



Hey Ref! You All Are Citizens of the Month!



A WVSSAC varsity official observes the tip off of a game last season. Photo courtesy of Light in Motion Photography.

By Stephen Smoot

Basketball and wrestling seasons have fallen into the rearview mirror with baseball, softball, and track just starting. Attention from almost all goes into their own team's chance to field a competitive squad, the capabilities of rivals and other opponents, as well as, of course, how well one's own loved one will perform.

Little attention, however, goes into the part of the game that ensures a fair chance at a good outcome. That role gets played by referees, umpires, line judges, and all others who spend a lot of time, and make hardly any money, regulating the ebb and flow of games and other competitions.

In 2023, the National Association of Sports Officials reported that 51 percent of youth or high school game officials "have felt unsafe" or "feared for their safety" due to "administrator, coach, player, or spectator behavior." This has led to, as the Denver Post reported, the fact that "approximately 50,000 officials have left the high school ranks nationally since the 2018-19 school year."

The same organization reported that

43 percent got involved in officiating due to "the love of the game."

That love attracted former Washington Irving High School champion basketball coach Donnie Kopp into the field."

"I knew at the tender age of six that I wanted to be a high school coach," shared Kopp. That influence came from the legendary Harrison County coach John Mazzie. As Kopp tells, he "became a legend coaching at a legendary school that is no longer in existence. The name of that school was VICTORY HIGH SCHOOL."

There "Coach Mazzie lit the fire that I carried for basically the rest of my life."

It burned as he took the court as a player, then the sidelines as a coach. "In 1988, a career change occurred. My first season of not coaching was the hardest of my life. I missed everything about the game and struggled to get through that first season."

Passion and love for the game drives a young man or woman to go to the wall for their sport. They develop knowledge and physical skills, relationships with teammates.

See "Ref" Pg 6

The Shinnston News & Harrison County Journal has named refs and umpires all as Citizens of the Month, a recognition sponsored by Dorsey Funeral Home in Shinnston – locally owned and operated.

County Commission Discusses Status of Proposed Animal Control Building



By Stephen Smoot

Harrison County Commission President Susan Thomas opened last week's regular meeting with a moment of silence dedicated to Lost Creek Council member Joanie Oliverio, married 25 years to husband David, mayor of the same town.

"She passed away suddenly Sunday morning," shared Thomas.

During public comment, a gentleman named Larry Cann addressed the Commission. He shared that he received notice via certified letter on a Saturday that his property was in violation of the dilapidated structures ordinance.

"It wasn't even my property," noted Cann. He added "I've since received a letter saying it's no longer my issue."

The structure in question belonged to another

resident in the area. Cann received the notice by mistake, but questioned why letters are sent out in such a way as the recipient gets them on Saturday. He added that if it was his building, he'd have no idea how to pay to rectify the issue.

He was followed by Dave Sutton "a recovering addict" who appeared to talk about use of opioid funds.

Next, Commissioners heard a request for \$2,000 to support the annual clerks' meeting. Funding would support trainings, presentations and other activities. Answering Commissioner David Hinkle's inquiry as to whether it would be simpler to have that office do a budget revision, Harrison County Administrator Laura Pysz-Laulis explained that would create complexity instead. State regulations on spending would come into

See "Animal Control" Pg 6



15 Steps

By Jim Hunt for the News & Journal

Lately, I have been thinking about fifteen steps.

Not fifteen steps to success or fifteen steps to a better life. Just fifteen actual steps, the number of stairs from the first floor of my office to the second.

Like a lot of people these days, I spend far too much time sitting. Between Zoom calls, writing, emails, and staring at a computer screen, it is entirely possible to have a full workday and never get more exercise than reaching for a coffee cup. By evening, I feel as though I have been very busy while accomplishing absolutely nothing that would impress a personal trainer.

A couple of months ago, I was reading some material from the Prevent+Protect program about healthy habits and small lifestyle changes. It got me thinking that maybe the answer was not some grand plan involving a gym membership, a strict diet, and the kind of self-discipline usually found only in Olympic athletes and people who voluntarily eat kale chips. Maybe the better answer was something small enough that I would actually do it.

So, I made a deal with myself. Every time I go upstairs at the office, I walk the stairs three times. There are fifteen steps. I go to the top, turn around, come back down, and do it again. Then once more for good measure.

See "Hunt" Pg 3

Shinnston Announces Street Cleanup Dates In Neighborhoods

By Leigh C. Merrifield

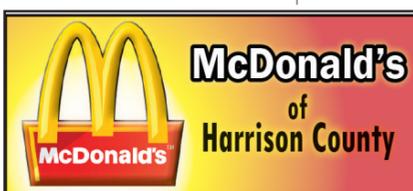
When calendars tell us that the Spring season has arrived, thoughts turn to Spring cleaning projects - both inside homes and outdoor yard tasks. This is a undertaking for communities as well, and Shinnston City Manager Tori Drainer says their plans are in place and they are ready to begin!

"We are hoping that the cold weather and snow have come to an end and that we can prepare for a fresh start," she said. "Our Public Works Department will begin street sweeping on April 1st and will follow a neighborhood schedule through May 1st. A 'fresh start' means that many people will return to a regular routine of walking and kids will be riding their bicycles again. So it's time to remove cinders and all the winter debris."

She further explained that this not only gives our community a more attractive appearance and lends curb appeal to neighborhoods, but this is needed maintenance. "A lot of road treatments were required this winter and the remains of that accumulated," she added. "Often this debris washes into storm drain systems and can block sewers and drains and cause flooding. We want to avoid that and keep our storm drains clear."

The City requests residents' cooperation while this project is ongoing. While streets will not be closed, in order to do this effectively, no street parking will be

See "Cleanup" Pg 3



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 Conscience of a State Legislator

By Stephen Smoot

In 2018, Raylee Browning was removed from school by her parents who expressed the desire to homeschool her. The eight year old subsequently died of abuse and neglect with child advocates proposing a law that would prevent those under investigation from Child Protective Services from removing children from school. From 2019 to today, a bill has run in her memory.

For what West Virginia Metro News reported, the final 48 minutes of the regular session of the West Virginia State Legislature debated the bill, which did not pass.

This op-ed will not take a stand on whether the bill should have been passed or not. Many will speak on that, one way or the other. Debate over Raylee's Law instead will serve here as a prime example of how to break down how and why a State Legislator chooses to vote one way, the other, or sometimes not at all. Knowing how an elected official makes decisions is key to understanding the outcomes.

Sure it's easy and fun to ridicule and bash elected officials, but sometimes it's better to understand.

First, almost every member of the West Virginia State Legislature, regardless of whether Democrat or Republican, goes there for the right purposes and to do the right thing. They sincerely wish to do right by their people, their district and the state. Both parties have different visions of how to do that. Each party has factions with different visions on how to do that. No individual comes with the precise same vision as any other.

They each bring their own priorities based on their experiences and the stated needs of their district. They each have to face the reality that on issues with which they have little familiarity; they will drink from a firehose to try and figure out the best path forward. Some will rely on more knowledgeable colleagues, others will tap the expertise of friends in business, think tanks, chambers of commerce, social service agencies, or others.

And they do not have the luxury that every citizen has of considering issues independently of anything else. In a State Legislative session, everything is linked through the limited resources of time allotted and money budgeted.

But some issues, like Raylee's Law, go far beyond that. They call on a Legislator to examine the information, put it next to his or her thought process, and make a judgment call with real consequences regardless of the choice made.

Child advocates have the emotion of the issue on their side. Could Raylee's life have been saved had she been at public school? Maybe. She would have been under the supervision of mandated reporters all day long who could have perhaps discerned her abuse and would have reported it to Child Protective Services. Or maybe not.

Homeschool advocates point out, rightfully so, that CPS workers sometimes go farther than the

See "Smoot" Pg 3

Super Crossword

MEAGER MEAL

ACROSS

1 Colon's meaning in analogies
5 Casino IOU
9 Honcho
13 Fruits to bob for
19 Flow slowly
20 Jay of jest
21 Sinful
22 Artist Monet
23 Free
25 — avis (unusual thing)
26 Ottawa's land
27 Start of a riddle
30 By means of
31 Response to a punch
32 Clunker
33 State whose cap. is Boise
35 Riddle, part 2
46 Touch-me- (explosive plants)
48 Cellphone game, often
49 — Trapp family
50 Stable animal
51 Riddle, part 3
58 Locality
59 Squirms, as in pain

60 Film critic Roger
61 Propelled a bicycle
63 Acting prize
64 Made a run for it
65 — extra cost
66 The, in Paris
67 Riddle, part 4
73 Pool length
76 "Jeepers!"
77 Margarine, quaintly
78 — salts
82 Vocalist with the 2018 hits "Boo'd Up" and "Trip"
84 Lyric poets
86 Sweet wine of Portugal
88 Map out
89 Riddle, part 5
92 Gobble down
94 Big Brit. lexicon
95 Tooth doctor's org.
96 Auth. unknown
97 End of the riddle
104 British verb suffix
105 Toward a boat's back
106 Wiggly fish

107 Klutzy type
109 Riddle's answer
120 Regain a conscious state
121 Challenge
122 Fitness club machine
123 Consolidator
124 Iran's home
125 "Jeepers!"
126 Around H'wood, e.g.
127 Go to bed
128 Comply with
129 Lone
130 Novelist Jennifer

DOWN

1 Caesar's "vidi," translated
2 "Late Night" host Meyers
3 Able to read minds
4 Express a view
5 Musical staff symbol
6 One who saves the day
7 Wild about
8 Pomeranian, e.g.
9 Deprived (of)

10 Egg-shaped
11 Assistant on iPhones
12 Pomeranian, e.g.
13 Accumulate, as interest
14 Modeling compound for kids
15 Twinge of guilt, e.g.
16 Oahu feast
17 Water whirl
18 Briny body
24 Sharp remark
28 Cry of Homer Simpson
29 Actor Byrnes or fielder Roush
33 Halved
34 Entryways
36 Go very fast
37 Numbered musical work
38 FedEx rival
39 State firmly
40 Variety
41 Like most musical works with five sharps
42 Civil rights figure Parks
43 Dentist's tool
44 Lauder of cosmetics
45 Oboe inserts

47 Occupy, as a table
52 Morel or enoki, informally
53 Narrate
54 Comply with
55 City that's home to Tufts University
56 As far as
57 Carnival shelter
62 End of a college's URL
64 Go very fast
65 Earlier
68 Language of Bangkok
69 Infamous Idi
70 Ye — Shoppe
71 Relaxation
72 Met offering
73 Cartoon skunk Pepé
74 Islamic God
75 "Oro y —" (Montana's motto)
79 Representing
80 Often-twisted cookies
81 French river or department
83 "... some kind of —?"

84 Ran in the wash
85 Q7 or A8 carmaker
86 Lead-in to care or gap, in health care
87 Impose — on (illegalize)
90 Gear tooth
91 Owns
93 Book of hymns
98 From the distant past
99 High degree
100 Conquer
101 That gal
102 A-list groups
103 Yummy
108 Apt first name for a general?
109 Actress Skye
110 Leave off
111 — pot (congestion clearer)
112 Cain's father
113 Flower jar
114 Lake abutting Ohio
115 Thus
116 Close tightly
117 Lose vibrancy
118 Spanish pot
119 — Bator, Mongolia
120 Mean mutt

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Find the Super Crossword Answers on Page 4!

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.

March 26, 1851: Upshur County was created from parts of Randolph, Lewis and Barbour counties, with Buckhannon as the county seat.

March 26, 1863: The state's first constitution was overwhelmingly ratified by the voters, by a majority of 28,321 to 572. The constitution was drafted during the state's first Constitutional Convention at the federal custom house in Wheeling.

March 26, 1920: Aviator Rose Agnes Rolls Cousins was born. She was the first Black woman to become a solo pilot in the Civilian Pilot Training Program at West Virginia State College (now University). She was prevented from joining the Tuskegee Airmen due to her gender.

March 27, 1826: Laura Jackson Arnold, the younger sister of Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, was born in Clarksburg. During the Civil War, she was a staunch Unionist and opened her home to care for sick and injured troops.

March 27, 1917: Statesman Cyrus Roberts Vance was born in Clarksburg. In 1977, President Carter tapped Vance as his secretary of state. Vance was instrumental in negotiating the Camp David Accords and the Panama Canal Treaty.

March 27, 1950: During an eight-hour period, 191 wildfires destroyed 20,122 acres of forestland in Mingo County. Winds as high as 65 m.p.h. were recorded in the town of Sprigg.

March 28, 1870: State officials, with state records and property, boarded the steamboat Mountain Boy, one of six steamboats that moved West Virginia's capital from Wheeling to Charleston.

March 28, 1941: Musician Charlie McCoy was born in Oak Hill. One of the most significant harmonica players in country music history, his work can also be heard on rock 'n' roll albums, including several by Bob Dylan. He was musical director for the Hee Haw TV show.

March 28, 1943: Actress Conchata Ferrell was born in Loudendale, Kanawha County. She appeared in many films and TV shows, earning Emmy nominations for her work on L. A. Law and Two and a Half Men.

March 28, 1945: Clinton M. Hedrick of Pendleton



March 30, 1926: Actor, singer and game show host Peter Marshall was born Ralph Pierre LaCock in Clarksburg. His career included Broadway, television and more than 5,000 episodes as host of The Hollywood Squares.

County was killed in action near Wessel, Germany, shortly before the end of World War II in Europe. His actions at Lembeck Castle earned him a posthumous Medal of Honor.

March 29, 1834: Henry Mason Mathews, the fifth governor of West Virginia, was born at Frankford, Greenbrier County. During his administration, riots and strikes occurred, including the national railroad strike of 1877, which began at Martinsburg.

March 29, 1858: Clay County was created from parts of Nicholas and Braxton counties and named for Henry Clay, U.S. senator from Kentucky.

March 30, 1837: The Virginia legislature granted a charter to establish a private academy at West Liberty in Ohio County. The first class of 65 students met in the home of the Rev. Nathan Shotwell in 1838. That school is now West Liberty University.

March 31, 1919: Governor John Jacob Cornwell signed legislation that created the West Virginia State Police. He appointed Jackson Arnold, grandnephew of Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson and former executive officer of the 1st West Virginia Infantry, as first superintendent.

March 31, 1943: The first synthetic rubber was shipped from the U.S. Rubber Company plant in Institute, Kanawha County. The U.S. government worked with Union Carbide to make the material during World War II because the nation had been cut off from 90 percent of its natural rubber supply.

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“Smoot”

law and ethics permit. Their mission of protecting children can push them toward overstepping bounds. In 2015, the West Virginia Law Review published “Lifting the Burden: Protecting Parental Rights in West Virginia.” It shared that federal laws concerning child protection by government action allowed that “it is possible to terminate a parent’s parental rights on the basis of past laws alone, without any current evidence showing abuse or neglect to the child in question.” It later added that “there is a risk that the State will seek to proceed with termination rights without satisfying the constitutionally protected procedural safeguards requiring states to carry the burden of presenting clear and convincing evidence to prove termination is necessary.”

Additionally “the application by some lower courts in West Virginia of the substantive provision of the West Virginia Child Protective Services Act has resulted in unconstitutional violations of their substantive due process rights, which, coupled with procedural deficits . . . create extremely difficult hurdles for parents to overcome for parents who have lost parental rights in the past, but who may pose no risk to their later-born children.”

Translating from legalese, this partly means that the same gray area in the law that can allow for CPS workers to act decisively can also lead to CPS worker abuses that can cause children significant trauma.

This situation describes a number of families in West Virginia who have had members “get clean” and stay that way, but still face challenges such as poverty, dysfunction, and other aspects of life in economically challenged households. Many of these may present as neglectful to those who have only lived middle and upper class lives, but are actually honest good efforts by parents with limited resources whose children are still happy and thriving.

Another factor to add in lies in the potential for abuse and neglect of children in the school system itself.

One should remember that the vast minority of educators and school staff commit offenses against children, on or off the job.

Headlines about that small number of malefactors, however, continue to share disturbing information. Just last week, the Grafton High School band director was arrested and charged with failure to report the sexual assault of a student. Berkeley County has also struggled with special education aides abusing disabled children.

A New York City teacher just last week was caught by a parent who read their child’s phone texts. She had groomed him with tales of her bad marriage, lured him into a sexual relationship, then cruelly tried to manipulate him into continuing by threatening to kill herself if he broke it off. He dealt with this by himself until parents found the messages. A Mineral County teacher and coach

was arrested this year for filming pornographic videos with underage students in both Mineral and Grant counties.

In Berkeley County, an entire school was declared unfit. Martinsburg North Middle School not that long ago had direct intervention from the State because the administration had lost disciplinary control of the entire school.

While those problems sound epidemic, remember that almost all teachers have zero desire or inclination to harm a child in any way and the same can be said of parents. School systems in West Virginia generally do the best they can to deliver the best possible education to students in safety and security. It’s as difficult to identify an abusive-minded teacher as it is to identify an abusive-minded parent.

These realities, however, leave the Legislator and Legislature evaluating whether or not to vote for Raylee’s Law a muddy set of circumstances from which to make a decision.

Many said of Raylee’s Law “if it protects one child, it’s worth it,” which is a powerful and emotional appeal, but a poor foundation of sound policy. Wise Legislators will move past emotional appeals and consider the topic from the stance of reason, wherever reason may take them. Absolute statements sound clean and applicable in every instance, but close examination tends to reveal ways in which blanket applications can harm more than help. Sound policy demands that a person rendering judgment on it consider its impact in all possible ways.

A wise State Legislator always considers the “law of unintended consequences” when approaching a major decision. What are possible negative impacts or harms that could occur from passing this act? Would those impacts overshadow the potential good from it?

At times, the cumulative impact of negatives outweighs any benefit brought by the act. The West Virginia State Legislature repealed the open high school student-athlete transfer rule that it passed in recent years for this very reason. No one foresaw that it would force the cancellations of entire athletic seasons when student-athletes followed the allure of the big city. Whatever benefit it brought was deemed to be outweighed by the damage caused, damage to student-athletes and schools that cannot be undone.

A conscientious State Legislator must, when looking at Raylee’s Law, examine what condition would do the most to protect and the least to harm, children. No human institution is free from making mistakes or employing people who abuse, rather than respect, their power. It’s generally easiest also to use one’s power to abuse those who have little power themselves.

Parents have the potential to neglect or abuse. School employees have the potential to neglect or abuse. CPS workers have the ability to run

cont. from p. 2

roughshod over others with power. These are not truths that one enjoys considering, but all are truths and cannot be set aside.

“Dilemma” has very specific meanings. Christopher Cowley from the Department of Philosophy of the University of Bristol, notes that making a dilemma-based decision often involves “inescapable moral wrongdoing.” This means that one must make a decision that will have the potential to create harm regardless of the choice. He notes that “even a good person is forced to choose a wrong.”

As a State Legislator, the type of dilemma that he or she faces comes from role responsibility, as Cowley states. He or she who “is a public official with the duty to promote the interest of the city he runs and the citizens who inhabit it.” That can also lead to difficulties in choices because the interest of the collected city, state, or nation may conflict with the interest of one or more large groups of citizens, each of whom thinks they have the moral high ground.

It is as easy for most members of the public to quickly condemn an elected official for the same reason one can easily condemn a quarterback for a decision on the field that led to a good outcome.

Most observers know a little bit about how the government, or a football offense, works. Very few have served in elected office or played quarterback. The real knowing of what they must consider and weigh before making major decisions, the soul searching, the agonized examination of all points of view, is not apparent to most. It happens on the drive home from Charleston, or in discussions with close colleagues. Or during sleepless hours at night.

The higher the stakes, up to and including the life of a child or the well-being of a family, the more stress and distress the State Legislator quietly feels.

There is no easy answer here, no direction to suggest they go to find solutions that will bring perfect results. There’s no neat present of insight here wrapped up with a bow. That’s life. They have to make their choices as best they can and hope for the best possible outcomes from them. They should, however, receive grace when they do make the decision. They had the courage to run for office, stand in front of the state, and make decisions in its best interest.

Whether the Legislator’s decisions are good, bad, or ugly, the intent behind them is almost always to do as right as they can. One may disagree with the decision and still find the decision-maker honest.

President John F. Kennedy stated it best by mangling the text of an obscure Spanish poem. He noted that:

*Bullfight critics row on row
Fill the enormous Plaza de Toros
But only one is there who knows
And he is the one who fights the bull*

“Cleanup”

permitted while sweeping is being done. This will ensure that Public Works can do a thorough curb-to-curb cleanup. Work will begin at 8 a.m. each morning, so please ensure that cars are OFF THE STREETS!

Below is a list of dates during which street sweeping will occur in specific locales:

- April 1 – 3 Route 19 from Gibby’s to Lincoln

- High School
- April 6 – 10 (Ward 2) All downtown areas, High St., Beech St., Locust St., Maple St., Fleming Way, and Wood Lawn
- April 13 – 17 (Ward 3) All Pleasant Hill areas, Harvey St., South 2 nd, Park St., Beechwood, Oakwood, Jarvis, Columbia, and Fleming Sts.

- April 20-24 (Ward 1) All East Shinnston Sts.
 - April 27 – May 1 (Ward 4) All West Side Sts.
- Please be considerate and adhere to NO ON-STREET PARKING while work is being done in your neighborhood; you can resume parking on streets when sweeping in your neighborhood is completed.

cont. from p. 1

“Hunt”

Since the bathroom is upstairs, life has provided a built-in accountability system. I probably make that trip about five times a day, which means I am getting in a fair amount of extra movement without having to carve out a special time for exercise or put on stretchy pants. Best of all, I have not missed the routine in two months.

That may not sound like much, but I have come to appreciate the power of small habits. Healthy change does not always arrive with dramatic music and a brand-new wardrobe. Sometimes it starts with stairs. Sometimes it starts with parking farther away, drinking more water, or choosing to move instead of scroll.

I was reminded of that recently during a long layover at the airport. Like most people, I had

every intention of finding a chair, planting myself in it, and spending forty-five minutes looking at things on my phone that I did not need to see. Instead, I decided to take a tour of the terminal. With my little rollaboard suitcase trailing behind me, it was easier than I imagined. I walked from one end of the terminal to the other, looked in a few shops, watched people rushing to gates, and felt better for having moved around. The forty-five minutes of TikTok scrolling that I missed out on were put to much better use, and I cannot say that my life suffered one bit from not learning what three strangers were cooking in air fryers.

That got me thinking about how easy it is to fit movement into the cracks of the day if we just make up our minds to do it.

The interesting thing about habits is that good ones can become just as natural as bad ones. No one gets hooked on cigarettes with one puff, but once the action becomes familiar, the brain begins to

connect it with comfort, routine, and relief. Before long, the hand reaches without much thought.

Good habits can work the same way. Once you decide to do something small and keep doing it, your brain begins to help you along. What felt awkward starts to feel normal. Then it becomes part of the day. Then it becomes part of you.

Most of us do not change our lives in one bold, sweeping moment. We change by repeating manageable things until they stick. Fifteen steps at a time. One walk through the airport. Ten reps with an eight-pound weight. Small choices, repeated often enough, become a way of life.

At this stage of life, I am more interested in habits I can sustain than grand promises I will abandon by next Thursday. So I am sticking with my fifteen steps. They are simple, they are doable, and they remind me that progress does not always come in giant leaps.

Sometimes it comes one stair at a time.

cont. from p. 1

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The End of the Season For County Basketball teams!



The Bottom Line

By Bill Nestor
Sports Editor

The basketball season came to an end this past week for Harrison County teams. A pair of teams represented in Class AAA defending champion Bridgeport and Robert C. Byrd. Both squads had aspirations of garnering a state championship. Charleston was kind to the Indians a year ago and the Flying Eagles were making a second consecutive trip down I-79 to Charleston.

Robert C. Byrd opened up against top-seeded Chapmanville and found themselves down early. Behind Tiger buckets and whistles (14 first half fouls were called on the Flying Eagles) RCB was staring at a 41 to 24 halftime deficit. Logan Boyce was the lone bright spot for a team that looked shell-shocked from all of the first half calls. Boyce netted 13 first half points to keep his team in the game.

Chapmanville, one of the tallest teams in the state (6'7, 6'6, and 6'4 inside and 6'4 and 6'3 on the perimeter) had a distinct size advantage, but the Flying Eagles were quicker and more athletic. Veteran mentor Basil Lucas decided to get aggressive after the break and the move paid off on both sides of the floor. Robert C. Byrd scored 19 third quarter points and held the Tigers to a game low 15 to cut into the disadvantage.

Heading into the final period of play, the Flying Eagles went to a full court man press that dazed and confused Chapmanville. With a minute and a half left in regulation, RCB had cut the Tigers lead to five, but the fouls kept coming and Chapmanville would make just just enough

free money shots (seven made) down the stretch to hold on for a 75 to 68 win. Chapmanville would shoot 43 free throws in the game while the Flying Eagles attempted seven.

Boyce led RCB with a game high 22 points while Cam Neusaunn added 19 and Elijah Holmes netted 11.

Bridgeport geared up play with a 58 to 57 win over East Fairmont. After a sluggish start (just nine first quarter points) the tribe outscored the Bees by 10 points in the second game to take a 26 to 17 halftime lead. It remained close until the fourth quarter when the Indians scored 23 points to pull away. Aayron Dodd led Bridgeport with 20 points and four blocked shots. Anderson McDougal hit for 17 points and had four steals. Daniel Riley had seven points and a team high seven rebounds in the victory.

The Indians had a rematch from the regular season in the semi-finals against North marion. It was a game of runs, and for the Tribe, they had less of them than the Huskies ending their run at back-to-back championships.

After trailing for the majority of the first half, Bridgeport managed to get back to striking distance just before the break. A 10 to three run brought the Indians within single digits at 31 to 23. North Marion, however, a team that was running and gunning from the start began the third period like they had finished the first frame. The Huskies led 17 to six after the first and a nine to one start to the third pushed their lead out to 16. North marion would cruise to a 62 to 46 win.

McDougal was the lone double-digit scorer for the Tribe with 18 points and a team high five rebounds.

Even though the season didn't end the way that either team would have liked, they still represented the area well. Congratulations to Bridgeport and RCB for fantastic seasons!

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



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

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

By Bill Nestor

The Harrison County athletes in the spotlight this week are Bridgeport's Anderson McDougal and RCB's Logan Boyce.

Indian hoopster Anderson McDougal scored 35 points in two games at the state basketball tournament last week.

Flying Eagle hoopster Logan Boyce finished his high school career with a 22 point effort in a loss to Chapmanville at the state basketball tournament this past week.

Congratulations to Bridgeport's Anderson McDougal and RCB's Logan Boyce for shining bright in the Sn and HCJ spotlight!

Shinnston Youth Triumph In State Wrestling Tournament



River and Bearett Miker from Shinnston West Virginia competed in the WVYWA West Virginia Youth Wrestling tournament this past weekend Feb 28 through March 1

The tournament consists of a regional tournament where the top 8 wrestlers in typical 32 man brackets including Harrison/Marion/Mon and all counties east through the eastern panhandle compete for region two qualifying spots. Once qualified the wrestlers face the entire state with no separations other than age and weight.

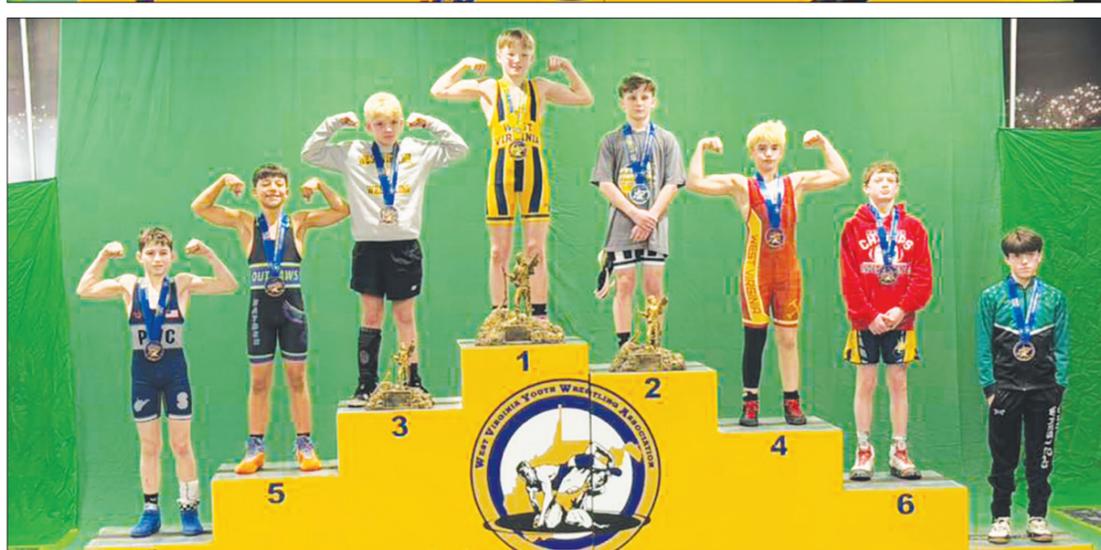
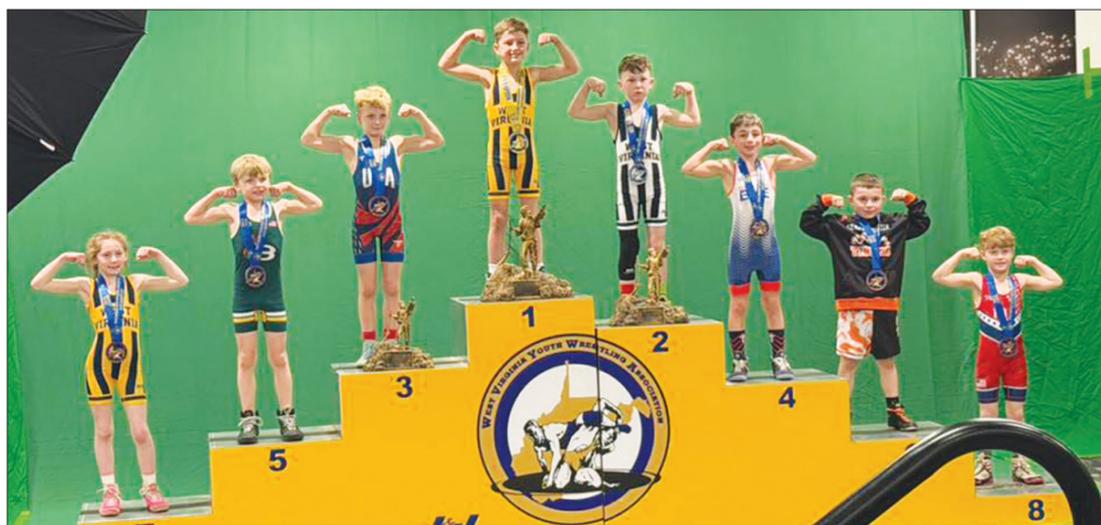
Bearett Miker was the 1 seed in the 8u 60lb bracket and went undefeated without allowing an offensive point and River Miker 12u 95 also went undefeated without allowing a point in the regional bracket making them both region 2 champions.

Both boys faced stiff competition at the state tournament as Bearett lost a match on day one and bounced back to take 3rd place in the state finishing with a record of 7-1 avenging his only loss in his third place match and outscoring his opponents 73-6 with two falls(pins), two technical falls and two major decisions. Bearett finished the season with only two losses in West Virginia.

River Miker finished his bracket with a record of 5-0 including two falls(pins) and a major decision for 1st place making him the 12u 95 West Virginia State Champion. River finished the season with no losses in the state of West Virginia.

This win now makes River a West Virginia Folkstyle and Freestyle state champion. Other notable victories include a Jr Powerade championship last year in Cannonsburg, Pa where he defeated State champions from New York, Tennessee, and Pennsylvania on his way to victory in a very tough tournament.

The Miker brothers train in Shinnston, WV.



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Neighbors Helping Neighbors

By Leigh C. Merrifield

A family in Clarksburg suffered a major, devastating fire recently. While many people have been fortunate enough to have dodged this sort of disaster happening to them, most can certainly appreciate the trauma it must surely cause.

Thankfully, this family (with two small children) escaped injury, but their home and all of its contents and personal belongings were destroyed ... their sense of security was shocked in disbelief! However, they were not left to face this tragedy alone.

The Clarksburg Fire Department received mutual aid from Bridgeport firefighters; and considering the severity of this fire with a family left homeless, the Clarksburg Fire Department reached out to their chaplain, Rev. Michael Burge, who serves as pastor of Shinnston First United Methodist Church. Rev. Burge is also a volunteer firefighter in Shinnston and SVFD's chaplain as well.

Rev. Burge noted that after arriving at the scene, despite the fact that he has done this for five years, it was the first time he had been involved with aiding a family with two small children (a toddler and an infant) – resembling his own family – so it really hit home with him! And just like the fire departments who lend one another mutual aid, Rev. Burge recognized that he needed a collaborative effort to help this family with their numerous immediate needs. Luckily, he knew whom to call – Shinnston's First Baptist Church, located right next door to his own church.

"This was a ministry opportunity to meet a significant need at a significant time," Rev. Burge stated. "While a neighbor of this family contacted the American Red Cross for immediate financial assistance to provide for urgent needs, I placed a call to two of the ladies who are involved in stocking and coordinating what is called the "Ministry House" managed by the Shinnston First Baptist Church for folks who suddenly find themselves in jeopardy. I awakened these ladies at 2 a.m. and by the time I arrived, they were there waiting for me," he added.

Firefighters had questioned the family for ages and clothing/shoe sizes, etc., so they got to work quickly gathering what was needed. "God was with us," Rev. Burge stated, "and provided everything we needed and more – from clothes and shoes, to diapers, baby wipes, food, toys, two car seats, and even blankets and teddy bears to comfort the children."

Rev. Burge continued, "When I returned with my vehicle packed to its full capacity with all of this, stunned firefighters questioned where I had found a store open at this wee hour of the morning!" Then Rev. Burge explained the cooperation of the two neighboring churches whose relationship is one of Christian alliance, a bond of collaboration to love, support, and aid those in need.



Pictured are Pastor Kevin Nuzum, Rev. Michael Burge, and Juanita and Pam Pumphrey. Not one, but two rooms feature children's items, and they stress that this area in particular ALWAYS has an ongoing need!

Whether it is the mutual aid between fire departments or the partnership of churches, when people work together with the same purpose in mind, it typically delivers great results. This demonstrates that good things happen when there is teamwork involved.

It would be fair to say that this family overwhelmingly appreciated the support they received, and this compassionate outreach will likely be a lasting memory as they move forward, rebuilding their lives.

Kevin Nuzum, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Shinnston, said, "We are nothing but blessed to have so many donors who bring us clean and gently used items to have on hand when there is a need as was the case when this particular family lost everything." He continued to explain that he feels God truly orchestrated all of this. Pam and Juanita Pumphrey along with Stacy Cochran take care of keeping things in order at the Ministry House which is usually well stocked with clothing for all ages typically available in one area. Another area is called the 'Child of My Heart' ministry that has everything from children's clothing to baby beds, strollers, car seats, diapers, etc. Yet another area is called the 'Healing Closet' where items like walkers, bed pans, and wheelchairs, for example, can be found. "Some people are uninformed that we have this, so we are happy to make them aware," Pastor Nuzum continued. "It is not just for our local residents here in Shinnston either; we welcome anyone who has a need because God calls us to be good neighbors without boundaries. I have always said this about Shinnston; our community always does its best to take care of one another, and our Ministry House fulfills this.

If there is a need, we can usually satisfy it, and if we don't have what is needed, we do

everything we can to provide it. We are just thankful to be able to offer this service."

Stacy Cochran actually initiated this ministry and the story is an interesting one. She moved to West Virginia from Ohio in 2005 and began attending the Baptist Church. When she had a rummage sale many years ago, someone else donated numerous additional clothing items and she wondered what she would do with all of them. She ended up selling a lot of the merchandise for just \$1 a bag. She recalls how it exhibited what a real need existed!! Not long after that, after hearing Cochran's story, the church started a clothing giveaway two times a year – before the school year begins and again in the Spring. "Sometimes we will even get a call from a school when there is a need and we try to help them as well," she added. "And so, this is how the Ministry House was born! It takes a lot of helping hands and a lot of hours to organize all the donations and keep them in order, but it is worth it to help so many people."

The Pumphrey women who were awakened at 2 a.m. during this recent fire are among those dedicated volunteers. They were not upset in the least to be called out at this hour. "We kind of consider ourselves 'first responders' too!" Pam commented. "This ministry has been a blessing to many people, and those of us who volunteer to carry out this ministry feel very fortunate to be able to be among the good neighbors who help out when there is a need."

Those who might wish to donate items are asked to call the church office at 304-592-0232 to see if they are accepting donations at that time. When dropping off items, please press the ring bell for assistance so that items are not left outdoors. The Ministry House is located right beside the First Baptist Church on Rebecca Street.

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“Ref”

cont. from p. 1

And then, for most, it all ends suddenly at high school graduation. They can no longer play in meaningful games, but that does not quench the love of the sport. Many carry that into officiating. Kopp took an officiating course, performed at middle school and junior varsity levels for three years, then earned his way into officiating varsity games.

“The first couple of years is when most officials quit, but they told us if we could hang in there through that we would make it. They were correct.”

A number of factors have led to officials leaving the profession and fewer people emerging from the pool of possible candidates. Kopp puts some of the blame on technology, saying “from scheduling to officials evaluations to getting paid, technology has had a dramatic effect on the profession.” He elaborated by saying “a lot of the changes are positive, but not all of the changes are.”

Some changes include that “a good official needs to spend many more hours in preparation for games than in the past” and “the pay is not commensurate with the amount of hours for a lot of officials.”

Kopp added that “another factor leading to the shortage is fan behavior.”

The 2023 NASO survey agrees with Kopp.

Almost 70 percent of officials claim that fan behavior has deteriorated with 21 percent saying there’s been no change and a little over nine percent stating that it has improved. A little over 18 percent say that high school games are the worst environments, but a little over 50 percent cite the worst behavior comes from travel ball squads.

Almost 90 percent of the problem, say officials, comes from parents, coaches, and other fans. Only nine percent say players are the biggest problem. The West Virginia State Legislature attempted to pass a bill in 2025 enhancing penalties for attacking sports officials. Governor Patrick Morrisey supported the effort, but vetoed the act because it placed those penalties as double those for attacking a law enforcement officer. The Governor requested that Legislators rewrite and rerun the bill in a later session.

Current state law regards assault of an official as punishable by six months in jail or a \$500 fine. Battery is still a misdemeanor, but doubles both possible punishments.

One of the biggest joys that comes from serving as a game official mirrors one of the best aspects of playing in a team sport. It comes from the camaraderie and lifelong friendships “built with fellow officials, coaches, and players

from all over the state.” A lot of that comes from, as Kopp shared “traveling together to and from games and the practical jokes we played on each other are things we always remember.”

Another enjoyable aspect of the work came from “seeing the school spirit and passion for sports that occur in every single community from all over West Virginia.” Also, some of the environments that can put the mosy pressure on officials can also create the most excitement. “Getting to referee the huge rivalry games in front of a packed and passionate fan base” provided “memories that I will always cherish!”

West Virginia high school sports in recent years has seen the pinch from the dwindling number of officials willing and able to serve in games. Some high school football varsity games had to move to Thursday nights so that each game could have a full crew.

“The first thing I would say to new officials is not to get into the game for the money.” Although “the money does come in handy if you have the time and resources to do multiple sports.” Compensation comes more from “the satisfaction you will receive, the relationships that you build, and the respect you earn.”

Said Kopp “It is very rewarding, will help keep you young, and will help quench your competitive spirit.”

“Animal Control”

cont. from p. 1

play if it was a budget revision instead of an award from the County Commission.

Funds will support Harrison County’s hosting of the event that draws county clerks from att 55 in the state.

The City of Clarksburg presented a special funding request, asking for \$2,000 to pay for free entertainment for children during an April 25 event at Veterans Administration Park. Commissioner Hinkle stated that “I’m curious if our Parks and Recreation has ever gone to the City of Clarksburg and asked for funding. It seems we’re always being asked to fund Clarksburg Parks and Recreation, but have they ever funded our Parks and Recreation.”

Commission President Thomas asked Pysz-Laulis if it wa a one or two day event. It being a one day event, it only rated \$1,500 in support according to general practice. The request received an affirmative vote from all three commissioners.

Cartoon Headquarters also received \$3,000 for their Family Fun Extravaganza. The free event raises money for Community Elevation. “We do not charge anything for admission or parking,” their representative informed the Commission. The four day event runs from April 23 to 26.

Commissioners then discussed with Harrison County counsel Trey Simmerman a Rail Trail related issue. United International, owner of

a tract of land that is proposed for use with the Rail Trail has indicated that it wishes to maintain control of the property. Simmerman reported that they “will fight” due to “issues around reactivation of the line” but also they “would talk to us about the County having room for a trailhead in that corridor.” Commissioners voted to adopt a “switchback” route that would satisfy both sides.

With some County agencies, such as Parks and Recreation “receiving good donations,” Simmerman helped to develop policy guidelines around that practice. This would head off Commissioner Hinkle’s concern that a wide open policy would encourage people to drop off almost anything at County offices. “I don’t want to become Goodwill,” said Commissioner Hinkle, who said of the policy “we’ll give it a try.”

Next came a lengthy discussion of the proposed animal control facility. Originally it was slated for construction on County owned land near the airport. Harrison County later acquired the Sunset Ellis property in the wake of the burning and closing of the business near Shinnston.

With the United States Army Corps of Engineers still evaluating the Sunset Ellis site on US 19 to determine if is is part of the “Waters of the United States,” American Rescue Plan Act funds allocated for the center will themselves sunset at the end of 2026. Commissioner Hinkle explained

that “if we don’t spend it, we lose it.”

This situation encouraged County officials to spot a possible alternative site on Meadowbrook Road.

Commissioners expressed in serious tones their frustration over the consideration of yet another site.

“I’m trying to wrap my head around what we’re doing with animal control,” stated Commissioner Hinkle. Commissioner Patsy Trecoast cited the unsuitability of the current facility for the staff. “Last week the discussion was to evaluate the property at Ellis . . . we purchased the property with that intent.”

Commission President Thomas shared her frustration as well, saying “I thought we had a plan.” She later referred to the County’s search for property for the emergency telecommunications center. “We bought how many pieces of property for a 911 center?” She then stated in reference to concerns about standing and potentially flowing water at the Ellis property that she examined the Meadowbrook site. “It looks wet too.”

“When are we going to stop doing this?” Commissioner Thomas asked rhetorically, then added “When we buy something and we’re going to do something, let’s do it. Now we have two pieces of property all of a sudden. I don’t know what we’re doing.”

Keep The Faith

Food For Thought

By Leigh Currey Merrifield

I peeked out my window this evening at well after 7 p.m., and the sky was not yet completely dark. It made me want to do a ‘happy dance’! I think we’ve all been waiting to notice these longer hours of daylight. That gives us hope that MAYBE this last drop in temperatures below freezing that was accompanied by strong winds and a few inches of snow will be our last! I’ve been hoping that the past several times it has occurred, but this time I’m truly going to keep the faith that I’m right!

I think we’ve all had our fill of looking at brown, dead branches on trees and road dirt along the highways; we’re ready for some color – especially those of us who live among the West Virginia hills which truly are so “majestic and grand” as they turn green. When this appears in the paper, we will have marked the first day of Spring, so keep the faith that our landscape will begin to come to life again – “with its summits bathed in glory” as the song goes!

Remember too that Easter ALWAYS follows the onset of the Spring season . . . and how appropriate is that? Spring brings us a new beginning when nature seems to awaken following the dormant winter months. Likewise, when Christians observe Easter, they are commemorating the resurrection of Jesus and this encourages us to strengthen our faith in the promise of eternal life. Both are rebirths . . . new beginnings,

The renewal has begun! I noticed a faint hint of green buds becoming visible on trees during a recent drive to Morgantown; I’ve spotted some daffodils and crocus beginning to bloom and show their vibrant color. What a welcomed sight!

Keep the faith, folks, Spring weather is on its way, and we’ll all begin to feel better. This awakening

is more than just a renewal of nature; it delivers a transformation for human beings as well! Increased daylight, sunshine and warmer temperatures are

good for our health too You may notice having a little more energy, the motivation to do more, and even find your mood elevated! Remember, though, that the beauty of Spring is fleeting, so be sure to enjoy every moment of it and be grateful for the opportunity to enjoy it. We have survived the burdens of winter, so now prepare to really celebrate the blessings of Spring!

Quote of the week: “Spring shows what God can do with a drab and dirty world.” ~ Virgil Kraft

Gov. Morrisey Announces Nearly \$2 Million from Civil Contingency Fund to Complete New Taxiway at North Central West Virginia Airport

Charleston, W.Va. - Governor Patrick Morrisey today announced a nearly \$2 million contribution from a federal matching appropriation in the Governor’s Civil Contingency Fund to support completion of a critical new taxiway project at the North Central West Virginia Airport in Bridgeport. The total cost of the taxiway project is approximately \$5 million and is now 98 percent complete. This final round of funding will bring the project across the finish line.

“The new taxiway will connect our communities to expand air service, support economic development, and ensure the success of the airport’s new terminal,” said Governor Morrisey. “This is a strategic investment in jobs, tourism, and the future of our state.”

The new taxiway will connect the runway to the airport’s new \$80 million terminal facility, which will allow for expanded commercial air service.

The airport currently provides commercial

service through Contour Airlines and Allegiant Air. In April, the airport will further expand its offerings with the addition of service from United Airlines’ SkyWest.

“Completing this taxiway project is more than a construction milestone, it’s a strategic investment in our region’s future,” said Deputy Airport Director Shawn Long. “It unlocks the full potential of our new terminal and positions our airport for long-term growth. We are especially grateful to Governor Morrisey for his leadership and support in helping make this project possible.”

The North Central West Virginia Airport is a public airport in Bridgeport, West Virginia, operated by the Benedum Airport Authority and served by commercial airlines. SkyWest Airlines dba United Express will offer daily service to Chicago O’Hare and Washington Dulles this spring, and Allegiant offers flights to Orlando/Sanford, Tampa/St. Pete, Myrtle Beach, and Destin-Fort Walton Beach.

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Governor Morrisey Highlights Road Investment, Education Freedom, and Tax Relief from 2026 Legislative Session

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Governor Patrick Morrisey today highlighted several major accomplishments secured during the 2026 legislative session, stronger infrastructure, emphasizing education freedom, and meaningful tax relief as key achievements made possible through responsible financial management.

“Last year we made some difficult but necessary decisions to put our state on a stronger financial footing,” said Governor Morrisey. “Because of those choices, we’re now able to fully fund the HOPE Scholarship, invest more in our roads, and continue delivering tax relief to the people of our state. These are real results that help families today while building a stronger future for tomorrow.”

The session secured an additional \$125 million to improve West Virginia’s roads and infrastructure. Maintaining and upgrading the state’s extensive roadway system remains critical for supporting economic growth, improving safety, and connecting communities.

A cornerstone achievement was fully funding the HOPE Scholarship program, with \$276 million dedicated to ensuring families across the state have access to expanded educational opportunity.

West Virginians will receive a tax cut this year thanks to a five percent across-the-board income tax cut as well as relief arriving by the alignment of West Virginia’s tax code with the permanent provisions of the Trump Tax Cuts.

“Lower taxes make our state more competitive, attract investment, and help families keep more of what they earn,” said Governor Morrisey. “By aligning our tax code with the permanent provisions of the Trump Tax Cuts, we are making sure West Virginians receive the full benefit of that relief right here at home.”

The session delivered several additional policy

victories aimed at strengthening West Virginia’s economy, improving education outcomes, and making state government more efficient:

- Advancing the Governor’s 50 by 50 energy strategy, directing the Office of Energy to develop West Virginia’s first comprehensive statewide energy plan.
- Expanding literacy instruction through the LETRS science-of-reading initiative, providing training and support for kindergarten through fifth-grade teachers to strengthen early reading outcomes.
- Creating new workforce opportunities through micro-credentialing programs that prepare West Virginians for skilled trades, manufacturing, and emerging industries.
- Establishing portable benefits options for independent contractors, allowing gig and freelance workers to access benefits that can follow them from job to job.
- Strengthening rural health care access through the Rural Health Transformation Program, enabling deployment of nearly \$199 million in federal funding and expanding telehealth services across the state.
- Eliminating nearly 30 outdated boards, commissions, and councils to streamline government operations and reduce inefficiencies.

The session also included additional investments aimed at strengthening communities and supporting essential services across the state. These include first-ever funding for the Flood Resiliency Trust Fund, increased support for digital literacy programs, \$30 million for water and sewer infrastructure improvements, funds to remove dilapidated properties, as well as support to strengthen medical education institutions across the state.

Harrison County Schools Announces Kindergarten Registration for 2026–2027

Harrison County Schools is excited to welcome new kindergarten students for the 2026–2027 school year.

Children who will be 5 years old before July 1, 2026, are eligible to enroll in kindergarten. Students who attended a Harrison County preschool program, including Head Start, Mother Goose, Lasting Impressions, or Cubby’s, do not need to register

again for kindergarten. Families should call their child’s school to schedule an appointment if one is required.

Registration Dates and Locations
* Big Elm Elementary
April 6, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
By Appointment Only
304-326-7280
* Johnson Elementary

April 10, 2026
9:00 a.m. – Noon
By Appointment Only
304-326-7109
* Lost Creek Elementary
April 22, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
By Appointment Only
304-326-7040
* Lumberport Elementary
April 9, 2026

See “Kindergarten” Pg 8



Let’s Talk to Kids About Cancer

A program for children ages 6-12 who have had a significant adult in their lives diagnosed with cancer.

Thursday, April 30, 2026 5:30-6:30 p.m.



CONTACT SOPHIA MCMILLION AT 681-342-1804 OR SCAN THE QR CODE.

sophia.mcmillion@wvumedicine.org

327 Medical Park Drive
Bridgeport, WV 26330

Refreshments and snacks will be provided.

WVU Medicine
UNITED HOSPITAL CENTER



Ireland's True Pot of Gold

By Matthew Welsch - Executive Chef for West Virginia State Parks and Resorts

Things start to green up in March, and it's not just the return of grass or early buds on trees. 'Tis the time of year that some folks are throwing back green beers and buying into Hallmark leprechauns, but not you, my friends. Because you have a guide to true Irish culture, and it's not the travesty that St. Patrick's Day has become in the States. No one should ever drink green beer, leprechauns are not to be trusted, and the true pot of gold isn't coins -- it's butter.

Growing up, my family listened to Irish folk music every Sunday after church. Our Irish ancestry was deeply important to us and part of our identity. When I finally made my own pilgrimage to the Emerald Isle several years ago, it truly felt like coming home.

But speaking of stereotypes, one Irish stereotype we all know is, in fact, true. We love our potatoes, boy-o!

Now I don't know this for a fact, and it's not based on any historical evidence, but one reason the Irish may love potatoes so much is that they have such amazing butter, and nothing goes better with a potato than some salt and some rich, golden butter.

There isn't one combination of salt, butter, and potatoes that will steer you wrong, but here's one that will steer you perfectly right -- Colcannon.

You may not be familiar with colcannon, but you most certainly are with its much less interesting cousin, mashed potatoes. Why we trot mashed potatoes out at any given holiday, meanwhile, colcannon lives in obscurity is both a crime and a travesty. One that I aim to fix this St. Paddy's season with your help.

Essentially, colcannon is mashed potatoes with the addition of some vegetables. You'll see cabbage mixed in. A recipe I treasure in an old cookbook called "Dublin Colcannon"

calls for leeks and kale. However, all bets are off, and I encourage you to find your own family favorite.

At Vagabond Kitchen, we like to surround a beautiful island of colcannon with an Irish Sea of lamb stew. Colcannon can be a side, a main, or even a vessel.

Then, there's the true prize. Colcannon literally swims in liquid gold -- Irish butter.

Irish Colcannon

Yield: 4 to 6 servings

INGREDIENTS

2 lbs gold potatoes, peeled and sliced 1/2" thick
8 ounces of kale or cabbage
8 tablespoons of Irish Gold (butter)
3/4 C of roasted garlic, caramelized onions, thinly sliced leeks, or green onions
1 C whole milk
1/2 C heavy cream
TT kosher salt and coarse grind black pepper

INSTRUCTIONS

Boil potatoes with 1 tablespoon of salt until fork-tender, and heat milk and cream up to steaming, but not boiling. While the potatoes are boiling, cut and cook your kale or cabbage until tender. When cutting it up, think of a size that will make an easy bite. I suggest sauteeing the kale or cabbage in bacon fat with a little salt and pepper. If using roasted garlic or leeks, add them to kale or cabbage towards the end.

Once the potatoes are fork-tender, drain most of the water off, but don't worry about getting them too dry. I prefer to use a potato masher. Once the potatoes are basically broken down, start adding butter one pat at a time. Then, salt and pepper to taste, and fold in cooked vegetables and/or fresh, thinly sliced green onions. Finally, add warm milk and cream and adjust butter, salt, and pepper levels. I suggest plenty of tasting to make sure you've got it right!

Serve colcannon topped with a couple extra pats of liquid gold and enjoy! Slainte!

Self-Saucing Pecan Cobbler

INGREDIENTS

- 6 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup pecans chopped and toasted
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup milk
- 1 large egg - beaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3/4 cup dark brown sugar
- 1 1/2 cups boiling water

INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C).
- Add butter to a 9-inch casserole dish and melt in the oven.
- Once the butter has melted, sprinkle over the pecans.
- In a separate bowl, mix flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt together.
- Whisk the beaten egg, milk,



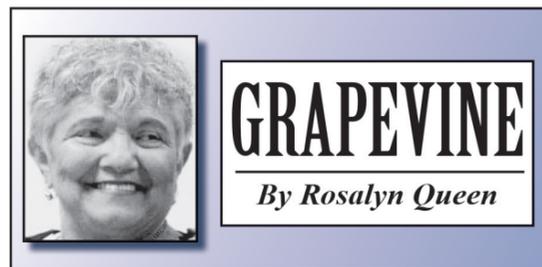
and vanilla and pour into flour mix, stir to combine the batter, but don't over-mix.

- Pour batter over butter and pecans but do not mix.
- Mix together the water and brown sugar and carefully pour over batter without stirring it in.
- Cover with a lid or foil and bake for roughly 30-35 minutes or until risen and firm in the middle.
- Serve hot with vanilla ice-cream. Store in the fridge for up to 3 days.

Wonderful Food and Even More Wonderful Friends



Left to right Rosalyn Queen, Jay Cutter, restaurant owner, Kathy Titus, Previous C V B Director, Ron Gilmore, previous local Businessman and Mr Tin Man welcomes you to the Grilled Club Cafe located at 1124 East Main Street, Clarksburg, WV.



GRAPEVINE
By Rosalyn Queen

not seen in a long time. Frank and Nancy Ferrari and Anne Krupia were there and it seemed we caught up on a lifetime of memories as we also did with Ron Gilmore and Sal Bombadiere. It was like being at home at my kitchen table.

Just a reminder that Easter will soon be here and you will surely want to get Easter bread. The PWA will be making Easter bread the week of Easter and since there will be a limited amount, I suggest you place your order now at 304 624 6881. The loaves are. \$10.00. You may want to start a family tradition by making your own bread. The recipe can be found in my cook book Arriverderci.

As for the weather I can only look at the blue sky and hope that Spring is on its way. Take care, stay healthy and until next week "Now You Have Heard It Through The Grapevine."

"Kindergarten"

cont. from p. 7

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

304-326-7020

*Mountaineer Elementary

April 23, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

304-326-7650

*Nutter Fort Primary

April 21, 2026

9:30 a.m. – Noon

304-326-7520

*Salem Elementary

April 24, 2026

9:00 a.m. – Noon

304-326-7180

*Simpson Elementary

April 17, 2026

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

By Appointment Only

304-326-7060

*Victory Elementary

April 16, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

By Appointment Only

304-326-7070

*West Milford Elementary

April 15, 2026

10:00 a.m. – Noon

304-326-7030

What to Bring to Registration

Families should bring the following items when registering their child:

- Certificate of Live Birth

Parents can order a birth certificate at registration - \$12.00 check or money order (made payable to the Office of Vital Registration) accepted. If child is currently enrolled in a

Harrison County Pre-K, the school can provide to the parents a copy of the state issued birth certificate from the child's file.

- Immunization Record

Additional immunizations required since entering Pre-K.

- Well Child Exam Form

(Dated within the last 365 days) or appointment card for upcoming visit. Address any health concerns with the school nurse at registration.

- Dental Exam Form

(Dated within the last 365 days) or appointment card for upcoming visit.

- Two Proofs of Residency

This past week I had the opportunity to enjoy breakfast at the Grilled Club Cafe which is located in the Broadway section of Clarksburg. I have visited there several times before but Mr. Cutter has done a lot of repairs and now has a beautiful dining area that can seat about thirty people for a private dinner or meeting. The decorations are so unique, but the most recognizable object is the Iron Man that meets you as you enter the dining room. His most obvious feature is his real sword and shield. The dining room is filled with beautiful China cabinets filled with fine china. I always feel my son Marty's presence

when I visit there as Jay purchased the Iron Man from Marty. Jay and I had a lot to catch up on.

The Cafe features a game table with a chess board, but guess what. It is suspended from the ceiling upside down. Not only will you enjoy the decorations but the food is also delicious. The menu features a full breakfast with a combo for only \$9.99. and I cannot believe you get a cup of coffee for \$2.29. The lunch and dinner menu features a variety of hamburgers, sandwiches, salads and soups. I urge you to stop there soon for a wonderful treat. The food was wonderful but better yet was to have the opportunity to visit with people that I had

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STRENGTHEN YOUR COMMUNITY! SHOP LOCAL!