"

See "Smoot" on Pg 3

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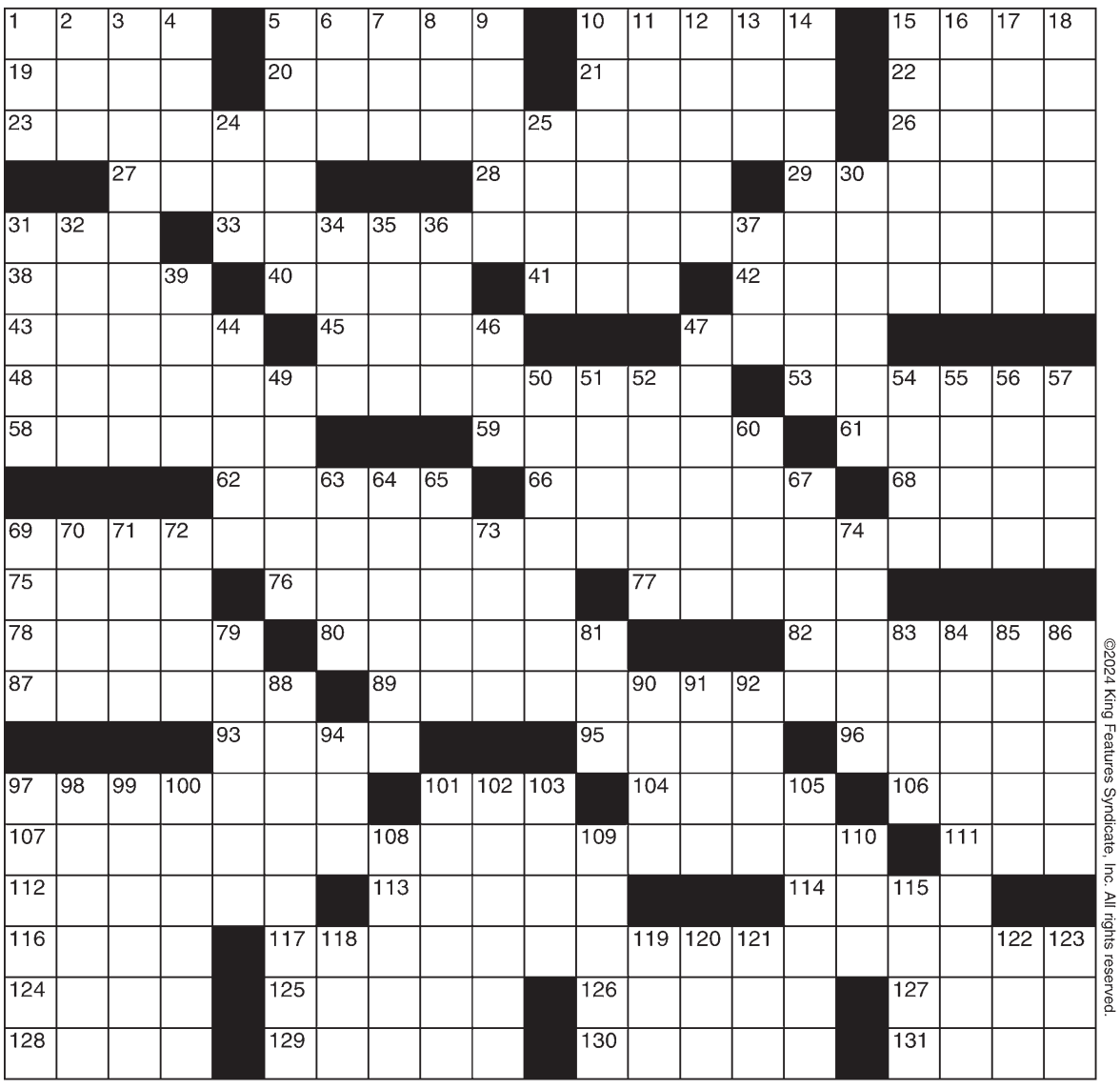
Super Crossword

WAX SHOP

ACROSS
1 Cheer shouts
5 Specialty of Penn & Teller
10 Meddles, with "in"
15 Golfer Snead and politician 26-Across
19 On the ocean
20 Port in Japan
21 TV's Winfrey
22 "Zip- — -Doo-Dah"
23 Start of a riddle
26 Four-term Georgia senator
27 Calf's meat
28 Make a dining surface of
29 Fastening bars with crosspieces
31 Hog hangout
33 Riddle, part 2
38 Kotb of morning TV
40 In this place
41 Sun Yat- —
42 Travel bags
43 Nice scent
45 Government bigwig
47 Deer — (street sign)
48 Riddle, part 3
53 More tightly packed
58 In the habit of
59 Common origami birds
61 Pass on
62 Durance of "Smallville"
66 Astronaut Buzz
68 Own
69 Riddle, part 4
75 Shine
76 Alleviation
77 Worshiper of Jah, for short
78 Bits of Viking script
80 Decelerate
82 Ultimatum ender
87 Bonuses
89 Riddle, part 5
93 Robert of "The Sopranos"
95 Twin brother of Jacob
96 Clear mist from
97 Sci-fi writer L. — de Camp
101 Place to get a mud wrap
104 To be, in Toulon
106 Sahara-like
107 End of the riddle
111 Directed
112 In last place, say
113 Plastic wrap
114 Rock bassist Quatro
116 Stork's kin
117 Riddle's answer
124 Fork feature
125 Extracts juice from
126 Olympics award
127 Depraved emperor
128 Wise off to
129 Ballerina's field, in France
130 Affirmative answers
131 Gas brand in Canada

DOWN
1 Coarse
2 Campfire residue
3 Large amount of medicine
4 Surfeit
5 Bread
6 Horse relative
7 Gun, slangily
8 1950s prez
9 Military pupil
10 Infant's sock
11 Northern part of an urban area
12 Robbins of "underground comix"
13 Tic- — -toe
14 Kind of sheepdog
15 Maalox's company
16 Grown-ups
17 Crème de —
18 Feels
24 Furry "hand"
25 Slangy refusals
30 Ray who portrayed the scarecrow in "The Wizard of Oz"
31 Famed orca, once
32 Bagel shape
34 Faith faction
35 Rice-shaped pasta
36 On or about
37 56, to Caesar
39 In the hub of
44 One- — (brief drama)
46 Part of R&R, for short
47 Nissan model until 2015
49 More peeved
50 Amount of food carried in a cafeteria
51 50%
52 Slashed words of choice
54 Old soda brand
55 Czech, e.g.
56 Roof feature
57 Seedy loaves
60 Perches
63 3/15, e.g.
64 Stiff shirt part
65 It's negatively charged
67 Sleep aid brand
69 Hideous giant
70 Continuous change
71 It might be boldface
72 Fancy jug
73 Prurient
74 Capacitance unit
79 Broadway's "Miss —"
81 Edgar Allan — Leeds
83 Pair for vision
84 Rescue ropes
85 Sleep noisily
86 Goaded (on)
88 Habitually lazy sort
90 Tiny fraction of a min.
91 Cat, in Spain
92 Sound from a 91-Down
94 Always, to poets
97 Cracks
98 Extreme fear
99 Cello bow rub-ons
100 Liqueur flavorings
101 Cramps, e.g.
102 Sentence structure
103 — Sea (salt lake in Asia)
105 1950s Fords
108 C.S. Lewis lion
109 Foe
110 Chevy Tahoe, e.g.
115 Web mag
118 Grassy tract
119 Spot
120 Spots
121 Actress Issa
122 52-wk. spans
123 Lav, in



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FIND THE SUPER CROSSWORD ANSWERS ON PAGE 6!

This Week in West Virginia History

Charleston WV – The following events happened on these dates in West Virginia history. To read more, go to e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia at www.wvencyclopedia.org.

Nov. 14, 1788: Kanawha County, named for the Kanawha River which flows through it, was created on this date.

Nov. 14, 1939: The Charleston Civic Orchestra gave its first concert at the Municipal Auditorium. The group changed its name to Charleston Symphony Orchestra in 1943 and in 1988 became the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra.

Nov. 14: 1970: A chartered plane slammed into a hillside just short of Huntington's Tri-State Airport near Ceredo, killing all 75 of the passengers and crew. The victims included nearly the entire Marshall University football team, all but one of their coaches, and a number of fans.

Nov. 15, 2010: The landmark Aracoma Hotel in Logan was damaged by fire. It was demolished later that year.

Nov. 16, 1734: Samuel Washington was born at Pope's Creek, Virginia. Samuel, a younger brother of George Washington, was the first of several members of the Washington family to live in what is now the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia.

Nov. 16, 1823: Politician and industrialist Henry Gassaway Davis, known in the early 20th century as West Virginia's "Grand Old Man," was born in Baltimore, Md.

Nov. 17, 1927: Composer and performer Robert Drasnin was born in Charleston. He performed with classic combos and big bands such as Tommy Dorsey and Les Brown, and scored music for movies and television.

Nov. 18, 2007: Country singer Chickie Williams died. As wife of musician Doc Williams, she performed with his Border Riders band and appeared on the Wheeling Jamboree radio show.

Nov. 19, 1854: Poet Danske Dandridge was born in Copenhagen. The daughter of an American ambassador, she lived in Shepherdstown from age 19, where her work was published in Harper's and The Century. Both of her homes, The Bower and Rosebrake, are Jefferson County landmarks.

Nov. 19, 1899: Sculptor Gladys Tuke was born in Linwood, Pocahontas County. Tuke was a member of the original artist colony at The Greenbrier; during World War II, she taught at Ashford General Hospital, and later established a pottery and sculpture studio in White Sulphur Springs.

Nov. 19, 1900: William Page Pitt was born in New York City. In 1926, Pitt joined the faculty of what was then Marshall College. In his 45-year career at Marshall, he built its journalism program into one with dozens of classes and hundreds of students. Marshall University's W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications is named in his honor.

"Smoot" From Pg 2.

Bush said only a few minutes in, calling it "a rehash and a little bit of a misrepresentation on behalf of CBS"

Rather started asking pointed questions about Bush's possible role in the Iran-Contra debacle, hoping to get him to either speak poorly of President Ronald Reagan or himself.

But Bush refused to cooperate.

The Vice President smiled and sternly rebuked every point made by Rather, saying "I'm asking for fair play," then took the fight to Rather, talking over interruptions, and saying"I want to get my share in here other than something that you want to talk about." He then said, "I want to talk about why I want to be president."

Bush's famous mic drop moment, that likely helped him several months later in the election, was "it's not fair to judge my whole career on a rehash of Iran. How would you like it if I judged your career by those seven minutes when you walked off the set in New York? Would you like that? I have respect for you, but I don't have respect for what you're doing here tonight."

Rather later ended his career on a ham-handed and provably false expose attack on President George W. Bush and his service in the National Guard.

After the press in 2012 famously covered at length Mitt Romney's placement of a dog carrier on a car roof and scuffles with classmates in fifth grade, Republicans learned one lesson. Even the kindest, most civil, and least offensive in the GOP will always be accused of being the worse. Joe Biden thundered, with no rebuttal from the mainstream media, that Romney "will put you all in chains!"

Imagine Mitt Romney putting anyone in chains.

Few remember that the press created the Trump campaign, much as the Praetorian Guard manipulated those they saw as pawns.. They knew that the Republican Party rolled out its most accomplished in 2016 to prevent "Her Turn." The primary featured the best libertarian (Rand Paul), the best conservative (Ted Cruz), and the best moderate (Jeb!)

With media saturation driving him, Trump bested the field, then toppled Hillary Clinton on her way to what she believed was a coronation.

On to eight years of continual coverage of President Donald Trump, but fast forwarding to October 2024 for the sake of brevity. Otherwise, it would take a three volume tome to cover the subject.

Scott Jennings of CNN explained "the revenge of regular old working class America . . . who has been crushed, insulted, condescended to, they're not garbage, they're not Nazis, they're just regular people who get up, go to work every day, trying to make a better life for their kids, and they feel like they have been told to just shut up when they have complained about the things that are hurting them in their own lives."

Jennings called the election results "an indictment of the political information complex."

The Praetorian Guard of Democratic candidates and Leftist ideals repeatedly pressed themselves to the back of a historically awful and incapable candidate She was surrounded by supporters who seemed dragged down by the Harris effect - the odd way that association with her makes normally brilliant people say and do foolish things, as when Barack Obama called black men misogynist for voting their own minds.

ABC News rigged the presidential debate, cheating in a bald-faced fashion on behalf of Harris

CBS News turned an almost incomprehensible 60 Minutes interview into a Harris campaign advertisement.

NBC flouted fair access rules to allow Harris a puff appearance on Saturday Night Live.

One need go no further to prove the point, but countless egregious violations of the ethics and even purpose of journalism took place. The X platform and Joe Rogan stand out among the few that tried to provide honest ways for voters to inform themselves. Even though Musk spoke his own mind, he did not limit the expression of others who disagreed.

Jeff Bezos, a businessman who happens to own the Washington Post, has had enough. In making the proper decision to not allow his paper to endorse a candidate, he admitted that endorsements affect the perception of the newspaper more than the election itself.

He added in a column "we must be accurate, and we must be believed to be accurate. It's a bitter pill to swallow, but we are failing on the second requirement." Bezos then noted "most people believe the media is biased. Anyone who doesn't see this is paying scant attention to reality."

"We must work harder to control what we can control to increase our credibility," he concluded.

Credibility starts with basic respect of both the readership and also those covered. No media outlet can be perfect, but all those who strive to conduct themselves with respect should eventually enjoy the trust of the readers and build legitimacy well beyond that.

The American free press should focus on informing the world so that individuals can make educated decisions, not trying to reshape it by directing their actions and trying to shame those who will not comply.

"Hunt" From Pg 1.

activities, demonstrating their dedication to nurturing curiosity and learning in the youngest members of society. These efforts go a long way in creating an environment where children not only learn to read but also develop a lifelong love for knowledge.

During my short visit, I was reminded of some of the things that drew me to the library as a young man. I would enjoy the daily newspapers hanging on long wooden poles and leafing through them gave me a sense of what was happening in other parts of the world. The assortment of magazines covered almost any interest and occupied hours of time, getting ideas and filling my head with projects. I also relished the quiet space where meditation came easy and walking along the rows of neatly arranged books, was a priceless time to ponder the future or explore the past.

Equally impressive is how libraries have adapted to the rapid changes brought on by technology. The digital revolution has transformed the way people access information, and libraries have risen to the challenge by incorporating digital services that meet these new demands. Many libraries now offer e-books, online courses, and access to databases that would otherwise be unavailable to the general public. By embracing this digital conversion, libraries ensure that their communities stay connected to the broader world of information and knowledge.

This seamless blend of traditional and modern services underscores the critical role libraries play in bridging educational gaps and fostering an inclusive environment. They are places where anyone, regardless of age, background, or economic status, can find the tools and support they need to grow and succeed. The adaptability of libraries in this digital age is a testament to their enduring relevance and their mission to serve as beacons of learning and cultural enrichment.

As I reflect on my experience at the Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library, I am reminded of the power these institutions hold. They are not just repositories of books; they are vibrant centers for innovation, education, and community building. Library director, Julia Todd and her dedicated staff are what make libraries essential to the heartbeat of any community. Their ability to adapt, engage, and inspire ensures that libraries will continue to be invaluable resources in our ever-changing world.

N&J Briefs

FROM AROUND HARRISON COUNTY

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

November 19 there will be a Shinnston Development Authority meeting at 7 AM in the City Building

The 16th Annual Shinnston Turkey Trot and Gobble Wobble will take place on Nov 28 starting at 9 AM at the West Fork River Trail Head. Register at runsignup.com/shinnstonturkeytrot5k

Almost Heaven Barn will hold a tree festival on Dec 7 and 8 from 10 to 5 PM at 63 Jadewood Dr in Shinnston

SHINNSTON MCDONALD'S

Purchase Any Sandwich
Receive One
Apple Pie FREE
Expires November 20, 2024

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

"Voters" From Pg 1.

He then cited multiple other examples of this occurring in such states. McGeehan wrote of this that "when medically assisted suicide is legalized, it immediately becomes the cheapest treatment. Advocates of medically assisted suicide argue it allows people to "Die with Dignity." But, what could be more undignified than having one's life weighed in the spreadsheets of health insurance providers?"

In most cases, McGeehan explained, suicidal thoughts come not from a desire to end life, but to end suffering. He went on to say "Suicide attempts don't simply seek out death. They give expression to misery. They cry out for help. They seek an end, not to life, but to suffering, shame and depression. By bringing these buried miseries into the light, suicide attempts often motivate the loving intervention of family, friends, neighbors and the medical community. In most suicide attempts, it is life and not death that has the final word."

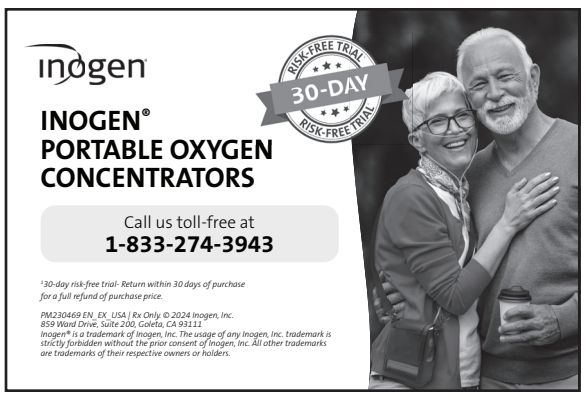
He also argued that medically assisted suicide counters the normal advice given to loved ones caring for a person considering suicide. "When a loved one expresses a desire to kill themselves," he states, "we are counseled to restrict their access to "lethal means" — to hide medication and firearms. But in places like California, an incredible "lethal means" — a cocktail of poisons, sedatives and painkillers known as DDMA or DDMP — is mailed to their home.

Other countries' policies have often been seen as the end point of a potential slippery slope on the issue. In 2022, the European Court of Human Rights upheld the Kingdom of Belgium's practice of accepting euthanasia requests from those suffering only from mental, not physical, illness. Though still controversial there, Canada plans to introduce the same policy in 2027 when they state their medical community has the proper capabilities.

McGeehan cites a statistic that seems to counter the rationale for assisted suicide for the mentally ill, saying "The British Journal of Psychiatry found most people who survive suicide do not attempt to kill themselves again: 'nine out of 10 people who attempt suicide and survive will not go on to die by suicide at a later date.'"

The American Civil Liberties Union unsuccessfully campaigned against the Amendment, saying "cynically, the proposed amendment concludes by stating that this does not prohibit the practice of capital punishment. The West Virginia Legislature, regardless of whether controlled by the Democratic or Republican Party, has not given serious consideration to legalizing capital punishment in West Virginia, which the ACLU also pointed out.

The ACLU also stated that the state should allow for "death with dignity" since "we already boast one of the oldest and sickest populations in the nation." They accused McGeehan and other supporters of "an attempt to create a wedge issue to turn out certain voting blocks (sic)"



There Is A New Sheriff in Morgantown

The Bottom Line

By Bill Nestor
Sports Editor

West Virginia basketball fans have had a rough road as of late. The departure of legendary coach Bob Huggins carried over into the one and done season for Josh Eilert. Last season was difficult from the start with eligibility issues standing in the way before and during a season that was filled with frustration.

Mountaineer Athletic Director Wren Baker had to make a move, so he decided to bring a new sheriff to town. Darian DeVries became the 23rd coach in program history on the 24th of March. Baker nabbed DeVries from Drake, where he spent six years as the head coach. He won a minimum of 20 games in each of those seasons and garnered three NCAA Tournament berths in the process. Hiring the coach also came with an added bonus, his son.

Tucker DeVries averaged 21.6 points, 6.7 rebounds, and 3.7 assists a year ago at Drake for his Dad and he would provide an immediate shot in the arm for a then-depleted roster. Once the father was inked, the son followed, and the cornerstone was set. The coach would build a new roster with the exception of Ofri Naven, the lone big contributor returning from a season ago.

Coach DeVries would make his big debut this past week at the Colosseum when the Mountaineers welcomed R0obert Morris to town. There has been a great deal of excitement around the new coach; why else would 9,229 fans show up for a weeknight lock up with the Colonials? (no offense to our friends from the Keystone State!)

It appeared at first that WVU would not let Robert Morris score in the affair, jumping out to a 21 to nothing lead. Tucker DeVries led a balanced scoring effort with 18 points and he helped his Dad claim victory in his coaching debut. Four other players joined the double-digit party for West Virginia. Javon Small (15), Tony Okani (13), Jonathan Powell (11), and K. J. Tenner (10) all found double figure scoring. Aman Mansberry scored nine points and pulled down 12 rebounds in the victory.

There was little time to celebrate as Massachusetts came to town for a Friday night clash. UMAss provided a much tougher test for DeVries and his squad. It wasn't nearly as aesthetically pleasing as the opener, but the Mountaineers overcame some rough patches and a little pressure from Massachusetts to warm a 75 to 69 win.

Tucker DeVries hit big shots at the most relevant time en route to a team high 17 points. He also collected a team best eight caroms. Hansberry netted 16, Small scored 13, and Powell added 10 points in the triumph.

WVU didn't shoot the ball well from the floor in the second half, going six for 24 (25 percent) They were, however, hot from the foul line, nailing 25 of 27 attempts.

The interest in this years edition continues to grow and the proof is in the attendance for game two when 10.017 fans packed the Coliseum. Well, maybe not jam-packed, there was still room for another four thousand fans, but it's not common to have a combined 19,246 fans in the house for the first two tilts of the season. There is a high level of optimism surrounding the new coach and his squad. Can he keep the interest of Mountaineer Nation? If you ask him, Im sure he would say let's take it one game at a time.

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

Harrison County EMS 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 Liberty's Isiah Heflin and Christian Davis.

Liberty played its last high school football game this past Friday, suffering a setback to North Marion to end its season. It was the last game that will be played as the high school is set to close at the end of the school year.

A pair of players turned in epic efforts in the setback. Quarterback Isiah Heflin was 18 of 34 for 316 yards and three touchdowns. His favorite target was Christian Davis. Davis hauled in eight passes for a staggering 209 yards. He also caught all three of Heflin's touchdown tosses.

Congratulations to Liberty's Isiah Heflin and Christian Davcis for shining bright in the SN and HCJ spotlight!

Cougars Enjoy Life In the Fast Lane At State Cross Country Finals

Raley Cochran placed 11th with a time of 20:28.80 and earned Lincoln's first ever medal in the event. Adrian Bott finished 22nd with axl personal record setting time of 17:35.63.

HCSCC SPOTLIGHT

Featuring news from the Harrison County Senior Citizen Center

HCSC Board of Directors Actions at the October 24, 2024, Board Meeting

The HCSC Board of Directors met on Thursday, October 24, 2024, in a hybrid fashion in-person in the board room and via Zoom.

At the meeting, the Board:

Approved the May 2025 election procedures for HCSCC Board of Directors as presented by the Ad Hoc Elections Committee.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. in-person in the boardroom and via Zoom.

2024 – 2025 Board Officers & Members

E. Ryan Kennedy, President, Bill O'Field, Vice President, Franklin Hairston, Secretary, Betty Waddy, Treasurer, Carol E. Brown, Don Burton, Janet Dotson, Will Hyman, Harley Jeffries, Bill Phillips, Donna Stuart, and Susan Thomas.

alzheimer's association
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$25 in Advance
$35 at the Door
BINGO!
Sun., Nov. 17, 2024
Doors Open 11:30 AM
BINGO 1 PM
WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

CommuniCare to Sponsor Alzheimer's Fundraiser Bingo at HCSC on November 17

On Sunday, November 17, 2024, CommuniCare Family of Companies will sponsor a Bingo to benefit North Central Walk to End Alzheimer's in the Harrison County Senior Center ballroom. Doors will open at 11:30 a.m. and Bingo will begin at 1:00 p.m.

Tickets are $25 in advance and $35 at the door. Tickets may be purchased at the Harrison County Senior Center or call Pam Tenney at 304.650.8625. There will be 20 games, CASH PRIZES, Pull Tickets, 50/50, Raffle Baskets, Concessions, and more. Prize for an additional 21st Game of Coverall is $500. You must be 18 years of age or older to enter.

Snowman Ticket Sales Continue for Kinley Café Fundraiser

HCSC Ceramics Class Lighted Snowman Kinley Café Fundraiser tickets are still on sale at the HCSC front desk M-F, 8AM – 4PM. Tickets are $1 each or six for $5. The Lighted Snowman Welcome Decoration is 18" high, 10½" wide and 4½" deep. Drawing will be held on December 12, 2024 at the Holiday Luncheon. Need not be present to win. All proceeds benefit the Kinley Café.

SNJ for November 2024 As always, feel free to rewrite titles or blurbs or enhance anything we submit.

Pictured L-R, Winners of the Costume Contest:
Eddie Burr, Donna Burr, Sue Short, Tina Louk, Crystal Pumphrey, Vicky Turner, Bill O'Field, and kneeling, Marsha Springs (holding Renee). See additional pictures on our facebook page.

HCSC Seniors Celebrate Halloween 2024

HCSC seniors celebrated Halloween with a "ghoulish" menu in the Kinley Café, a costume contest, door prizes, and bingo. The appetizers and snacks were supplied by senior center member Ruby Marks.

China One of Clarksburg donates Fortune Cookies to Kinley Café

Our friends at China One in Clarksburg helped us celebrate National Chinese Take Out Day on November 5, 2024 with a donation of fortune cookies to add to our Chinese themed meal. Earlier in the year, China One donated chopsticks for our February 6, 2024 National Chopstick Day celebration.

Pictured L-R: Bill O'Field, HCSC Vice President and China One's Zhang Chen. Thank You Zhang and China One for supporting HCSC Seniors!

Senior Golden Angel Tree

If you would like to adopt a Senior Golden Angel from our tree and purchase Christmas gifts for a senior in need, please stop by our front desk beginning November 12th , and pick out an angel. If you have any questions about the program, please call 304.623.6795 and ask for Crystal in the In Home department.

To our Anonymous Washing Machine Donor – THANK YOU!

Café Supervisor Vicky Turner and Randall Lynch, kitchen staff, are thankful for the anonymous donor who purchased a refurbished washing machine from Speedway to replace the one that wasn't working. Those unwashed dish towels were piling up!
Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!! It works great!

Watch for us at WINTERFEST 2024

HCSC seniors will be riding in the vans in the parade on Friday night, December 5 th and HCSC will have a Wassail Table and Photo Booth at Winterfest on Saturday, December 6th . Come be "A Part of the Magic" in downtown Clarksburg!

HCSC Upcoming Holiday Closures

HCSC will be closed on Thursday & Friday, November 28 & 29, 2024 in observance ofthe Thanksgiving Holidays.

Reminder: HCSC Membership Renewals Due for 10/1/24 – 9/30/25 Term

Harrison County Senior Center
500 W. Main St., Clarksburg, WV 26301
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Obituaries

James Edward Rush

James Edward Rush, 64, of Clarksburg, passed away on November 6, 2024. He was born on October 21, 1960, in Cleveland, OH, a son to the late Charles Edward Rush and Viola D. (White) Rush.

James is survived by his wife, Sandra Rush, whom he married on Nov. 13, 2010. He's also survived by his stepchildren Virgil Flint, Matthew Flint, and Christopher Flint (Megan); step grandchildren Dylan, Arika, Matthew, Chasity, Brison, Vincent, Josh, Cody, Maddie, and Samantha; sister Lucile Stutler (Gene); brothers Richard Rush (Sandy), and Phillip Rush (Cathy); sisters-in-law Patricia Woodson, Elizabeth Taylor, Carol Saywer, and Laura Rafferty; and brothers-in-law Dwight Saywer, Dennis Taylor, Dwight Taylor, John Taylor, and Henry Taylor.

He is preceded in death by his brother, George E. Rush; and sisters-in-law Reverta Conrad, Brenda Taylor, and Kimberly Taylor.

James previously worked for Bob Yost Paving. He was Baptist by faith and enjoyed working on vehicles and helping others.

Friends will be received at Harmer Funeral Home on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 from 10:00AM-2:00PM, with a funeral service at 2:00PM with Pastor Tammy Phillips officiating. Interment will follow at Seventh Day Baptist Church Cemetery, Lost Creek.

Judith "Annie" Ann Waddell

Judith "Annie" Ann Waddell, 63, of Clarksburg, passed away on November 5, 2024 at River Oaks Healthcare Center. She was born in Rochester, PA on August 12, 1961 to the late Sidney Bock and Audrey Levell (Craig) Higginbotham.

Annie loved cooking, fishing, watching Pittsburgh Steelers and WVU Football and services at Jewell City Church.

She is survived by her companion, Tim Maxwell of Clarksburg; two daughters: Rachael Levell Heck of Clarksburg and Rebecca Waddell of Hepzibah; one son, Matthew Lynn Waddell of Clarksburg; four grandchildren; four great grandchildren; two sisters: Sandy Sendling and husband Steve of Wallace and Debbie Helmick of Mannington; one brother, Homer Bock of Clarksburg as well as several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Annie is preceded in death by one son, Michael Waddell; one sister, Mary Kay Walls and one brother, Sidney Bock.

Annie's remains will be laid to rest at a later time with her Mom.

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

"LHS" *From Pg 1.*

change, it's messy because a lot of people don't understand because we've done just the enrollment factor for so many years. It was determined it was not a good competitive balance, more so for the schools on the large end."

Unfortunately, by introducing the concept of "equity," the WVSSAC also brought in an element of subjectivity that provided a basis for subsequent challenges to the process.

Also unfortunately, the student-athletes must reap the whirlwind sown by the WVSSAC.

Volleyball started to unravel when on Oct 30, a judicial order placed Tyler Consolidated in Class A for volleyball and cheer. This order came after the close of sectional play, forcing the WVSSAC to create a special play in game between Tyler Consolidated and St. Mary's. Tyler Consolidated won the game and eliminated St. Mary's

A different judge, however, ruled in Monongalia County that Trinity be allowed to play the original opponent, St. Mary's. St Mary's defeated Trinity, leaving Tyler Consolidated shut out of the regional tournament.

Another hearing took place in Hampshire County at 7:45 AM, with East Hardy and Pendleton County, both single A volleyball tournament qualifiers, represented. It occurred, however, after the press deadline.

In football, reclassification has created headaches for football programs all season. Last August, a Review Board composed of seven members appointed by the West Virginia Superintendent of Schools allowed 11 schools to drop one classification level.

John Marshall, Oak Hill, Preston, St. Albans, and Spring Valley moved from A AAA to AAA.

Frankfort, Sissonville, and Wayne went from AAA to AA and Petersburg, St. Marys, and Tyler Consolidated moved from AA to A.

Participation in the West Virginia state football playoffs is determined by a strength of schedule formula based upon the classification of opponents.

Last Saturday, the Wood County Board of Education filed suit for an injunction, which forced the WVSSAC to adjust the ratings. In the original bracket, for example, 16th seeded Westside would play at number one seeded Frankfort in the first round of the Class AA football playoffs.

As of Saturday, Lincoln would now play at Frankfort instead of Westside.

In addition to Westside, Hampshire, Point Pleasant, and Tolsia also found themselves out of the playoffs, replaced by Capital, St. Albans, Lincoln, and St. Mary's.

Likely, the boards of education for each of the schools bounced from the postseason will go to their circuit court and get their own injunctions.

Price said "then we would have competing injunctions. We can't pick and choose which one we are going to follow."

The court decisions also affect seedings of teams that would be in the postseason regardless. For example, Pendleton County originally would have hosted Meadow Bridge, but in the revised brackets is scheduled to host Petersburg.

Delays in both sports have major ripple effects in other sports. Winter sports, such as basketball and wrestling, will see many players possibly unable to practice due to continuing participation on fall postseason teams.

And the worst part of all lie sin the fact that large numbers of student-athletes will be shut out of a postseason in which they were told they would play, regardless of how the issue shakes out.

Unless a final determination occurs this week in football, it is likely that play will not take place as scheduled.

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Out of the Past

Memorable photographs from around Harrison County

Lady strikers gather outside the Consolidated Coal Owings Mine near Shinnston in June 1925.

ABOVE: Unit 31 members attending the conference. Back to camera, Andrea Skelley and left to right, Marsha Duckworth, Karen Flanigan, Sharon Duckworth and Dortha Parsons. Not pictured are Kim Mellie and Margaret Yost

RIGHT: Pictured is 3rd District President, Margaret Yost, opening the meeting.

American Legion Hosts Fall District Conference

The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary Departments of West Virginia, 3rd District, held their annual fall conference on Saturday, October 5, 2024. The conferences were held at the American Legion Post 31, Clarksburg.

American Legion Auxiliary 3rd District President, Margaret Yost, was presented with the gavel by American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13. The meeting was opened with a prayer by American Legion Auxiliary Unit 31 First Vice President, Marsha Duckworth, followed by the "Pledge of Allegiance" and recitation of the "Preamble to the American Legion Auxiliary Constitution" and "Mission Statement" During the meeting the members voted on donation of $50 toward President Laura Clark's special project and partnering with the ALA Foundation and the Veterans Project Fund to purchase five new AED's or Automatic External Defibrillators for the WV Veterans Home . Auxiliary members in attendance were from Buckhannon Unit 7, Shinnston Unit 31, Clarksburg Unit 13 and Morgantown Unit 174.

Following the business meeting a luncheon was served. There were 20 attendees.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Looking back on October 2024, we all remember all of the many advertisements and Breast Cancer Awareness Month. We were surrounded with pink and pink ribbons which bring a great deal of awareness to the cause and serve as a reminder to get a yearly mammogram.

However, it's now November, a different month with a different color and another cancer awareness month. November is Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month and the color is purple. Unfortunately, there is no early screening for pancreatic cancer.

I've been advocating for pancreatic cancer awareness since October 4, 2007, which is the day that my 38-year old brother passed away from pancreatic cancer. Until he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, just 18 months earlier, all I knew about cancer was the pink ribbon, because cancer didn't apply to my family. Because there is no early screening for pancreatic cancer, my brother was misdiagnosed several times, all the while his cancer was spreading.

When someone says to me, "I don't know anyone with pancreatic cancer," I say, "Until March 2006, I didn't either." You never know when pancreatic cancer will affect your family; it sure caught our family by surprise, and our lives have never been the same.

Just this year, pancreatic cancer claimed the lives of West Virginia Major League Baseball Player Doug Creek, "Days of our Lives" actor and former New York Yankee Drake Hogestyn, and Texas Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. This type of cancer also claimed the lives of actor dancer Patrick Swayze, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Apple Founder Steve Jobs, and the "Queen of Soul," Aretha Franklin. "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine" actress is a 16-year pancreatic cancer survivor.

By the end of 2024, an estimated 66,440 Americans will have been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in the United States, and more than 51,750 people will have died. Pancreatic cancer has surpassed breast cancer and is now the third leading cause of cancer related-death. Each day, 181 people are diagnosed with this terrible disease.

November is Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, and it would be great if we could see just half the purple in November than that of pink in October. Specifically, Thursday, November 21 is World Pancreatic Cancer Day sponsored by the World Pancreatic Cancer Coalition. Everyone can join in, just by wearing purple. Let's turn the world purple for just one day!

Since I have been volunteering for the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, the 5-year survival rate has risen from 5 percent to 13 percent. This is not nearly enough! We must all work together with our elected officials to increase federal funding for pancreatic cancer research. This starts by raising awareness – even if it's just wearing purple for just one day! I'm asking everyone who reads this to learn more about pancreatic cancer: go to www.pancan.org , and remember, wear purple on Thursday, November 21!

Annette Fetty-Santilli
Clarksburg, WV
304-621-3648

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Introducing the Newest Member of the UHC

Medical Staff: Anthony S. Oliva, MD, FACS

Anthony S. Oliva

Bridgeport, WV - General surgeon Anthony S. Oliva, MD, FACS, is coming from St. Joseph's Medical, Liverpool, NY, to join the medical staff of WVU Medicine United Hospital Center, as part of UHC General Surgery's Acute Care Surgery team. He will provide emergency surgery coverage and see patients in the hospital only.

Dr. Oliva received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Chemistry from the College of Holy Cross, Worcester, MA, before going on to earn a Master of Arts degree in Medical Science at Boston University, followed by his Doctor of Medicine degree, also from Boston University, School of Medicine.

He took his internship in general surgery at Mercy Hospital, Pittsburgh where he also was a resident in general surgery and then chief resident.

Dr. Oliva brings a wealth of experience to UHC, having practiced in Asheboro, NC, before moving to Liverpool, a suburb of Syracuse, NY, where he was born. Dr. Oliva has been a general surgeon in Liverpool for the past 18 years.

He is a board-certified surgeon and a member of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, as well as a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Oliva and his wife have five children. They look forward to being a part of the community.

Gov. Justice appoints First Lady Cathy Justice to State Board of Education

CHARLESTON, WV — Gov. Jim Justice announced today that he has appointed First Lady Cathy Justice to the West Virginia Board of Education.

The First Lady has been a tireless advocate for the children of West Virginia and has led numerous initiatives across the state. The hallmark of her service is the Communities In Schools program which has expanded to all 55 counties. She also pioneered the Friends With Paws program, having placed 42 therapy dogs in schools statewide, bringing additional comfort and support to West Virginia students.

First Lady Justice attended public schools in Beckley, before graduating from Marshall University in 1975 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education. She taught at schools in Raleigh County and has continued to use her background and experience in education to build pillars of support for children, helping to reinforce community support that addresses the ever-growing needs of students and families.

"Cathy has been an incredible champion for our students and schools," Gov. Justice said. "With her tireless work in bringing Communities In Schools to all 55 counties and her commitment to the Friends With Paws program, she's already shown a deep dedication to our students' well-being. I can't think of anyone better suited to help steer our Board of Education in the right direction."

"Because of our Communities In Schools program these last eight years, we have been able to provide hundreds of children with essential basic needs requirements to succeed at school by providing food, clothing, shelter, and medical services. Without these necessities, our children aren't able to compete on a level playing field. We want them to feel good about themselves personally and academically and be proud of where they come from. We want them to succeed in life," First Lady Justice said.

"I am honored to take on this role and to continue working to support our wonderful students, teachers, and families. Every child in West Virginia deserves a safe, welcoming environment where they can thrive. I look forward to contributing to the Board and helping our education system grow stronger for everyone."

Communities In Schools West Virginia is the First Lady's primary initiative. Program planning began in early 2017 and took root in West Virginia schools in 2018. Today, CIS operates statewide, providing basic needs, resources and mentoring to at-risk students and helping them stay in school and succeed. West Virginia is the only state in the country to have CIS operating in every county.

Through its partnership with the West Virginia Legislature and the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE), Communities In Schools impacts 117,000 students through the work of 298 site coordinators in 285 schools. As a result, 99% of students served have stayed in school, showing improved behavior, academic performance, and attendance.

Vulnerable student populations often need assistance extending beyond what schools or any one organization can provide. These site coordinators bring together local resources to meet the child's unique needs and reinforce support through consistent and sustained engagement. This allows the child and family to focus on school success.

Additionally, her Friends With Paws program has placed 42 therapy dogs in schools statewide, offering students companionship and emotional support in their daily lives. According to counselors, this program has opened communication channels with students and often leads to improved attendance and behavior.

Therapy dogs are specially trained to provide comfort and support to people in various tense environments. They can help people feel at ease, improve their mood, relieve anxiety, and remove social barriers. Therapy dogs are highly trained and certified to show their ability to work in stressful environments, ignore distractions, and provide therapy to people with diverse backgrounds and circumstances.

First Lady Cathy Justice was born in Beckley and raised in Prosperity. She continues to support her community by assisting local charity organizations and reading to children in schools. As First Lady, she has traveled the state speaking to students about the importance of attending school.

First Lady Justice will take the seat previously occupied by Dr. Danial Snavely and will serve a nine-year term.

Veterans Often Serve In Places Many Americans Wouldn't Expect

GRAPEVINE

By Rosalyn Queen

What does November 11 mean to you? On the calendar it says Veterans Day. Does this mean that it is a paid holiday from work? Does it mean a day to go out and enjoy a parade? It can mean a long weekend that will allow you to take a trip to the mountains for a vacation before the busy holidays.

As a young girl I can remember references to Veterans Day but not to the real meaning.

My story starts with my father Bill Burnett. He was an Italian immigrant who was born in San Giovanni in 1905. His father was Giovanni Oliverio who came to America when Dad was just two years old to get a job and then send for dad and my grandmother. He went to work at the Monongah mine and was killed there in the explosion. My grandmother remarried and her new husband Lougi Burnett brought the family to America. At this point my grandmother changed dad's name to Burnett. There is a little bit of a void as to just what went on with the family but many times I heard the story from my dad about him joining the service. Just another story of the Italian immigrant wanting to serve his country. As the story goes dad lied about his age to get into the Marines. So this means he enlisted at 17 which would make it 1922. He was so proud to be a Marine. His story always was only the "few and the proud" got to be a Marine. His story to us always ended there. Other than a Marine uniform in a trunk in the basement and a preserved bug about the size of your hand in a box which he said came from Nicaragua. He said he was at Quantico and went from there to Nicaragua.

As I wrote this I wondered why Nicaragua ?

There was a lot of turmoil going on in Nicaragua between foreign countries and the United States needed access to the land there to get products from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean by train. Marines were sent there to help preserve political stability in Central America. It later came in a declaration of Independence from Spain. Marines were there to maintain order and to train Nicaraguan soldiers. In 1931 Marines were absolved of responsibility for enforcing peace in Nicaragua.

Now I have an altogether different outlook on Veterans Day. I may never learn just what my dad did there but I know he was very proud to be a veteran. Let's all resolve to honor our veterans and to realize the role they have played in our freedom.

I firmly believe that all of our young adults should serve our country. I think it would make a difference in our youth. Well just my opinion.

Take care. Salute a Veteran. Stay healthy and until next week "Now You Have Heard It Through The Grapevine."

Manchin Leads 9th Annual Ride for Fallen Service Heroes

Charleston, WV – Today, U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (I-WV) served as the Special Guest Road Captain for the 9th Annual Ride for Fallen Service Heroes. This year's ride began at the Gold Star Monument at the West Virginia State Capitol and ended at the Veterans Memorial Arch in Huntington. The ride honored Fallen Service Heroes and showed support for Gold Star Families.

"Every year, I look forward to the Annual Ride for Fallen Service Heroes—a breathtaking tribute to our country's heroes across the beautiful rolling hills of our great state," said Senator Manchin. "Especially given West Virginia's status as one of the states with the highest number of Veterans per capita, it was a true privilege to once again be a part of this year's ride and honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our state and nation. This annual ride is a special way to pay homage to their extraordinary service and extend our unending gratitude to Gold Star families. I'm so grateful for everyone involved in making this event a reality."

WWW.SHINNSTONNEWS.COM

There Is Hope for a Future with Less Lung Cancer

November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month

Bridgeport, WV—November marks Lung Cancer Awareness Month. During this observance, UHC Lung Center would like to raise awareness about lung cancer as the leading cause of cancer deaths, with nearly 240,000 new diagnoses and almost 130,000 deaths from the disease in the U.S. each year.

"A lung cancer diagnosis is life-changing," said Keith Niggemyer, MD, FCCP, Medical Director of the UHC Lung Center. "Unfortunately, there may not be any signs or symptoms of the disease. That is why early detection is key for ease of treatment and saving lives."

In West Virginia, lung cancer accounts for 18% of all new cancer diagnoses. Lung cancer causes more cancer deaths than colorectal, prostate, and breast cancer combined.

"When detected and treated early, greater than 90% of my patients are cured," said Nicholas Baker, MD, FACS, thoracic surgeon at the UHC Lung Center. "That's why it's so important for those with risk factors to be screened annually."

During Lung Cancer Awareness Month the physicians at the UHC Lung Center wish to raise awareness about the leading cause of cancer death with the recognized symbol for lung cancer awareness—the white ribbon. The White Ribbon Project promotes awareness about lung cancer by changing public perception of the disease. Anyone with lungs can get lung cancer.

Join UHC as they stand in solidarity with the lung cancer community while highlighting the importance of lung screenings, acknowledging the progress that has been made, and giving us hope for the future. For more information about the White Ribbon Project, please visit--https://www.thewhiteribbonproject.org/. For more information concerning the UHC Lung Center please call 681-342 4500 or visit www.wvlungcenter.com.

401(k) limit increases to $23,500 for 2025, IRA limit remains $7,000

IR-2024-285, Nov. 1, 2024

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service announced that the amount individuals can contribute to their 401(k) plans in 2025 has increased to $23,500, up from $23,000 for 2024.

The IRS also issued technical guidance regarding all cost-of-living adjustments affecting dollar limitations for pension plans and other retirement-related items for tax year 2025 in Notice 2024-80, posted on IRS.gov.

Highlights of changes for 2025

The annual contribution limit for employees who participate in 401(k), 403(b), governmental 457 plans, and the federal government's Thrift Savings Plan is increased to $23,500, up from $23,000.

The limit on annual contributions to an IRA remains $7,000. The IRA catch-up contribution limit for individuals aged 50 and over was amended under the SECURE 2.0 Act of 2022 (SECURE 2.0) to include an annual cost-of-living adjustment but remains $1,000 for 2025.

The catch-up contribution limit that generally applies for employees aged 50 and over who participate in most 401(k), 403(b), governmental 457 plans, and the federal government's Thrift Savings Plan remains $7,500 for 2025. Therefore, participants in most 401(k), 403(b), governmental 457 plans and the federal government's Thrift Savings Plan who are 50 and older generally can contribute up to $31,000 each year, starting in 2025. Under a change made in SECURE 2.0, a higher catch-up contribution limit applies for employees aged 60, 61, 62 and 63 who participate in these plans. For 2025, this higher catch-up contribution limit is $11,250 instead of $7,500.

The income ranges for determining eligibility to make deductible contributions to traditional Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs), to contribute to Roth IRAs and to claim the Saver's Credit all increased for 2025.

Taxpayers can deduct contributions to a traditional IRA if they meet certain conditions. If during the year either the taxpayer or the taxpayer's spouse was covered by a retirement plan at work, the deduction may be reduced, or phased out, until it is eliminated, depending on filing status and income. (If neither the taxpayer nor the spouse is covered by a retirement plan at work, the phase-outs of the deduction do not apply.) Here are the phase-out ranges for 2025:

· For single taxpayers covered by a workplace retirement plan, the phase-out range is increased to between $79,000 and $89,000, up from between $77,000 and $87,000.

· For married couples filing jointly, if the spouse making the IRA contribution is covered by a workplace retirement plan, the phase-out range is increased to between $126,000 and $146,000, up from between $123,000 and $143,000.

· For an IRA contributor who is not covered by a workplace retirement plan and is married to someone who is covered, the phase-out range is increased to between $236,000 and $246,000, up from between $230,000 and $240,000.

· For a married individual filing a separate return who is covered by a workplace retirement plan, the phase-out range is not subject to an annual cost-of-living adjustment and remains between $0 and $10,000.

· The income phase-out range for taxpayers making contributions to a Roth IRA is increased to between $150,000 and $165,000 for singles and heads of household, up from between $146,000 and $161,000. For married couples filing jointly, the income phase-out range is increased to between $236,000 and $246,000, up from between $230,000 and $240,000. The phase-out range for a married individual filing a separate return who makes contributions to a Roth IRA is not subject to an annual cost-of-living adjustment and remains between $0 and $10,000.

· The income limit for the Saver's Credit (also known as the Retirement Savings Contributions Credit) for low- and moderate-income workers is $79,000 for married couples filing jointly, up from $76,500; $59,250 for heads of household, up from $57,375; and $39,500 for singles and married individuals filing separately, up from $38,250.

· The amount individuals can generally contribute to their SIMPLE retirement accounts is increased to $16,500, up from $16,000. Pursuant to a change made in SECURE 2.0, individuals can contribute a higher amount to certain applicable SIMPLE retirement accounts. For 2025, this higher amount remains $17,600.

· The catch-up contribution limit that generally applies for employees aged 50 and over who participate in most SIMPLE plans remains $3,500 for 2025. Under a change made in SECURE 2.0, a different catch-up limit applies for employees aged 50 and over who participate in certain applicable SIMPLE plans. For 2025, this limit remains $3,850. Under a change made in SECURE 2.0, a higher catch-up contribution limit applies for employees aged 60, 61, 62 and 63 who participate in SIMPLE plans. For 2025, this higher catch-up contribution limit is $5,250.

Details on these and other retirement-related cost-of-living adjustments for 2025 are in Notice 2024-80, available on IRS.gov.

USDA Funding to Help Farmers and Agricultural Producers in state

MORGANTOWN, W.Va., November 5, 2024 – Today, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development West Virginia State Director Ryan Thorn announced that Rural Development is investing $136,134 in grant funding to four farmers and agricultural producers through the Value-Added Producer Grant Program (VAPG).

"West Virginia's small agricultural producers are vital to our food supply and local economies," said Thorn. "Rural Development's Value-Added Producer Grant Program helps producers develop innovative products, develop new packaging, improve operational efficiencies, and ultimately generate additional income by expanding their product offerings and marketing that product to a new customer base. These VAPG investments are a testament of the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to supporting small businesses and Rural Development's continued priority of creating new opportunities for our rural communities from the bottom-up and middle-out."

Since 2021, Rural Development has invested more than $82 million to 259 rural small businesses, farmers and agricultural producers across West Virginia through its business programs.

The Value-Added Producer Grant program provides up to $250,000 to agricultural producers seeking to turn their raw crop and commodity into a new, more profitable finished product. The grant can be used to cover half the cost of a project, including working capital to help produce or market the product, or funding to conduct a feasibility study.

The following investments were announced:

In Monongalia County, Mon Valley Mushrooms will use a $20,000 VAPG grant to improve the processing techniques in producing gourmet and medicinal mushrooms and to help maximize the quality and quantity. This project is in Morgantown.

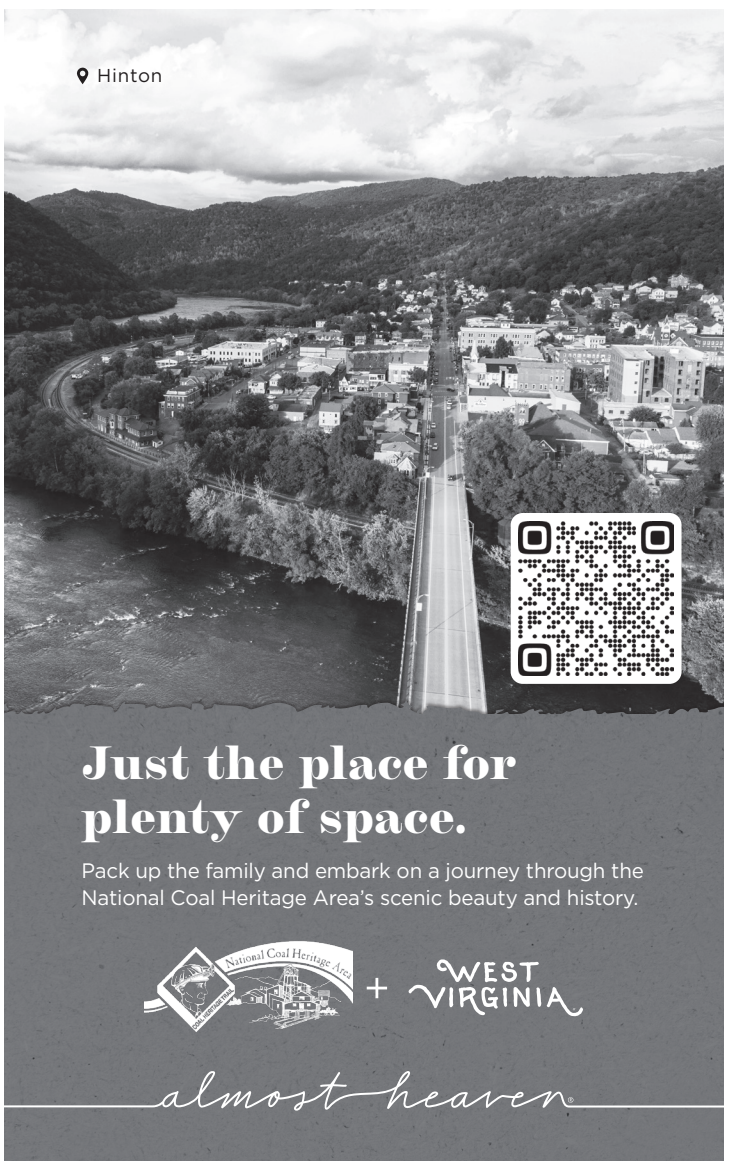
In Monroe County, Sunset Berry Farms will use a $49,999 VAPG grant to help expand its customer base to new farmers markets across the southern region of West Virginia. This project is in Alderson.

In Hampshire County, Margoah Farm will use a $19,441 VAPG grant to purchase supplies related to processing and packaging of frozen vegetables, items related to selling at local farmers markets, and for marketing new products. This project is in Capon Bridge, West Virginia.

In Preston County, Riffle Farms will use a $46,694 VAPG grant to increase production and marketing of bison meatballs as well as increase its customer base. This project is located in Terra Alta and is expected to create one job and save one job.

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. USDA Rural Development supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, tribal and high-poverty areas. Visit the Rural Data Gateway to learn how and where these investments are impacting rural America. For more information on Rural Development programs, visit www.rd.usda.gov/wv.

To subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates in West Virginia, visit our GovDelivery subscriber page



LEGAL

(2022-C-000703 - HARRISON COUNTY - RACHEL MAE WEBB)

To: KEVIN A. LOUGH C/O FLORA CAPICOLA - AGT, PBC ENERGY, LLC, 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** 0677 7099 0000

You will take notice that RACHEL MAE WEBB, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No.** 2022-C-000703, located in TENMILE OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, .0277 INT 76 AC O&G SALEM FK (EAST RESC/WOLF SUMMI, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of LOUGH KEVIN A, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of HARRISON County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on April 27, 2023. RACHEL MAE WEBB requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate on or after January 1, 2025, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before December 31, 2024, 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 2021 - 61975.	$	94.51
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 2022 - 62562.	$	24.76
Additional taxes with interest.	$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	$	216.55
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	$	523.98
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	$	364.47
Total Amount Due and Payable to **WV State Auditor** - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	**$**	**1,224.27**

You may redeem at any time before December 31, 2024 by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

Given under my hand October 9, 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

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WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Division of Highways
NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia until December 17, 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
003	2022170037	S317-50-6.08 00	NHPP-0050(433)D	STRUCTURE RENOVATION LOG CABIN BR WB +1 0.03 MILES WEST OF HARRISON CO. 5 **COUNTY:** HARRISON

BRIDGE: 2488.1 CONCRETE ON ROLLED I BEAM
SPAN(S): 3 **STRUCTURE STEEL:**
DBE GOAL: 12 % 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' licence 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 include one of the following forms properly executed with each proposal: Proposal Guaranty Bond, Cashier's Check, or Certified Check 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.

The scribe and the widow

From L'Osservatore Romano

In some of the traditional parts of Italy and certainly in other places too, widows dress in black even long after the death of their husbands, frequenting their parish churches and prayerfully supporting their communities. Someone even suggested that widows, mentioned for example in the Acts of the Apostles, formed the first "religious community". Gospel today presents a stark contrast between the figure of the widow and that of another person notable at the time of Jesus, namely the scribe. Strangely, widows are not mentioned in Matthew, except in one disputed verse and only twice in Mark, both in today's Gospel. They feature several times, however, in the Gospel of Luke.

Scribe and widow, what do they mean? The first represents the self-satisfaction of the person professionally formed, well-educated, secure of his status, who might have a tendency to look down on others and to expect an exaggerated deference. The widow is the person who, in the society in which Jesus lived, has lost her primary means of support and is therefore vulnerable, maybe needy and dependent.

Perhaps we can read this Gospel as a parable of the just relationship of the human person before greatness of grace. The scribe on the other hand has found his satisfaction in his status in this world. Not feeling the need, the doors of the open heart are closed. We are not, of course, talking at a literal level: there are certainly wicked widows and holy scribes. We are instead trying to read where we are and where we might be in the light of symbolic figures.

When Jesus comments at the end of the reading on the widow's two copper coins, he is drawing a contrast between "some" and "all". "Some" may be much and "all" may be little. But the large sums of the rich people are less significant than the paltry her whole living of the widow. Is the Lord inviting us not to be swayed primarily by quantity? It is quality that counts: this could be a salutary message in a world dominated by money.

By FR EDMUND POWER, OSB

Next Week At the Palette

By Bethany Nuzum

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

Calming Art

Thursday, November 14, 6:00-7:00pm, $20

Kids Paint

Friday, November 22, 1:00 - 2:00pm. $10.

The current exhibit, "The Mini Show" includes work from nine local artists.

The Shop at the Palette is featuring holiday items and one-of-a-kind gifts and cards.

New Hours: Thursdays, 4-6:00pm, Fridays and Saturdays 12-3:00pm unless otherwise noted on social media.

Check thepalettewv on Facebook/Instagram for more upcoming classes, events, and to see what we will be painting. Email Bethany Nuzum at thepalettewv@gmail.com to register and or more information.

OPM Releases 2024 Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey Results

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) today released the 2024 OPM Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey (FEVS) results, the largest worldwide survey of government employees that annually tracks how employees view workforce management, policies, and new initiatives. This year's results show steady improvement in nearly all areas and the highest-ever Employee Engagement Index (EEI) score since OPM began tracking the metric in 2010. The EEI assesses the critical aspects of an engaged workforce including perception of leadership, supervisors, and intrinsic work experience.

From day one, the Biden-Harris Administration has focused on rebuilding and strengthening the federal workforce, including supporting agencies in building their workforce capacity to deliver on their missions, improving pay for blue collar feds (like electricians, plumbers, carpenters, and wildland firefighters), issuing regulations to strengthen civil service protections to ensure that federal employees are hired and evaluated based on merit and are free from undue partisan influence, and strengthening the voices of frontline employees through resetting labor relations and launching the Task Force on Worker Organizing and Empowerment led by Vice President Harris. These policy efforts, coupled with the commitment and dedication of leaders and supervisors across the government to developing and engaging their workforces, is making a difference and this year's FEVS results speak for themselves.

"Leaders across the Biden-Harris Administration—and managers and supervisors across government—have prioritized rebuilding their workforces and engaging them on the issues most important to them," said OPM Acting Director Rob Shriver. "And now we are seeing the results, with the highest ever score on the Employee Engagement Index, and strong results across the board. I'm proud to serve in an Administration that not only values its employees, but also knows the work is never done and we always need to keep improving."

2024 OPM FEVS highlights include:

The Employee Engagement Index (EEI) assesses critical aspects of an engaged workforce, including perceptions of leadership and supervisors and overall employee experience. This year, the governmentwide EEI sets a new benchmark high of 73, a one percentage point increase from 2023 and the highest EEI score observed since introduction of the index to the FEVS in 2010. Additionally:

87% of respondents reported their supervisor treats them with respect and 78% say they have trust and confidence in their supervisor

79% of respondents report their supervisor supports employee development

The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) Index was developed to align with Executive Order 14035 and measures how employees perceive diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility characteristics in the workplace. The 2024 governmentwide overall DEIA score is 72, an increase from 2023.

All measures of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility have shown a steady and consistent increase since 2022

The overall DEIA Index has increased 3 points since 2022 when the index was created

The Global Satisfaction Index (GSI) measures employees' satisfaction on aspects related to their work: job, organization, pay, as well as willingness to recommend their organization. The 2024 governmentwide score shows a one percentage point increase over 2023.

Job satisfaction has increased steadily over the last two years

Willingness to recommend one's organization has increased by 4 percentage points over the last two years

The Performance Confidence Index (PCI) assesses employees' perception of their work unit's ability to achieve goals and produce effectively. PCI results have been strong and consistent over the past several FEVS administrations.

88% of survey respondents said their work group meets the needs of customers and 86% say their work group contributes to agency performance

The Employee Experience Index (EXI) measures the extent to which employees are engaged by their work and their organization, providing an evaluation of whether actions taken to build engagement have actually had the intended effect. EXI results increased from a score of 73 in 2023 to 74 in 2024.

79% of respondents reported they identify with the mission of their organization, and 92% said it was important to them that their work contribute to the common good

The FEVS is an organizational climate survey and assesses how employees experience the policies, practices, and procedures at their agency. Results from the OPM FEVS offer insights into whether the workplace conditions that characterize successful organizations are present in Federal agencies.

The 2024 FEVS fielding occurred in two waves, beginning May 13th and ending on July 5th. The 2024 governmentwide response rate was 41%, an increase from the 2023 response rate of 39%.

For the full collection of data, see the OPM FEVS dashboard. This tool provides the public with a dynamic way to access and visualize governmentwide and agency-size survey results and trends of the past five years. New content in the 2024 dashboard release features inclusion of results by Federal Executive Board region and will enhance each Board's ability to address specific challenges within their geographical area.