

Remembering the Shinnston Tornado of 1944



All photos from West Virginia History On View.

As another hot, humid West Virginia summer day came to a close in June of 1944, disaster and terror struck Shinnston, West Virginia and surrounding communities. The storm that hit Shinnston came during a cluster of deadly storms that ranged across West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. The storm killed 103 and injured over 400, hitting the Pleasant Hill area most severely, leaving only 10 houses standing.

Tornadoes strike rarely in West Virginia and when they do hit, are rarely among the largest. Officials estimate the Shinnston tornado to have been an F 4 with over 200 mile per hour winds, the second most powerful category. It was said that mail picked up from mailboxes in Shinnston was found as far away as Moorefield in Hardy County. Experts state that the storm system spawned seven tornadoes in the three states, three of

which were F 4. See more photos on page 8.



West Virginia Department of Agriculture Announces Interstate Movement Requirements Following Multiple New World Screwworm Detections in the United States



A New World Screwworm parasitic infestation of cattle can create painful wounds and death. Photo courtesy of the Centers For Disease Control.

Charleston, W.Va. — The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) has issued a special movement notice establishing additional interstate movement requirements for warm-blooded animals entering West Virginia from areas impacted by New World Screwworm (NWS).

These movement requirements are effective immediately and are issued under the Commissioner of Agriculture’s authority granted in West Virginia Code §19-9-2 to prevent, suppress, control, and eradicate animal diseases. The action follows confirmation of New World

Screwworm in the United States and is intended to protect West Virginia livestock, companion animals and animal industries while allowing for continued movement of animals under enhanced safeguards. “West Virginia remains free of New World Screwworm, and these requirements are being implemented out of an abundance of caution to protect our producers and animal owners,” said Commissioner Kent Leonhardt. “Our goal is to maintain business continuity while reducing the risk of introducing this pest into our state.” **Under the order:** All warm-blooded animals entering West Virginia from an identified New World Screwworm infested zone (NWS Confirmed Detections) *See “Screwworm” Pg 7*

WVU Medicine celebrates Topping Out of new outpatient surgery center at United Hospital Center

BRIDGEPORT, W. Va. (June 12, 2026) WVU Medicine, United Hospital Center (UHC), DeAngelis Diamond, Studio+, Arthrex, and project partners gathered June 12 to celebrate the Topping Out of the new 62,000 square-foot outpatient surgery center that will bring expanded surgical care to patients across the Bridgeport region. Located on the UHC campus, the two-story facility will feature eight outpatient surgery rooms, preoperative and postoperative recovery areas, and support spaces designed to enhance care delivery. The second floor will be shelled to accommodate future program expansion, allowing

WVU Medicine UHC to grow services as community needs evolve. “This milestone brings us one step closer to transforming how we deliver surgical care to our region,” David F. Hess, M.D., UHC president and CEO and Central Region president of the WVU Health System, said. “This state-of-the-art facility is designed entirely around the patient experience, offering convenient, world-class outpatient surgical services right here at home. By expanding our footprint and adding flexible space for future growth, we are ensuring that UHC can meet the healthcare needs of the Bridgeport region for generations to come. We are deeply grateful to our construction and project partners for their hard work and dedication in

reaching this pivotal moment.” The Topping Out ceremony marks a significant milestone in construction, commemorating the placement of the final steel beam on the outpatient surgery center. Teammates, trade partners, and project stakeholders were invited to sign the beam before it was hoisted into place. An evergreen tree and the American and project team flags were also secured to the top, symbols of good luck and pride in the work. The tradition traces back to Norse and Scandinavian custom, where a felled tree placed on the roof was believed to appease displaced tree spirits and bring good fortune to future occupants. Similar practices appear in Indigenous American tradition as well, where evergreens were used to honor spirits, rooted in the *See “WVU Medicine ” Pg 6*



Country Roads Lead to Omaha



By JIM HUNT

Building
Amazing Cities

For the Harrison County
Journal

There are moments in sports that are about much more than the score. For West Virginia University baseball, one of those moments happened last week in Omaha, Nebraska, when the Mountaineers won their first ever game in the Men’s College World Series. For many people, it may have been just another baseball game in June. For West Virginians, it was something much bigger. It was pride. It was validation. It was a reminder that our state, too often underestimated, has a way of showing up on the biggest stages. WVU’s 7-5 win over Troy was not just a baseball victory. It was a West Virginia moment. I have always believed sports have the power to lift a place. A team can give people who may never meet each other a common language, a shared emotion, and a reason to stand a little taller. In West Virginia, that matters. We are a small state, but our connection to our teams is anything but small. When the Mountaineers take the field, they carry more than the name of a university. They carry the hopes of alumni, students, parents, small business owners, teachers, nurses, public servants, and families watching from every corner of the state. They carry Morgantown, but they also carry Clarksburg, Charleston, Wheeling, Bluefield, Martinsburg, Beckley, Huntington, and every community in between. That is the magic of WVU athletics. It belongs to all of us. As a graduate of West Virginia University, I have had an attachment to Morgantown since I first walked that campus as a student. Like so many others, I arrived there at one stage of life and left changed. The hills, the classrooms, the friendships, the traditions, and even the challenge of getting from one side of campus to the other became part of who I am. Years later, when I served as executive director of Sunnyside Up, the Campus Neighborhood Revitalization Corporation, I saw Morgantown from another perspective. I saw it not only as a *See “Hunt” Pg 7*

OBITUARIES

Dorsey Funeral Home

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Alice “Ali” Mae (Price) Beezel

Alice “Ali” Mae (Price) Beezel, 86, of Hepzibah, West Virginia, passed away on Thursday, June 11, 2026. She was surrounded by family and friends.

Alice, better known as Ali, was born on December 21, 1939 to the late Effard Paul Price and Fannie (Loria) Price.

Ali is survived by her loving husband of 68 years, George Mason Beezel; her four grandchildren: George Cameron Beezel, Saylor Rose Beezel, Cameron Lee Beezel and his companion Kayla Cumberledge and Benjamin Male and his companion Raquel Castillo as well as several cousins she loved and cherished.

Throughout Ali’s life she was known for her kindness, generosity, her smile, love for people, especially her family. She cherished the time she spent with her family and dear friends over the years. They meant the world to her.

In addition to her parents, Ali is preceded in death by her son, George Paul Beezel and many other loved ones she held dear.

Those who knew Ali will remember her in their own way. With their own memories filled with love, laughter and even tears at times. She will be missed deeply and cherished always. She was a Jehovah’s Witness for 60 years.

The family would like to give special “Thanks” to the UHC Hospice team, especially June Jett and Faith. Also, thank you to her niece and nephew, Carla and Craig Ferrell, from the bottom of our hearts.

Family and friends will be received at Dorsey Funeral Home, 701 S. Pike St., Shinnston, on Monday, June 15, 2026 from 2:00PM until 8:00PM for visitation. Funeral service will be on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 11:00AM with Craig Ferrell officiating. Interment to Shinnston Memorial Cemetery.

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



Edward “Kenny” Kenneth Coburn, Jr.

Edward “Kenny” Kenneth Coburn, Jr., 67, of Gypsy, passed away on June 8, 2026 at United Hospital Center surrounded by loved ones. He was born in Rivesville on October 9, 1958 to the late

Edward Kenneth Coburn, Sr. and Deloris Jean (Hardesty) Coburn.

Kenny worked as a coal miner for Consol Federal #2 and as a meat cutter for Shop n Save in Westover. He was a jack of all trades. Especially firewood. He was also a landscaper by trade.

He is survived by his wife, Kelly Ann (Satterfield) Coburn of Gypsy; two daughters: Heather Jordan and fiancé Samuel Karl Leonard of Gypsy and Emily Jo Coburn and fiancé Nick of Fairmont; two sons: Jon Robert Coburn and wife Amanda of Mannington and Jacob Adam Coburn of Mannington; seven grandchildren; one brother; two sisters: Jennifer Walls and husband William of Morgantown and Cheryl Kale and husband Randy of Brookhaven as well as several nieces and nephews. In addition to his immediate family, Kenny had many “in-laws” and friends whom considered him as a brother and many children of whom considered him a father and several beloved pets.

In addition to his parents, Kenny is preceded in death by one son, Josephus Coburn; one sister, Sandra Kay Zopfi and one grandson, Lukas Leonard.

In honoring his wishes, he will be cremated. The family plans to have a Celebration of Life dinner at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations to his Care Fund online to assist with funeral expenses would be greatly appreciated by the family.

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



Judith Ann “Judy” Fleece

Judith Ann “Judy” Fleece, 87, of Haywood Road, went home to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, on June 12th, 2026, surrounded by her loving family at Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown, West Virginia.

Judy was born on August 7, 1938, in Lumberport, West Virginia, to Lesander and Doreatha Chiccarella. She graduated from Lumberport High School in 1957.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 33 years, Tom Fleece Sr., whom she loved dearly; her parents, Lesander and Doreatha Chiccarella; her parents-in-law, John and Betty Fleece; her sisters, Sandy Harbert and Norma Rose, and brother-in-law Paul Rose; her brothers-in-law Richard, Johnny, and Nick Fleece; her nephew, Brent Rose; and her cherished friends Vera Varca, Ruth Fogel, Billie Conrad, and Clara Saler.

Left to carry on her legacy of faith and love are her son,

Tommy Fleece Jr. and wife Pam of Haywood Road; her daughter, Shannon Fleece-Richards and husband Steve of Lost Creek; her grandson, Dylan Thomas Richards of Lost Creek; her granddaughter, Cierra Watkins and husband Ross of Morgantown; sisters-in-law Donna Fleece of Haywood Road and Ernie Fleece of California; nephews Chris Harbert and wife Carol, Nick Fleece Jr. and wife Jennifer, Matt Fleece and wife Mary, and Chad Fleece; nieces Karen Fleece and Michelle Sadowski and husband Jeff; several great-nieces and great-nephews; and her dear friends Wilma Howe, Dottie Jones, and Patty Costelac.

She was the epitome of a wife, mom, Nana, and homemaker.

While Judy loved many things, nothing compared to her love for Jesus and her family. Her faith guided her life and was evident in everything she did. She loved attending church, listening to Southern Gospel music, and sharing God’s love with others through her actions. As an original member of the Board of Directors at Jewel City Church, she faithfully served the church she loved and helped support its ministry from the beginning.

She also enjoyed cooking, baking, and shopping. Her kitchen was often filled with the aromas of homemade meals and desserts made with love. Family gatherings were made special because of the care she put into every detail. She also enjoyed settling in each evening to watch Jeopardy! and Wheel of Fortune.

Of all the titles Judy held throughout her life, “Nana” was her favorite. Her grandson Dylan held an especially special place in her heart, and the bond they shared was one of the greatest blessings of her life.

Judy’s life was measured by the faith she lived, and the family she cherished. Her absence leaves an ache that cannot be filled, but her family finds comfort knowing she is whole again, reunited with loved ones gone before her, and resting in the presence of her Savior.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to the staff at Ruby Memorial Hospital and hospice nurse Becca for their exceptional care, compassion, and support. Special thanks to Pastors Robert and Aaron of Jewel City Church for their faithful prayers, steadfast love, and support to Judy and her family.

While Judy will be deeply missed, her family finds comfort in knowing that this is not goodbye, but until they meet again. Chad Fleece, Nick Fleece, David Bennett, Dylan Richards, Aaron Cayton, and Matt Fleece will serve as pall bearers.

“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

— 1 Corinthians 15:58

The family will receive

friends at Jewel City Church, 511 Jewel City Blvd, Meadowbrook, from 11am until the time of the funeral service at 1:30pm. Interment will be in the Shinnston Memorial Cemetery. Condolences may be extended family at www.perinefunerals.com. The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Fleece family.



Michael Darrell Martin

Michael Darrell Martin, 73, of Hawk’s Nest Community, Mannington, went to be with the Lord following a tragic accident at work, doing what he loved. He was born in Clarksburg, March 31, 1953, a son of the late Postal E. and Lena E. Gripper Martin.

Surviving are his loving spouse, Kathy Virginia Walls Martin, whom he married July 4, 1986; one son, Michael Shawn Ash and his wife Tonia, Hawk’s Nest; his siblings, Postal Martin, Pine Bluff, Judy Ashley and her husband David, Carolina; many special nieces and nephews; his special work family; and his good friends, Randy Mick and John Depolo.

In addition to his parents, Mike was preceded in death by his siblings: Minnie Matheny, Pauline Bradley, E.P. “Bud” Martin, and Gary Martin.

Mike was a veteran of the Unites States Army. He was formerly employed as a roustabout with Gambill Amusements and currently worked as a mechanic for Appalachian Forest Products in Buckhannon. Mike was a member of Zion Assembly Church of God in Idamay. He was a special husband and father who loved hunting and fishing. He also adored his dogs Jack and Toby.

The family will receive friends at the Perine Funeral Home, 1348 S. Pike St., Shinnston, from 11am until the time of the service at 1pm, Saturday, June 13th. Interment will be in the Drain Cemetery at Hawk’s Nest. Condolences may be extended to the family at www.perinefunerals.com. The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Martin family.

Elizabeth R. “Betty” Morlock

Elizabeth R. “Betty” Morlock, age 86, of Meadowbrook, West Virginia, passed away peacefully, June 9, 2026, leaving behind a legacy of love, strength, and family devotion. Born, April 25, 1940, in Shelbyville, Tennessee, she was the cherished daughter of the late Charlie Bess and Aubra Watley Bess.

Betty’s life was centered around her family, faith, and a strong work ethic. She was a Baptist by faith and spent many years as a



will miss her dearly.

The family will receive friends at the Perine Funeral Home 1348 S. Pike St., Shinnston, from 11am until the time of the funeral service at 1pm, Friday, June 12th, with Pastor Rita Robinson officiating. Interment will be in the Shinnston Memorial Cemetery. Condolences may be extended to the family at www.perinefunerals.com. The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Morlock family.



Deborah E. Stahl

Deborah E. Stahl, 68 of Worthington, passed away at 4:48pm on Thursday, June 11, 2026. She was born July 9, 1957, in Fairmont to the late Bill and Thelma (Jenny Bob) Tennant.

She married Robert W. Stahl Jr. on November 20, 1998. They were happy to be married for 27 years and together for 30 years.

Deborah is also survived by her sons, Roger D. Stewart and his wife Jessica of New Cumberland, WV; and Mickey Stewart and his wife Sami of Blackville, WV; her step-children, Bobby Stahl of Worthington; and Martha Stahl of Fairmont; her siblings, Matt Moody; Jimmy Tennant; and Judy Cox; 14 grandchildren, Acacia Dillow and husband James of Philippi; Trey Goff and wife Rachel of Philippi; Austin Stahl and wife Brielle of Fairmont; Michael Stewart and fiancé Zoe Kenner of Middlebury, IN; Malachi Stewart and wife Kiara of New Cumberland; Haley Stiles and husband Sam of Mannington; Autumn Stewart and fiancé Sonj of Pittsburgh, PA; Taya Stewart and fiancé Dakoata of Morgantown; Joe Stewart of Middlebury, IN; Dezierae Stewart of New Cumberland; Miley Stewart of Blacksville; Cody Shobe of Fairmont; Aryel Kintyhtt of New Cumberland; and Chase Stewart of New Cumberland; 8 great-grandchildren; her nieces, Theresa Cox- Savors and Roni Peasak; her nephew, Larry Cox Jr. as well as many more nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Deborah was preceded in death by her brother, John Glenn Moody; her sister, Jackie Dunlap; twin-brothers, Ronald and Donald Moody; brother-in-law, Larry B. Cox Sr.; and her nephew, Jarod Moody.

In keeping with Deborah’s wishes, cremation services were provided by Perine Funeral Home. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Highland Cancer Center at United Hospital Center. Online memories and condolences can be shared with the family at www.perinefunerals.com

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

County Baseball Teams Finish Up Their Season!



The Bottom Line

By Bill Nestor
Sports Editor

Bridgeport and Robert C. Byrd had strong showings this past week at the State Tournament in Huntington. Each team did battle on Tuesday and were involved in down-to-the-wire lock-ups. The Indians were able to advance while the Flying Eagles fell just short in their comeback bid against Shady Spring.

The Tribe, the top sed in Class AAA opened up State Tournament action against a familiar foe in East Fairmont. Both are members of the Big 10 Conference and, on paper, Bridgeport went into this game a heavy favorite. The Bees were looking for redemption from a regular season shellacking. East Fairmont pitcher Joey Schnore didn't pair well in that earlier affair and didn't make it long before being pulled off of the mound. Schmore used that early exit as maturation and he responded with a yeoman's effort on the hill. He went six innings and had his team in position to pull off the upset. East Fairmont led two to one heading into the bottom of the final inning having just two hits.

Indian pitcher Owen Sondericker pitched a gem, going the distance, striking out six batters, and eventually picking up the victory after an incredible comeback bid.

Down to their final three outs, the Tribe went to work. Aiden Dunn was hit by a pitch. Luke Rohrig blasted a ground-rule double that bounced over the fence, placing runners at second and third. Jax McNally grounded out, scoring a run

to tie the score at two to two. Guy Avolio drove in the game-winning run on a sacrifice play and Bridgeport advanced three to two.

Rohrig and designated hitter Cole Arnett each collected a pair of hits to pace the Indians.

RCB ace Xavier Carvelli allowed just two runs, both coming in the second inning. The Flying Eagles had runners at second and third in the seventh inning trailing two to one, but couldn't cash in. They would end the campaign with a 23 and 12 record.

Bridgeport fell to Ripley five to one on Friday in semifinal action. The Vikings had a big third inning where they scored four runs, which proved to be the difference-maker. Indian pitcher Blake Butcher went six innings with five strikeouts. Rohrig was once again the offensive catalyst, going two for three, including a triple. Baun, Courtney, and Anthony Julian also added hits in the season ending loss, Bridgeport finished the season with an impressive 31 and five mark.

In Class AA action, Lincoln made its first appearance at the State Tournament since 2009. The Cougars met up with the red hot Frankfort Falcons. Frankfort would score first in the top of the next inning to tie it at one a piece. The Falcons put two more on the board on their next at bat and they would not look back, going on to a six to one win.

Lincoln was led at the plate by Colton Edwards. Edwards was two for four with a double and a run batted in. Alex Greene added a triple going one for three. Jacob Holt and Christopher Mazzei also collected hits for Lincoln. The Cougars finished their impressive season with a 21 and 14 record.

That puts a close to another exceptional year of baseball in Harrison County!

Than will do it 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.

By Bill Nestor

The Harrison County athletes in the spotlight this week are Lincoln's Colton Edwards and Bridgeport's Luke Rohrig.

Cougar baseball standout Colton Edwards had a great day in Lincoln's loss to Ripley last week. Rohrig was two for four with a double and an RBI.

Indian baseball player Luke Rohrig had two multi hit games last week. Rohrig was four for six with a pair of doubles.

Congratulations to Lincoln's Colton Edwards and Bridgeport's Luke Rohrig for shining bright in the SN and HCJ spotlight!



GO, TEAM!

Good luck to our local student athletes!

Governor Morrissey Announces America250 Poetry Contest

Winning Poet to Participate in America250 Celebration at the State Capitol

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Governor Patrick Morrissey today announced the launch of the America250 Poetry Contest, inviting West Virginians of all ages to submit original poems celebrating the history, heritage, and shared values of West Virginia and the United States as the nation prepares to commemorate the 250th anniversary of American independence.

“West Virginia has played an important role in our nation’s history, and as we prepare to celebrate 250 years of freedom, I encourage West Virginians of all ages to share their creativity and love of country through this poetry contest,” said Governor Morrissey. “America’s story is told through the people, places, and events that shaped our nation, and I look forward to seeing how West

Virginians capture that spirit through poetry.”

The contest provides an opportunity for residents to reflect on the people, places, and defining moments that have shaped both the Mountain State and the nation while sharing their own voice through poetry.

Submissions will be accepted through June 24, 2026. One winning entry will be selected, and the author will be recognized as part of West Virginia’s America250 Celebration at the State Capitol in July.

For a complete list of rules and submission details, click here.

For updates and more information, visit wv250.com and follow @westvirginia250 on Facebook and Instagram.



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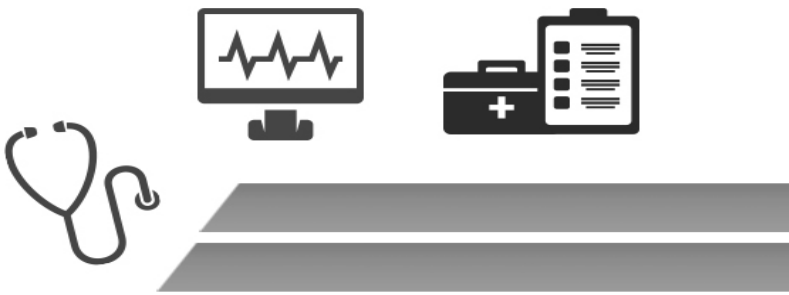
What kinds of research can you participate in?

- **Observational studies** are designed to collect information from people and compare that data over time. This helps them learn how different behaviors or lifestyles relate to health and disease and to understand how a disease progresses over time.
- **Clinical trials** are a type of research that tests new drugs, medical devices, surgical procedures, or behavior and lifestyle changes, such as exercise. Clinical trials may also test ways to detect and diagnose diseases and to better care for those living with diseases.

Daniel M. Mandel, MD.

UHC Neurology

United Hospital Center
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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 July 21, 2026 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
014	2024170010	S317-50-13.59 00	NHPP-0050(487)D	RESURFACING Clarksburg - I-79 Clarksburg - I-79 Clarksburg - I-79 COUNTY: HARRISON

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.

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Call	Contract	State Project	Federal Project	Description
023	2026840001	R384-REM/GR-27 00		GUARDRAIL D4 2027 REM GUARDRAIL D4 2027 REM GUARDRAIL D4 2027 REM GUARDRAIL COUNTY: DODDRIDGE, HARRISON, MARION, MONONGALIA, PRESTON, TAYLOR

Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractors' 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.

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“WVU Medicine”

cont. from p. 1

belief that no human structure should stand taller than a tree.

The Topping Out ceremony is also a time to recognize the trade partners whose work made this moment possible. Together, they have placed 375 tons of structural steel, poured 900 cubic yards of concrete, and logged 15,000 total manpower hours to date, with peak construction expected to bring 120 workers on site at once. A portion of that workforce lives and works in this community, meaning the project's economic impact is already underway, well before the facility opens its doors.

“Topping Out is a moment to celebrate not just the structure rising, but the relationships that made it possible.” said Adam Milner, Project Executive for DeAngelis Diamond. “The collaboration on this project has been exceptional from day one. WVU Medicine, United Hospital Center, Studio+, Arthrex, The Thrasher Group, Arrow Structural Engineering, Concord Group, and TLC Engineering have each brought something meaningful to this effort, and together we've built something far greater than any of us could have on our own. Seeing our trade partners bring that collective vision to life is one of the most rewarding parts of this work. We are proud of this team and genuinely excited for what comes next.”

HARRISON COUNTY ASSESSOR'S
OFFICE JOB OPPORTUNITY –
PERSONAL PROPERTY DEPUTY ASSESSOR

The Harrison County Assessor's Office is accepting applications for the position of Personal Property Deputy Assessor.

DUTIES INCLUDE:

- Assisting taxpayers with personal property assessments and related questions.
- Reviewing, processing, and maintaining personal property records.
- Valuing personal property in accordance with West Virginia State Tax Department guidelines.
- Verifying ownership information for vehicles, boats, trailers, ATVs, mobile homes, and other taxable personal property.
- Assisting with business personal property assessments.
- Maintaining accurate records and data entry within county assessment systems.
- Providing courteous customer service in person, by telephone, and electronically.
- Performing field work and other duties as assigned by the Assessor.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- High school diploma or GED required.
- Strong computer, data entry, and organizational skills.
- Ability to communicate effectively with the public.
- Ability to learn West Virginia property assessment laws, regulations, and procedures.
- Experience in office administration, accounting, property assessment, appraisal, or related fields preferred.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality and exercise sound judgment.
- Valid West Virginia driver's license preferred.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Experience working with property records, government offices, or customer service.
- Familiarity with Microsoft Office applications and database systems.
- Knowledge of Harrison County and local government operations.

The successful applicant must be able to work independently, handle multiple tasks, and maintain a professional and positive attitude when assisting taxpayers. Salary and benefits will be commensurate with county pay scales and experience.

Applications and resumes should be submitted to:
Harrison County Assessor's Office
229 South Third Street
Clarksburg, WV 26301

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.
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THANK YOU FOR READING

Shinnston Garden Club Announces Student Support Awards

By Deb Herndon

The Shinnston Garden Club met at the Bice-Ferguson Museum on May 28 th . The meeting was led by Vice President Wanda F. Ashcraft. Mrs Ashcraft led devotions and asked Kathleen Panek to lead the pledge to the Flag. Members ill or in distress were noted. Secretary Letha Stutler read minutes and Treasurer Debra Herndon gave a report on finances. It was noted that the Club sponsored two girls to Girl’s State this year as well as one boy to Boy’s State with monetary donations.

The Tommy Thomas Scholarship given to



It’s YOUR Choice

Some of you may recall the song “Don’t Worry, Be Happy”. I remember the song, but I had to search for some of the lyrics, which are worth repeating because one line in particular spoke a lot of truth! “In every life we have some trouble, but when you worry, you make it double”. Worrying, fretting, and getting angry won’t solve whatever problems we have, but the secret may be within our control.

Happiness is an emotion, and experiencing it can range from contentment and satisfaction to sheer bliss and intense joy; it depends on the person and what it is that makes them happy. Some folks may think that wealth is a factor in their happiness, but even pockets full of money don’t necessarily make for a happy life. Some people who get along with very little still find things to be happy about. So perhaps it IS within our control because we can choose to alter our habits.

I saw somewhere that there is actually a recipe for happiness that we can try to follow. The measurements are up to our discretion too – add the suggestions by the spoonful or the cupful – whichever suits your taste! The most important ingredient is a positive attitude.

- Here are some examples to try:
- *When you open your eyes in the morning, take just a moment to be thankful that you’re alive!
 - *If it’s a nice day, open some windows and breathe some fresh air.
 - *If it’s a sunny day, get up and accomplish something.
 - *Despite the troubles in our world, take time to appreciate the magnificent beauty around you – even the small things!
 - *Don’t be too hard on yourself; NO ONE IS PERFECT! Try to learn from your mistakes and strive to do a little better.
 - *Don’t take on too much. Try to cut your tasks into manageable pieces instead of applying pressure to get it all done at once.
 - *Lend a hand to someone who needs you; and allow yourself to accept help when you are the one who needs it.
 - *Look around you and notice that there are many blessings in your life. For example, can you can walk and talk?, are you in fairly good health?, do you have a roof over your head?, do you have good friends?, do you keep yourself open to new possibilities?, do you have a loving family? If you can answer YES to any of these questions, then you are blessed! And most of these are things that money cannot buy. Be thankful and make the most of each day. Try to keep a positive attitude and do things that make you smile. Share those smiles with others.

Ben Franklin once said that the Constitution only guarantees the American people the right to *pursue* happiness, but you have to catch it all by yourself. Drag out your catcher’s mitt and prepare to grab whatever happiness is tossed your way. Remember, YOU’RE IN CONTROL of how you handle each day. Try to approach each day with only positive thoughts and see what happens.

Seriously, readers, I’m not just preaching here; I’m truly trying to follow these suggestions myself! For instance, in the past several months, the SPAM RISK calls I have received number in the THOUSANDS ... and were affecting my disposition. My anger had reached the danger zone, and that’s unhealthy. So I’m trying to remind myself that ignoring the calls is MY CHOICE. I’m not letting it ruin my day any more; I’m in control here. I refuse to indulge them and allow them to cloud my sunny days. Yes, it’s MY CHOICE – while not every day may be good, there are good things in every day, and I will remember that.

Quote of the Week: “Each morning when I open my eyes, I say to myself: I, not events, have the power to make me happy or unhappy today. I can choose which it shall be.” ~ Groucho Marx

assist the expenses of a student wanting to go into police work or criminal justice will be given to Olivia Templeton who plans to attend Fairmont State University in the Fall. The Club also bought the flowers for the street urns, which Debbie and Dave Harbert plant and maintain during the summer. A motion was made by Kathleen Panek and seconded by Joyce Miker to retain the same officers: President Dorothy Rota, Vice-President Wanda F. Ashcraft, Secretary Letha Stutler and Treasurer Debra Herndon.

The motion passed.
The members enjoyed a luncheon of hotdogs,

“Smoot”

advances in technology, changes in the culture of children, and their own lowered reserves of energy and patience compared to their own younger years. They often have to relearn parenting even when they raised their own decades ago.

That is why West Virginia’s Child Protective Services workers and offices are so overwhelmed. Too many families in the youngest generation of parents had no parental models from whom to learn, no source of good advice or assistance, and no hope that things will get better.

Family Support Centers serve as a big part of the solution to cutting down on those CPS cases and keeping these families from reaching the brink.

One of the most important services offered lies in respite. During typical business hours on typical business days, these centers keep their doors open to families with children who face difficult challenges.

A parent, including a foster parent, can bring their child in these spacious centers. Plenty of room is available for kids to play with toys or watch cartoons. Mom, Dad, Grandma, Granddad, a guardian, or whomever is a primary caregiver can drop in with the children, have a cup of coffee or a snack with staff, and rest, vent, ask for advice, or just sit and enjoy some quiet.

This simple resource pays massive dividends. It breaks

down the “bunker mentality” that sometimes pervades families facing challenges at the most fundamental level. Staff who care can reassure when they are doing right and advise different ideas when they are not. Professionals get to see the families and children and can tell which ones may need more serious help and resources. And these families who come regularly can keep some grounding in a normal and conventional setting.

Parents benefit by getting a chance to recharge their batteries, set aside for an hour or two the stress of constant focus on children, and find some relief.

While one can never prove a negative, one can assume that the presence of family support centers has prevented hundreds of CPS cases from being opened by addressing issues before they reach the level of State intervention.

Consider how much money that saves and we have not even discussed the other ways these centers support families.

Family support centers offer one-off classes that can help teach families to save money and live better.

The Hardy County Family Support Center offers regular canning classes, even for deer meat, to help their clients preserve healthy food and save money. The Calhoun County Family Support Center has an experienced cook teach regular seminars on how to

slaw, fruit salad and two kinds of cake. Mrs. Herndon went around the meeting room explaining some of the pictures recently donated to the Museum while the group took the “gallery quiz.” The exercise was enjoyed by all and brought back some fond memories and good conversation. Mayor Pat Kovalck shared some City Council news and Mrs. Ashcraft congratulated him for being named Vice-President of the County Mayor’s Association. Door prize of a T&L gift certificate was won by Debra Herndon.

Attending, not mentioned earlier were: Donna Post, Margie Jackson and Alexis Herndon.

cont. from p. 2

cook fresh and healthy food that the whole family will enjoy. One class taught how to make “fair” food at home much more cheaply than can be bought at stands during festivals.

Each center has its own approach built with input from the community and that uses the expertise of staff and volunteers.

Family Support Centers also offer regular evening parties where they invite all their regular clients to enjoy egg coloring at Easter, holiday style dinners, Christmas ornament decoration, or just a good time for the heck of it.

They also take in donations of items for hygiene, cleaning, and other basic household needs, such as toilet paper.

The old adage is that “you have to spend money to make money.” In government, sometimes you spend a little money now to prevent a bigger expense down the road. Keeping as many families from falling even further in their struggles makes sense in many different ways, but also with the bottom line.

Their work and its results justifies the funds spent on them.

Family Support Centers mean fewer CPS cases, fewer child removals, fewer burdens on the foster care and juvenile justice systems.

And also more children with a better chance at a life where they can feel safer, more secure, and also thrive.

cont. from p. 1

university town, but as a living, changing city. I saw neighborhoods trying to grow stronger, businesses serving students and residents, and community leaders working to balance tradition with progress.

Morgantown is not just the place where WVU is located. It is part of the WVU story.

That is why this baseball run matters to the city as well as the state. When a team reaches Omaha, the cameras may focus on the players and coaches, but the spotlight reaches much farther. People hear “West Virginia” and think of Morgantown. They see the flying WV. They hear Country Roads. They watch fans in gold and blue and realize there is something special about this place.

That kind of visibility cannot be bought. It is earned through years of effort, belief, investment, and perseverance.

For WVU baseball, this moment did not happen overnight. It took leadership, facilities, recruiting, coaching, player development, community support, and patience. It took people believing baseball could matter at a school and in a state better known nationally for football and basketball.

That is a lesson for cities, too. Progress often

starts long before the rest of the world notices. A neighborhood improves. A downtown building is restored. A new business opens. A university invests. A city makes a bet on itself. Then one day, the story looks like an overnight success to everyone who was not there for the years of quiet work.

West Virginians understand that kind of work. We know what it means to be overlooked. We know what it means to be underestimated. We know what it means to keep showing up anyway.

That is why this WVU baseball team feels so easy to root for. They are talented, but they also reflect something familiar about our state. They are resilient. They are steady. They may be new to Omaha, but they do not look like they are just happy to be there.

They look like they belong.
And so does West Virginia.

Last week, WVU baseball gave West Virginia something special. They gave us a reason to cheer, a reason to remember, and a reason to believe again in the power of a team to bring people together.

The scoreboard said West Virginia 7, Troy 5.
But for one afternoon in Omaha, it felt like the whole state won.

“Screwworm”

must comply with national continuity of business movement guidance and obtain an entry permit from WVDA at least 48 hours prior to movement.

Animals entering West Virginia from outside an infested zone but within a designated surveillance zone or high-risk county must be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) completed within seven days of movement and certifying the animals are free of screwworm larvae infestation.

Livestock producers should note these requirements do not replace existing federal requirements related to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in livestock.

Permit requests should be submitted during normal business hours (Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. ET) by emailing wvpermits@wvda.us.

Animal owners, veterinarians and transporters

can review state movement requirements at InterstateLivestock.com and determine current infested, surveillance and high-risk areas at NWS Confirmed Detections.

WVDA Animal Health staff are available to assist in determining shipment eligibility and movement requirements. For questions, contact WVDA Animal Health at 304-558-2214 or email wvpermits@wvda.us.

Please call WVDA Animal Health about NWS in domestic animals, WV DNR for wildlife NWS queries, and WV state public health regarding questions about NWS in people.

The WVDA urges animal industries to closely monitor animals for signs of disease and appreciates your cooperation with new movement requirements designed to protect West Virginia’s agricultural economy and the livelihoods of animal industry stakeholders.

cont. from p. 1

City Council Listens To Citizens' Concerns; Plans In Place For July 1st Celebration



City workers have placed new banners on each of the corner poles throughout the downtown area in preparation for the City's July 1st Independence Day Concert in the Park. Make it an evening of family fun!

By Leigh C. Merrifield

Shinnston City Council was invited to hold its regular meeting on June 8th at the Bice-Ferguson Museum, which gave City officials as well as all in attendance the opportunity to view the large impressive gallery of framed photos donated by former local, Dr. Paul Skinner.

It was a perfect evening to feature this historic viewing considering the fact that nearly two dozen people were in attendance!

Several people were present to speak to Council and draw their attention to some concerns they wanted to express.

The first to take the floor was Shinnston businessman Mark Southern, who was following up on the City's intent to possibly use Robinson Court, the alley between 413 and 415 Pike Street, as an outdoor seating area with tables and chairs for public use. Southern noted that while he supports activities that draw people to Shinnston, he is apprehensive about safety and liabilities in this particular case because he owns the building at 415 Pike St. and has tenants living there. Southern was also troubled over the speculation that the alleyway was going to be gated.

Brendan Gallagher, owner of the Born & Bred Studio at 413 Pike Street, explained that the gating was

only temporary when something was going on and would be easily and quickly removeable if need be. Mayor Kovalck added that there is seldom vehicular traffic on Robinson Court and that the alleyway would still be open as a walkable passage. Mr. Southern still expressed opposition and said he would not be held responsible should something happen there. This issue was to be voted on later in the meeting by members of Council.

Joyce Miker was the next to speak, and complimented the City on the patriotic banners that have been attached to poles throughout the downtown area. She also said the pool at the park looked to be in great condition; however, she thought it needed to be open more. She suggested that the Park Board should not close the pool because of predicted rain, but wait to see if rain actually occurred.

Pam Swiger objected to unoccupied property near her home where grass was not being cut. She recommended that the City should keep the grass mowed and send a bill to the negligent property owner.

Chris Harrison stated that he notices each year that people who attend the 4th of July celebration at the park are using residents' yards in those nearby neighborhoods as a parking lot. He suggested that Council might want to look into transporting

people who park elsewhere to the park for the festivities. Harrison had inquired and learned that buses could be available to do that for \$40/hour. SDA member Brendan Gallagher noted that the SDA plans to erect NO PARKING signs this year as an attempt to alleviate attendees parking in yards and blocking driveways.

Chris Greaver, who recently took over his deceased father's property on East Avenue, said he doesn't see local police patrolling in that area and that traffic flies by, making it hard for some residents there to safely exit their driveways. He asked that the Police Department be more vigilant in stopping speeders in that area.

Following the approval of the minutes of the May 11th and May 26th meetings, Mayor Kovalck thanked Museum Director Debra Herndon for hosting both the Garden Club and City Council for their recent meetings and allowing them to enjoy the newly donated picture gallery in the museum's meeting room.

Mayor Kovalck also delivered the City Manager's report, which included the following:

- The first Wind Down Wednesday was held on June 3rd and was a success, with the drink truck being a fun, new addition. The next Wind Down Wednesday and the final of the summer series of events will be held on September 3rd.
- The new banners celebrating this year's 250th July 4th anniversary have been installed throughout the downtown area.
- City offices will be closed on Friday, June 19th.
- Public Works has been busy; they have addressed: 9 water leak-related jobs, replaced service lines and meters; have completed annual hydrant flushing; water disconnects and reconnects; 3 days of reading meters; sewer flushing and installing clean outs; several days of grass and brush work on City properties and the softball field; ditching on Vincent St., digging for blacktop and patching holes, worked at the pool building's bathrooms; dug drains on E. Pike St.; cleaned the shop and equipment; and hung patriotic banners downtown.

Brendan Gallagher verified that plans for the Concert in the Park on July 1st are in order. Musical entertainment will, as always, be provided by the Shinnston Community Band; food trucks will be setting up at 4 p.m.; Cartoon Headquarters will

have inflatables for kids; a climbing wall will be new this year as well; and the pool will remain open until 6 p.m. that evening. Attendees should expect a SPECTACULAR fireworks display to end the evening. Mr. Gallagher thanked the Harrison County Commission for contributing additional funding (\$1,500.) to the City in support of this event and to help cover added costs such as supplemental law enforcement to handle the heavy traffic.

Plans are to make this evening exceptionally memorable. Be prepared for a great celebration!

Council then proceeded to ACTION ITEMS:

- Council voted to extend the water tap for Lumberport customers for another six months. They are using just under 400 gallons a month so it was unanimous to continue with this 'good neighbor' relationship with Lumberport.
- A motion was made to close Robinson Court to vehicular traffic for special events held from March 1st through November 12th, but it will be left open to pedestrians. It was also noted the there is a 10 p.m. curfew, and if this becomes an issue, it will be revisited. This passed with 4 Council members in favor and 3 against.
- Council also voted on appointments and reappointments of those serving on boards within the City, which are as follows: *Connie Payton was reappointed to the Library Board for a 5-year term; *the Planning Commission has two vacancies, and anyone who might be interested in serving may apply at the City Office Building. This is a 3-year term. *Lou DelRio was reappointed to the Park Board for a 6-year term. * Robert Bice III and Woody Maley were both reappointed to the Museum Board for a 4-year term; *Andrew Perine, Patrick Kovalck, Kathleen Panek, and Amy Wilson were all reappointed to the Shinnston Development Authority for 3-year terms: *Derek McIntyre was reappointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a 3-year term; *No other appointments and/or reappointments were required at this time. With no need for executive session and no further business to address, the meeting adjourned.

“Tornado”

cont. from p. 1

