

OPINION

America

By Stephen Smoot

Every nation on Earth should rightfully feel pride in their history, traditions, culture, and people because every nation on Earth has done more good than ill.

Every nation’s people should rightfully feel proud that they are of that country and celebrate its accomplishments and impact.

The United States of America, its people forming the single greatest nation in the history of mankind, has even more right to feel a special kind of pride.

For 250 years, this nation has raised the standard of freedom to inspire movements of liberty worldwide, not only abroad, but within the nation as well. The standard set by the Declaration of Independence has challenged every world government, including our own, ever since, to respect the natural rights of each individual.

For 250 years, this nation has raised the standard of opportunity. The same restrictive British mercantilism that drove America into rebellion also inspired Adam Smith’s “Wealth of Nations.” Reaffirmed by Frederic Bastiat’s “The Law” a few decades later, these works illustrate the free market system better than anyone before Milton and Rose Friedmann.

Free market capitalism rejects government support for some over others. Both Smith and Bastiat attacked slavery with the same fervent passion they used to promote the free market because one did not have the latter in the presence of the former. When left to work with a minimum of intervention, the free market has done more to raise the standard of living anywhere it has been practiced than any government action ever could.

It’s not an American system. It is part of who and what America is.

For 250 years, the standard of meritocracy has served as the most powerful impetus to excellence in global history. It developed as the frontier spread across the continent, assisted by the lack of a natural aristocracy and the need for people with skills and leadership ability.

One can say that Charlie Daniels’ “The Devil Went Down to Georgia” is the quintessential American song for many reasons. The best of which is that the Devil himself is compelled to bow before the morality of meritocracy.

For 250 years, the people of the United States have revered the Founding Fathers and their legacy. These men, some advised closely by their wise wives, formed the most unique cadre of leaders ever brought together to create a nation and government.

No established church leaders, no aristocrats save those of foreign countries serving in the Continental Army under Washington, no royalty lent a hand in its creation. Most of those at the forefront were farmers and had also served in some military capacity. These two fields of endeavor lend themselves closely to forming good government officials because the focus of each must remain in practical pursuits. Some lawyers, small business owners, and professionals were sprinkled among

See “Smoot” Pg 3

Super Crossword

RAISING A RACKET

- ACROSS**
1 Streisand of “Nuts”
7 President after Bush
12 Japanese soup
16 Beaker locale
19 Fanatic
20 Boo-boo
21 State of mind
23 “Can this be?!”
25 Color close to aqua
26 Leave shore
27 “I’m to blame for every-thing”
29 Mil. address
32 Nada
34 “— see!” (“Evidently!”)
35 Events that break ground
36 Like K-Cup coffee pods
42 Two-word conjunction
44 Sol’s Greek counterpart
45 Bangor locale
47 Built
52 2011 Steve Carell film
56 Puppeteer Lewis
57 Opera song
58 Gallery work
59 Fox hangouts
61 Nest eggs for srs.
- 62 Flanders on “The Simpsons”
63 Quick, sharp punches
65 Cocktail of bourbon, lemon and mint
68 Purse
69 Ross who ran against Clinton
70 — in the bud
71 It might consist of a dictionary, thesaurus and atlas
76 Pouches
78 Tic- — -toe
81 “You wish!”
82 They may get slammed
83 Dad on “Rugrats”
84 For takeout
85 Fail to remain calm
87 Annual mailing to the IRS
92 Baskers’ goals, often
94 Birth-related
95 Home for French presidents
96 Lerner’s musical collaborator
- 99 Kind of salute performed at military funerals
101 Cherubs, e.g.
105 Smartphone buy
107 Emulate
Picabo Street
108 Mag bigwigs
109 Heroic fighter pilot of the 1940s
114 Sinister
117 Studios with easels
118 Question you might feel like asking after seeing nine key words in this puzzle?
123 Yellow turnip
124 Roast beef fast-food chain
125 Big brand of cosmetics
126 Water quality org.
127 Pack neatly
128 L.A.’s region
129 Pitfalls
- DOWN**
1 German auto
2 Spa sigh
3 Material in viral genes
4 Tiny pieces
5 Pro — (in proportion)
- 6 Post-workout feeling
7 Multivolume Brit. lexicon
8 Matzo — (Passover breakfast option)
9 In — (stuck)
10 Soft shoes, for short
11 Locations
12 Actress Marlee
13 Agenda unit
14 Stick around to see
15 Rig accidents
16 Doozies
17 Fully grown
18 Borscht base
22 Kind of lift for downhillers
24 Yalies
28 Mauna —
29 Waste barrel
30 Capital of South Dakota
31 Mounted to a backing for decoration
33 Big-eyed primates
37 Egyptian city with pyramids
38 Myrna of old movies
39 Spellbound
40 Roman 7
41 Finale
43 Plow pioneer John
- 46 “Mama” Cass
48 Orang cousin
49 Figure skater Lipinski
50 Epochs
51 Plate
53 Key near Q
54 Brewery kiln
55 Actor Sahay who played Lester Patel on “Chuck”
60 Lip- — (mouth the words)
63 Pantry container
64 Got older
65 Alternative to Mazola or Crisco
66 Charlemagne ruled it: Abbr.
67 Bro’s sibling
68 Suit well
69 Orch. section with timpani, cymbals, etc.
71 Performs like Drake
72 Jacob’s twin
73 Twain’s Huck
74 Clamor
75 Hoodwink
76 Gets trite
77 “La Cage — Folles”
78 Muss, as hair
79 “I concur”
80 Chili dogs
- 83 Headliner
84 “Ciao 4 now”
86 Beat others in claiming something
88 Dojo surface
89 Old verb suffix
90 Remade musicals, e.g.
91 “Showdown” rock gp.
93 “Easy-peasy”
97 Polish capital
98 Start for Pen or dermis
100 Barely earns, with “out”
101 Informed (of)
102 Still in bed
103 Garbo of old movies
104 Singer Fitzgerald
106 Gyro wraps
110 Ship of myth
111 Sleek, in brief
112 “Fast Money” network
113 “Watermark” singer
115 A party to
116 Constellation next to Hercules
119 Oahu, e.g.: Abbr.
120 Atop, in odes
121 Scot’s dissent
122 Raised trains

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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.

July 2, 1934: Woodchopper Arden Cogar Sr. was born in Desert Fork, Webster County. He won nine national championships, set numerous records and exhibited his skills at the 1965 New York World’s Fair.

July 3, 1863: At Gettysburg, Union troops in the 1st West Virginia Cavalry took part in a fruitless charge against Confederate infantrymen during the waning moments of that historic battle.

July 4, 1882: The steamboats Scioto and John Lomas collided on the Ohio River as they were returning from holiday excursions. The Scioto sank almost instantly, and 70 people drowned.

July 4, 1918: Poet Muriel Miller Dressler was born in Kanawha County. Her poem “Appalachia,” published in 1970, was her signature piece.

July 4, 1928: West Virginia dedicated its first state park—Droop Mountain Battlefield. Droop Mountain was one of the most important Civil War battles fought on West Virginia soil.

July 4, 1938: Musician Bill Withers Jr. was born into a miner’s family of 13 children in Slab Fork, Raleigh County. In 1971, he released his first album, Just As I Am, including his first Grammy-winning song, “Ain’t No Sunshine.” In 2015 he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

July 4, 1944: Jazz drummer Butch Miles was born in Ohio. He grew up in Hinton and Charleston and eventually performed with Mel Torme, Count Basie, Frank Sinatra, Lena Horne, Ella Fitzgerald, Benny Goodman, Tony Bennett, Itzak Pearlman, and many others.

July 5, 1896: Cartoonist Kendall Vintroux was born at Fraziers Bottom. He began his career with the Charleston Gazette when he submitted a cartoon about the town of Poca’s first paved road. Many of his drawings are now

in the collection of the University of Charleston.

July 5, 1923: Football coach John McKay was born in Everettville, Monongalia County. He became the winningest coach at the University of Southern California (USC) and later the first head coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, of the National Football League.

July 6, 1806: Statesman Charles James Faulkner was born in Martinsburg. Faulkner served in the West Virginia legislature, U.S. Congress (1851–59, 1875-77), and as U.S. minister to France.

July 6, 1848: Historian Virgil A. Lewis was born in Mason County. In 1905, Governor Dawson appointed Lewis as the first director of the Bureau of Archives and History.

July 6, 1883: Judge “R. D.” Bailey was born at Baileysville, Wyoming County. Bailey came into wide prominence as the judge of the Matewan Massacre trial in 1921.

July 6, 1950: The Starland Theatre opened at Big Four, four miles east of Welch. It was the first drive-in and one of 14 movie theaters in McDowell County. On July 4th, as many as 600 cars would cram into the drive-in and at a nearby airport to watch the fireworks display. Starland closed in 1986.

July 7, 1928: The Madonna of the Trail monument was dedicated in Wheeling. It is one of 12 such statues erected along the National Road to honor America’s pioneering women.

July 8, 1894: Walter Aegerter was born in Helvetia. An amateur photographer, Aegerter built both a studio and a darkroom on his farm and photographed portraits, families, celebrations and everyday scenes of the German Swiss settlement. The glass plate negatives survive today in several archived collections.

July 8, 1924: Rock ’n’ roll pioneer Johnnie Johnson was born in Fairmont. Johnson collaborated with Chuck Berry on songs such as “Roll Over, Beethoven.” Berry’s hit “Johnny B. Goode” was supposedly written as a tribute to Johnson.

July 8, 1961: Sutton Dam was dedicated by Governor Wally Barron. The Army Corps of Engineers operates the dam for purposes of flood control, low-flow augmentation and recreation.

OBITUARIES

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Diane Lee Fox



Diane Lee Fox, age 72, of Haywood, WV, passed away peacefully on June 21st, 2026, surrounded by her loved ones. Diane was born on November 21st, 1953, in Corpus Christi, TX. She was the daughter of the late Vincent and Bernita “Jackie” Renn.

She is survived by her husband of 52 years, James “Jim” Fox, of Haywood, WV. He was the love of her life and together they built a beautiful family.

She was a proud and devoted mother and grandmother. She is survived by two daughters, Louanne Fox (Greg) of Haywood, WV and Jamie Bryant (Nathan) of Shinnston, WV; and three grandchildren, Ashley Marie Bradley (Joey), Tyler James Bryant and Jacob Lee Bryant, all of Shinnston, WV.

She is also survived by seven siblings – Susan Hill Renn (Dennis) of Washington, Joyce Davies of Washington, Nancy Burlington (Jeff) of Washington, David Renn (Darla) of Kentucky, Mike Renn (Donna) of Alabama, Flip Renn (Tammy) of Tennessee, and Lonnie Renn of Florida. She is preceded in death by her brother, Jim Renn.

Diane found joy in the simple pleasures of life. She loved tending to her garden, expressing her creativity through painting and searching for unique treasures on Facebook Marketplace. Above all, she treasured her time spent with her family. Whether gathered around the table for game nights, sharing stories and laughter or simply enjoying each other’s company, those moments brought her the greatest happiness.

She will be remembered for the love she gave so freely, the kindness she showed to others and the unwavering devotion she had for her family. Her warm smile, caring heart, and the memories she created with those she loved will be cherished forever. Though her presence will be deeply missed, her love and legacy will continue to live in the hearts of all who knew her.

Per her wishes, the family has chosen cremation. No funeral arrangements have been planned, but a

small memorial service will be held at a later date.

Julie Ann Gregory



Julie Ann Gregory, 64, of Haywood Road, Shinnston, WV passed away on Friday, June 26, 2026 following a brief illness. She was born on June 11, 1962, in Clarksburg, WV, the daughter of the late John H. Rice and Mary Rose Rice.

Julie was a graduate of Lincoln High School and spent her career serving her community through positions at the Bank of Shinnston, United Hospital Center, and several other local businesses. She will be remembered for her warm smile, kind heart, and genuine interest in others. A devoted daughter, Julie lovingly cared for both of her parents throughout their illnesses, providing them with unwavering support, compassion, and dignity. She had a special love for cats and dogs and was a loyal fan of all West Virginia University athletics rarely missing an opportunity to cheer on the Mountaineers. Julie’s kindness, generosity, and quiet strength will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing and loving her.

Julie is survived by her husband of nearly 44 years, Rick Gregory of Shinnston. She is also survived by her brothers, John Rice (Susan) of Ringoes, New Jersey, and Jim Rice (Jennifer) of Nellysford, Virginia; her stepson, Jay Thomas Gregory of Brooksville, Florida; her mother-in-law, Margaret “Mugs” Gregory; her aunt and uncles, George and Judy Rice, Anita (Bill) Stehney, and Judy Rose; and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service to celebrate Julie’s life will be held at 11 am, Saturday July 25, at the United Methodist Church.

Online memories and condolences may be shared at harmerfuneralhome.com.

Virginia Livingston

Virginia Livingston, 72, of Shinnston passed away Thursday, June 25, 2026 at United Hospital Center following a brief illness. She was born December 17, 1953 at Clarksburg, a daughter



of the late Ralph and Sue Bice Livingston.

She is survived by several cousins, John Puffenbarger, Buckhannon, WV, Dina Myers, Fairmont, Coby (Chad) Ringgenberg, Bridgeport, WV, Joshua Todd, Bridgeport, WV, Kim (Bill) Ikley, Maryland, Michael (Libby) Livingston, Enterprise, WV, Debbie Lindsey, Fairmont, WV, Carolyn Ash, Maryland, Sharon Turner, Alabama, and many other cousins, Sharon Myers; close friends, Chuck and Patty Vincent, Saltwell, WV, Judy Knoble, Shinnston, WV, Mary Martin, and many many more close friends. She was also preceded in death by her brother, Eddie Livingston; parents, Ralph and Sue Livingston; grandparents, Henry and Leslie H. Grimes Bice and Thomas W. and Bessie Vandergrift Livingston; aunts and uncles, Eleanor Bice, John Elmer Bice, Dorothy Jean Bice, Harriett L Bice, Myrtle, Katherine, Thomas Livingston, Lawrence Livingston, Hershel Livingston, and Leoda.

She was also preceded in death by her brother, Eddie Livingston; grandparents, Henry and Leslie H. Grimes Bice and Thomas W. and Bessie Vandergrift Livingston; aunts and uncles, Eleanor Bice, John Elmer Bice, Dorothy Jean Bice, Harriett L Bice, Myrtle, Katherine, Thomas, Lawrence, Hershel, and Leoda.

Virginia was a member of Enterprise United Methodist Church. She was a 2 nd grade teacher at Big Elm Elementary School and was a Special Ed teacher. She was a member of the WV Teachers Assn., and formerly a member of the Shinnston Garden Club. She was an avid reader of murder mysteries and loved to watch them. She loved her cats, Butterscotch and Tank.

Friends will be received at Harmer Funeral home on Saturday June 27, 2026 from 11:00AM to 1:00PM and a funeral service at 1:00 PM with Pastor Duane Bartrug officiating. Interment will follow at IOOF cemetery, Enterprise.

Online memories and condolences may be shared at Harmerfuneralhome.com.

“Smoot”

them.

Yet the Founding Fathers had some of the foremost minds on Earth at the time, in some cases ever. George Washington served as an unlikely historical great as both a general and a head of state. John Adams and John Marshall were two of the greatest legal minds in history. James Madison crafted much of the document that emerged as the

“Hunt”

flying airplanes. They are pushing their bodies, their training, their courage, and their concentration to the limit. Every movement matters. Every second matters. Every decision matters.

There is no room for carelessness. No room for distraction. No room for ego.

What we saw in the sky over Ocean City was more than entertainment. It was excellence. It was discipline. It was teamwork. It was trust.

And in many ways, it was a fitting reminder as our nation prepares to celebrate its 250th birthday.

America has always depended on people willing to do difficult things. Some wear uniforms. Some fly aircraft in defense of freedom. Some serve in public safety, education, health care, or local government. Some build businesses, raise families, volunteer in their communities, or quietly help neighbors in need.

Not all service looks the same, but all service matters.

That is one of the things I have always appreciated about municipal government. Cities and towns are where the work of America becomes real. Roads are repaired. Water flows. Police and fire services respond. Parks are maintained. Festivals are held. Budgets are balanced. Problems are solved, often without much attention or applause.

Local government may not always look dramatic from the outside, but it also requires precision, teamwork, and trust.

A city does not work because of one person. It works because elected officials, managers, clerks, police

cont. from p. 2

Constitution.

For 250 years a remarkable nation created by remarkable people has led to some of the most remarkable achievements of any nation in history. No people ever lived with more freedom or prosperity than those of the United States of America.

And Lord willing and the people working, neither of those has to change in the next 250 years.

cont. from p. 1

officers, firefighters, public works crews, finance officers, planners, and citizens each do their part. When they work together, the result can be just as impressive in its own way as those aircraft moving across the sky in perfect formation.

As Pam and I walked the Ocean City boardwalk, I thought about how fortunate we are to live in a country where communities can gather by the ocean, watch an air show, celebrate a birthday 250 years in the making, and still believe that the best days of our cities and towns can be ahead of us.

America is not perfect. No city is perfect. No community is perfect.

But perfection has never been the standard. The standard is whether we keep working, keep improving, keep serving, and keep believing that what we do together matters.

Those pilots reminded me that excellence is not an accident. It comes from preparation, courage, discipline, and trust.

The same is true for communities.

As we celebrate America’s 250th birthday, we should honor not only the grand moments in our history, but also the everyday work that keeps this country moving forward. From the pilots in the sky to the public servants in city halls, from the people who serve in uniform to the citizens who show up for their neighborhoods, America’s strength has always come from people willing to do their part.

And sometimes, if we are fortunate, we get to stand on a boardwalk with someone we love, look up into the sky, and be reminded just how amazing that can be.

Holding broadband providers accountable in rural America

By: U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.)
Washington Times

Rural America is a special and unique place, filled by a collection of small towns united by their desire for freedom and determination to take care of one another. No state in our union displays this better than my state of West Virginia, which I am honored to serve and fight for in the U.S. Senate.

West Virginia is the only state in America entirely encompassed by Appalachia and is recognized around the world for the kindness of our people, the strength of our communities, the trust we place in one another, and the beauty of our mountains. Our natural landscape and features have even inspired a song you might know, and we proudly wear the moniker of, “Almost Heaven.”

That is what rural America is all about, but it is not without challenges specific to our region.

Our mountains create a difficult set of challenges when it comes to deploying the infrastructure needed to connect every small town and community across our state to fast and reliable broadband internet. Reliable broadband is something that impacts nearly all aspects of our

daily lives, but connectivity in rural America has lagged behind that of more densely populated, urban areas. This makes it more difficult for West Virginians to communicate with our family and friends, to access emergency services, to educate our children, and to help small businesses succeed.

Since coming to the Senate in 2015, I have made it a priority to improve connectivity in West Virginia, which led to the creation of my Capito Connect initiative. Since launching Capito Connect, incredible progress has been made when it comes to connectivity in our state. Through the program, I’ve been able to work with partners across private and public sectors to secure billions in federal resources and create a platform for conversations about connectivity issues and the urgent need for reliable broadband access.

Alongside the people of my state, I have been honest and transparent about these challenges and what it will take to fix them. Now, our internet providers need to keep up their end of the bargain.

To increase accountability, I introduced the Rural Broadband Protection Act (RBPA) in 2022, helped move it through passage at

See “Broadband” Pg 7

Best of the Best in the North - South Classic!



The Bottom Line

By Bill Nestor
Sports Editor

The North-South games have been for a long time a great way for the Mountain State’s elite athletes to have a proper send-off from high school competition. The lock-ups provide an opportunity to see first-hand how the top performers in the state stack up against each other in a true head-to-head battle.

There are two factors that keep the elite players from going against each other during the regular season and even postseason play. The first is scheduling during the regular season and upsets during the postseason. Athletes have nothing to do with regular season scheduling as conference play and geography are the athletic directors’ focus when putting together a schedule.

The second factor is the quality of these top players’ teammates. For example, on the basketball court if two top performers were leading their respective teams, but one of them had a great supporting cast while the other had little help, it would be an unfair playing field. The second player would exert way more energy just to try and keep his team in the game and the end result isn’t a true representation of an accurate comparison between the two stars.

These North-South games help to even the playing field a little more, giving a true battle of the best, as well as give them a chance to earn bragging rights. It is a true honor to be chosen for those games and recently several locals were given the opportunity. On the gridiron, former

Lincoln quarterback A. J. Bart was selected and his coach Rob Hawkins was selected to coach. Hawkins was awarded the well-deserved privilege of coaching the girls’ basketball game.

Bart helped the North to a 34 to seven win. He had an impressive second drive that was capped off with a 10-yard touchdown pass to the game’s Most Valuable Player, Jack Byrer of University High. In the final tune up before heading to Buckhannon to play for Cougar alum Mike Kellar at West Virginia Wesleyan, Bart was near-perfect, four of five passing, for 58 yards and a touchdown. Bart showed that he is ready to suit up in Buckhannon.

A pair of Bridgeport linemen showed off in the 50th edition of this affair. Harrison Hall and Noah West made major contributions in the North victory. Hall caught a touchdown while West was the winner of the North team’s offensive lineman award.

In girls’ basketball action, Lincoln’s veteran mentor, Rob Hawkins, was joined by John Marshall’s Brock Melke to lead the North’s squad. In spite of the excellent coaching duo, the South pulled out an 80 to 78 win. It was the second time Hawkins had been chosen to coach in the event. The first was 20 years ago and it happened on the boys’ side.

It shows his ability to relate to both boys and girls, which is a true representation of a great coach. It also speaks to his knowledge of, and love for, the game. The good news for Lincoln fans is that they will be able to catch both of them this year. It’s not a long drive to Buckhannon to check out Bart while hawkins will be back where he belongs, making a difference with up and coming Cougars.

That 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.

Salem Announces the 2026 Inductees to Athletics Hall of Fame

SALEM, W.Va. – Salem University Athletics has announced the complete Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2026, recognizing a historic women’s basketball team, one of the most accomplished men’s basketball players in program history, and a trailblazer in women’s athletics, officiating, and coaching.

The Salem University Athletics Hall of Fame honors former student-athletes, coaches, teams, administrators, and supporters whose achievements and contributions have made a lasting impact on Tiger athletics.

The Class of 2026 will be formally honored at the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony as part of Homecoming festivities on October 9 inside the Benedum Library.

1995-96 Women’s Basketball Team

One of the most successful teams in Salem women’s basketball history, the 1995-96 squad earned its place in the Hall of Fame following a remarkable season that elevated the program to national prominence.

Under the leadership of Head Coach Tammy Bisenthal, the Tigers captured their second consecutive West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WVIAC) Championship and finished the season with a 27-4 overall record. Prior to the start of conference play, the team also posted a perfect 10-0 record during an exhibition tour in Japan.

The 1995-96 team became the first women’s basketball program in Salem history to advance to the NCAA Division II Sweet 16, marking a major milestone for the university.

Led by WVIAC Player of the Year and All-American Charlotte Powell, the Tigers set numerous program records, including marks for scoring, wins, and multiple statistical categories that stood for years as standards of excellence.

Their championship run, national tournament success, and record-breaking season established the 1995-96 squad as one of the most decorated teams in Salem Athletics history.

Bob Schneider – Men’s Basketball (1964–66)

Bob Schneider remains one of the most

See “Salem” Pg 8

Does the PGA Need a Facelift?



Brooks Koepka. Photo courtesy of Wikipedia.

By Bill Nestor

The two biggest superstars in the world of golf for the last three decades have been Tiger Woods and

Phil Mickelson. During that span, Woods had won 82 PGA tournaments while Nickelson has recorded 45 PGA wins with six major championships.

Unfortunately for the tour, both players had had their images tarnished recently and the search is on for a few good men to step up and fill the void that the PGA desperately wants filled.

Brooks Koepka could be a contender to step up into one of those slots. Area fans have a connection to him through his father Bob, a Bridgeport High School and West Virginia Wesleyan alum. Brooks has had five major wins in his back pocket, but he hasn’t had one since 2023. A handful of nagging injuries have kept him from playing his best golf, but he has been looking more like his old self in the past few months.

Another possibility is Wyndham Clark. Clark just won the US Open at Shinnecock Hills. It was his second major. The first came in 2023 and he is starting to gain a great deal of fan popularity with his latest victory.

In 2023, Clark started working with a sports psychologist and he has benefited from meditation, praying, and journaling. He has a “good guy” image that could really benefit the Tour.

Everyone loves a good comeback story and it would be great to se Tiger and Phil recover from their most recent series issues. But if they can’t, Brooks and Wyndham wouldn’t be bad choices to be elevated into those vacant spots.

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Super Crossword

Answers

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M	A	N	I	A	C		E	R	R	O	R		A	T	T	I	T	U	D	E	
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Transportation Policy is Too Important to Rush

Jessi Troyen - Cardinal Institute

With just months remaining before the current federal surface transportation law expires on September 30, Congress is again working through the complex process of reauthorizing federal transportation programs. The relevant House committee has advanced its version of a five-year transportation reauthorization bill, while discussions continue in both chambers about the path forward.

For West Virginia, these discussions matter considerably. Sen. Shelley Moore Capito occupies an influential position in the process, serving on key Senate committees that help shape transportation and infrastructure policy. Recent comments from Sen. Capito have acknowledged the practical challenges associated with completing a comprehensive reauthorization before the current law expires and the possibility that Congress could consider alternative approaches if additional time is needed.

Transportation reauthorization bills are among the most consequential pieces of legislation Congress considers. As previous generations of West Virginia leaders understood, these measures influence infrastructure investment, transportation priorities, regulatory frameworks, and the movement of goods throughout the national economy. Given their scope and complexity, careful evaluation of policy choices remains important.

The current House proposal illustrates some of the policy questions Congress continues to debate. While supporters have highlighted its bipartisan committee approval, a number of provisions have generated discussion among policymakers,

industry groups, and advocacy organizations across the political spectrum. Among the issues receiving attention are the long-term financial challenges facing the Highway Trust Fund and questions about how federal transportation programs should be funded in the future.

Other provisions have prompted debate as well. Proposed registration fees on electric and hybrid vehicles, for example, have generated differing views regarding transportation funding, user fees, and federal policy design. These discussions reflect broader questions about how transportation systems should be financed and managed in the years ahead.

For West Virginia, these debates are particularly relevant.

The state’s economy depends heavily on efficient freight movement, reliable highways, and transportation networks that support economic activity. Energy products, manufactured goods, agricultural commodities, and consumer products move across extensive highway and rail networks that connect West Virginia to national and international markets. As Congress considers transportation policy, the potential effects on economic competitiveness, mobility, and infrastructure performance deserve careful attention.

These considerations also extend to rail policy provisions that have been discussed as part of broader transportation legislation.

Questions surrounding rail safety regulations have generated substantial debate among policymakers, industry representatives, researchers, and other stakeholders. Effective transportation policy is best informed by evidence, a clear understanding of safety outcomes, and careful consideration of

both benefits and costs. As lawmakers examine rail safety issues, ongoing analysis of available data and investigative findings can help inform those discussions.

Cost considerations are especially important in a state that relies heavily on freight transportation. Changes that increase transportation costs can affect businesses, manufacturers, energy producers, agricultural interests, and consumers. Policymakers weighing transportation proposals may therefore wish to consider how regulatory changes influence both safety objectives and economic performance.

Sen. Capito’s leadership roles on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and the Commerce Committee place her in a significant position as these discussions continue. The Senate’s deliberations will help shape the direction of federal transportation policy and determine how Congress addresses the many issues involved in reauthorization.

As Congress moves forward, the quality of transportation policy will likely depend on careful consideration of infrastructure needs, fiscal sustainability, economic impacts, and measurable policy outcomes. Given the importance of these issues, thoughtful deliberation and thorough evaluation of competing proposals remain valuable components of the legislative process.

Transportation policy affects communities, businesses, and economic opportunity across the country. For West Virginia, ensuring that federal transportation programs support efficient movement of goods, reliable infrastructure, and long-term economic growth remains an important consideration as Congress works toward reauthorization

Clarksburg Amphitheater to Host Wheeling Symphony and Fireworks Spectacular on July 2

CLARKSBURG, W.Va. — The City Parks of Clarksburg is proud to announce the return of the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra to the Clarksburg Amphitheater at Veterans Memorial Park on Thursday, July 2, as part of the community’s celebration of America’s 250th Anniversary.

This free family-friendly event will feature a patriotic performance by one of West Virginia’s premier orchestras and conclude with a spectacular fireworks display synchronized to the orchestra’s finale.

“We have a full day of activities planned throughout Veterans Park with several community groups hosting events leading up to the concert,” said Superintendent of Parks Doug Comer. “Thanks to the Harrison County Cultural Foundation, the Harrison County Commission, and many other partners who helped make this free event possible. Celebrating America’s 250th anniversary makes this year’s performance even more special. Anyone who has attended this event in the past knows the experience is unlike anything else in our region.”

The significance of hosting the event at Veterans Memorial Park is not lost on organizers. As the nation celebrates 250 years of freedom and independence, the venue serves as a fitting reminder of the men and women who have served and sacrificed to protect those freedoms.

Gates will open at 7:00 p.m., with the concert beginning shortly thereafter. As dusk approaches, attendees will be treated to a unique combination of live orchestral music and a choreographed fireworks presentation designed to complement the evening’s patriotic selections.

“The finale of the show is paired with a fireworks display, and the timing must be exact to create the full experience,” Comer said. “Our production team and fireworks crew remain in constant communication throughout the performance. As soon as the first note of the finale is played, the fireworks begin. It’s an incredible experience that truly brings the music

to life.”

Organizers anticipate a large crowd for the annual tradition and encourage attendees to arrive early. Guests are welcome to bring lawn chairs and blankets for seating on the amphitheater lawn. There will be concessions available for purchase including hot dogs, popcorn, pretzels, and various beverages.

In the event of inclement weather, the concert will be relocated to Village Square Conference Center. Should the venue change, the fireworks display will be postponed until immediately following the

performance.

For additional information, please contact the City Parks of Clarksburg administrative office.

Event Details
What: Wheeling Symphony Orchestra & Fireworks Spectacular
When: Thursday, July 2, 2026
Where: Clarksburg Amphitheater, Veterans Memorial Park
Gates Open: 7:00 p.m.
Admission: Free

Mon power energy project to public comment July 15

CHARLESTON – The Public Service Commission of West Virginia has scheduled a virtual and in-person public comment hearing for July into construction of a \$2.48 billion gas-electric generation plant in Monongalia County and three solar energy projects.

The hearing is set for 5:30 p.m. July 15 at the PSC hearing room at 201 Brooks St., Charleston.

On February 13, Monongahela Power Co. and The Potomac Edison Co. filed an application to construct a 1,200-megawatt (MW) combined cycle gas plant at the Fort Martin Power Station in Monongalia County, and to construct 70 MW of solar generation at three sites: Valley Point near Albright, Preston County; adjacent to the town of Davis, Tucker County; and near Weirton. The combined cost of the solar projects is estimated at \$182 million.

The application is for an expected shortfall in electrical-generation capacity beginning in 2029.

The companies are seeking an initial surcharge to pay for the projects, which would result in an average increase in customer bills of 0.9 percent, or \$1.18 a month.

Those who wish to participate in the public comment hearing should register with the Commission by 4 p.m. on July 10. Registration may be made through the Microsoft Teams meeting link at: <https://bit.ly/wvpssc20260715>. You may also register by calling Alexis Weimer at (304) 340-0822 or Andrew Gallagher at (304) 340-0820; or by emailing aweimer@psc.state.wv.us or agallagher@psc.state.wv.us.

Those who wish to attend in person should sign up to speak prior to 5:30 p.m. As an alternative to speaking, written comments regarding this case may be submitted by mail or hand delivery to the Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, WV 25323, or online at www.psc.state.wv.us by clicking on “Submit a Comment” in the left column and following the directions provided. All written comments should be marked as pertaining to Case No. 26-0108-E-CN.

More information on this case can be found on the PSC website: www.psc.state.wv.us. Click on “Case Information” and access Case No. 26-0108-E-CN.





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LEGAL

(2022-C-000326 - HARRISON COUNTY - BACK CREEK PROPERTY MANAGEMENT)
To: HOLLY PYLES , OCCUPANT, LOU ALLEN PYLES, LENORA HENTZ, LENORA HENTZ, PEGGY STIVERSON, COURTNEY BROWN, COURTNEY BROWN , PAMELA SWACKHAMMER, ROBERT PYLES , RHONDA CRABTREE, ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITOR, REPRESENTATIVE, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF IVA PYLES A/K/A IVY PYLES, ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITOR, REPRESENTATIVE, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF LEWIS PYLES, ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITOR, REPRESENTATIVE, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF LOUIS PYLES, ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITOR, REPRESENTATIVE, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF ALICE PYLES, ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITOR, REPRESENTATIVE, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF CHARLES PYLES, ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITOR, REPRESENTATIVE, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF HOWARD PYLES, ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITOR, REPRESENTATIVE, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF HOWARD JUNIOR PYLES, ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITOR, REPRESENTATIVE, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF PHILLIS PYLES A/K/A PHYLLIS PYLES, ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITOR, REPRESENTATIVE, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF PERRY PYLES, ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITOR, REPRESENTATIVE, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF CONSTANCE PYLES, ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITOR, REPRESENTATIVE, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF RONALD STIVERSON, ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITOR, REPRESENTATIVE, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF CHERI STIVERSON, ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITOR, REPRESENTATIVE, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF AGNES PYLES, ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITOR, REPRESENTATIVE, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF LOU ALLEN PYLES, ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITOR, REPRESENTATIVE, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF LENORA HENTZ, ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITOR, REPRESENTATIVE, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF PEGGY STIVERSON, ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITOR, REPRESENTATIVE, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF COURTNEY RILEY A/K/A COURTNEY BROWN, ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITOR, REPRESENTATIVE, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF HOLLY SHUGARS, ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITOR, REPRESENTATIVE, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF ROBERT PYLES, ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITOR, REPRESENTATIVE, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF RHONDA CRABTREE, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT COAL OUTSIDE DISTRICT MAP 1120 PARCEL 0125 0000 0000	
You will take notice that BACK CREEK PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, the purchaser of the following real estate, Cert No. 2022-C-000326, located in COAL OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, 2 LOTS PTS 54-55 HEPZIBAH HTS INC PAR 124, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of PYLES HOWARD ETAL 3/4 PERRY 1/8 & C, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of HARRISON County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on February 10, 2026. BACK CREEK PROPERTY MANAGEMENT requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate on or after December 1, 2026, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before November 30, 2026, will be as follows:	
Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2021 - 22989.	\$ 188.23
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number.	\$ 0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 20252 - 23104.	\$ 101.37
Additional taxes with interest.	\$ 0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$ 124.28
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$ 1,151.19
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$ 0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$ 1,565.07

You may redeem at any time before November 30, 2026 by paying the above total less any unearned interest.
If the above real estate is your primary residence, you may petition the Auditor to redeem the real estate in not more than three incremental payments that equal the total mount required to redeem the real estate prior to the issuance of the deed described above.
Given under my hand June 11, 2026

Christal G. Perry
Christal G. Perry
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and
Nonentered Lands of HARRISON County, State of West Virginia
**Please return this letter and payment to the
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305.
Questions, please call 1-888-509-6568**

LEGAL

(2025-C-000412 - HARRISON COUNTY - ELEMENTAL RESOURCES)
To: BEREGETTIA CUMMINGS, PATRICIA RUNNER, CHRISTINE RICHARDS, CYNTHIA A DICKENS, GREGORY DALE CUMMINGS, BEREGETTIA DARLENE CUMMINGS, JOYCE MAREADY, PATRICIA RUNNER, FRANK RUNNER, CHRIS RICHARDS, CHRISTINE RICHARDS, DARRELL RICHARDS, CINDY DICKENS, CYNTHIA A DICKENS, TERRY DICKENS, BONNIE JOHNSON, JOHN JOHNSON, SHERRY LYNN STARKEY CUMMINGS, DWIGHT BOB CUMMINGS, VIRGIL DALE CUMMINGS JR, PASQUALE NICOLETTI, ANTONIO NICOLETTI, SALVATORE NICOLETTI, SAMUEL T NICOLETTI, JOSEPH NICOLETTI, CATHERINE CARDER, CATHERINE CARTER, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT COAL OUTSIDE DISTRICT MAP 1126 PARCEL 0075 0001 0000	
You will take notice that ELEMENTAL RESOURCES, the purchaser of the following real estate, Cert No. 2025-C-000412, located in COAL OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, 1 LOT FRANCES ADD (.20+AC), which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of CUMMINGS GREGORY DALE, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of HARRISON County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 7, 2026. ELEMENTAL RESOURCES requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate on or after December 1, 2026, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before November 30, 2026, will be as follows:	
Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2024 - 20767.	\$ 81.89
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number.	\$ 0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2025 - 20970.	\$ 19.54
Additional taxes with interest.	\$ 0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$ 119.40
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$ 986.92
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$ 0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$ 1,207.75

You may redeem at any time before November 30, 2026, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.
If the above real estate is your primary residence, you may petition the Auditor to redeem the real estate in not more than three incremental payments that equal the total mount required to redeem the real estate prior to the issuance of the deed described above.
Given under my hand June 11, 2026

Christal G. Perry
Christal G. Perry
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and
Nonentered Lands of HARRISON County, State of West Virginia
**Please return this letter and payment to the
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305.
Questions, please call 1-888-509-6568**

LEGAL

(Cert. No. 177972 Charles L Davis & Valerie L Davis)
To: ROBERT ALLEN FABIANO, MICHELE FORD, DIANNE MARIE LOCKHART, JAMES LIVINGSTON, ROBERT ALLEN FABIANO ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF GEORGIA ANN SWIGER LIVINGSTON, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT CLAY-OUTSIDE DISTRICT MAP 910 PARCEL 0024	
You will take notice that Charles L Davis & Valerie L Davis, the purchaser of the following real estate, Certification No. 177972, located in CLAY-OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, 1 LOT #6 Borys Lots, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of Swiger Georgia A Estate, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of Harrison County at the sale for the delinquent taxes made on 10/09/2024, Charles L Davis & Valerie L Davis requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after 08/17/2026, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before 08/17/2026 will be as follows:	
Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to 08/17/2026	\$ 5451.18
Amount of taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to 08/17/2026	\$ 0.00
Amount paid for the Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest to 08/17/2026	\$ 1624.89
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest to 08/17/2026	\$ 0.00
Total Amount Payable to Sheriff - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check must be made payable to The Honorable Sheriff of Harrison County.	\$ 7076.07

You may redeem any time before 08/17/2026 by paying the above total less any unearned interest.
Given under my hand 6/10/2026

Christal G. Perry
Christal G. Perry
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and
Nonentered Lands of HARRISON County, State of West Virginia
**Please return this letter and payment to the
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collection Division
1900 Kanawha Blvd East, Building 1, Room W-114
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N&J Briefs

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

Thursday - July 2, 2026

Liberty Market at the Freedom Shelter at Veterans Memorial Park; Food Trucks (Noon-10PM); Vendors (3PM-10PM); Bicycle Parade at 3:30 PM; Veterans Salute at 4PM; Hot Dog Eating Contest at 5PM; Wheeling Symphony Orchestra at the Clarksburg AMP and Fireworks at 8PM.

LEGAL

(2025-C-000421 - HARRISON COUNTY - RELLA B CVETICAN)
To: OCCUPANT, OCCUPANT, OCCUPANT, LINDA HINES, BETTY J COLLINS HEIRS, HAROLD L COLLINS JR HEIRS, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT COAL OUTSIDE DISTRICT MAP 124 PARCEL 0042 0000 0000	
You will take notice that RELLA B CVETICAN, the purchaser of the following real estate, Cert No. 2025-C-000421, located in COAL OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, 2 LOTS 14A-14 THOMAS TRC(MHOM) MURPHY RUN INCL PAR, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of LEGGETT MARCUS ESTATE, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of HARRISON County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 7, 2026. COLLINS BETTY J requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate on or after December 1, 2026, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before November 30, 2026, will be as follows:	
Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2024 - 20518.	\$ 268.87
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number.	\$ 0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2025 - 20724.	\$ 199.18
Additional taxes with interest.	\$ 0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$ 209.40
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$ 431.18
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$ 0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$ 1,108.63

You may redeem at any time before November 30, 2026, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.
If the above real estate is your primary residence, you may petition the Auditor to redeem the real estate in not more than three incremental payments that equal the total mount required to redeem the real estate prior to the issuance of the deed described above.
Given under my hand June 9, 2026

Christal G. Perry
Christal G. Perry
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and
Nonentered Lands of HARRISON County, State of West Virginia
**Please return this letter and payment to the
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305.
Questions, please call 1-888-509-6568**

LEGAL

(2025-C-000642 - HARRISON COUNTY - DAWN PHARES)
To: MARY JACINTHA FREDERICK ESTATE, MARY JACINTHA FREDERICK ESTATE, CURRENT OCCUPANT, CURRENT OCCUPANT, MARY JACINTHA FREDERICK ESTATE, MARY JACINTHA FREDERICK ESTATE, MARY JACINTHA FREDERICK ESTATE, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT GRANT OUTSIDE DISTRICT MAP 2006 PARCEL 0051 0000 0000	
You will take notice that DAWN PHARES, the purchaser of the following real estate, Cert No. 2025-C-000642, located in GRANT OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, 1 (LOTS 34 THRU 39 & 41) GOOD VIEW, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of FREDERICK MARY JACINTHA, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of HARRISON County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 7, 2026. DAWN PHARES requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate on or after December 1, 2026, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before November 30, 2026, will be as follows:	
Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2024 - 40693.	\$ 613.04
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number.	\$ 0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2025 - 41368.	\$ 564.09
Additional taxes with interest.	\$ 0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$ 209.40
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$ 910.68
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$ 0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$ 2,297.21

You may redeem at any time before November 30, 2026, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.
If the above real estate is your primary residence, you may petition the Auditor to redeem the real estate in not more than three incremental payments that equal the total mount required to redeem the real estate prior to the issuance of the deed described above.
Given under my hand June 9, 2026

Christal G. Perry
Christal G. Perry
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and
Nonentered Lands of HARRISON County, State of West Virginia
**Please return this letter and payment to the
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305.
Questions, please call 1-888-509-6568**

THANK YOU FOR READING
THE SHINNSTONS NEWS &
HARRISON COUNTY JOURNAL

LEGAL

(2025-C-000410 - HARRISON COUNTY - RELLA B CVETICAN)

To: AARON L GALLO, AARON L GALLO, UNITED HOSPITAL CENTER, DISCOVER BANK C/O DISCOVER PRODUCTS, INC., WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, COMPLIANCE DIVISION, HEIRS OF EVELYN J GALLO, HEIRS OF JOE BILLY GALLO, HEIRS OF STANLEY DUANE GALLO, OC-CUPANT, OCCUPANT, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an un-divided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT COAL OUTSIDE DISTRICT MAP 1123 PARCEL 0023 0000 0000

You will take notice that RELLA B CVETICAN, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No.** 2025-C-000410, located in COAL OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, 1 LOT E 1/2 #81 (75 X 150) REYN-OLDSVILLE, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of GALLO EVELYN J-JOE B-STANLEY D & A, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of HARRISON County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 7, 2026. RELLA B CVETICAN requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate on or after December 1, 2026, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before November 30, 2026, will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2024 - 21517.	\$	210.37
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number.	\$	0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2025 - 21726.	\$	138.68
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	121.23
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	480.27
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	950.55

You may redeem at any time before November 30, 2026, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.
If the above real estate is your primary residence, you may petition the Auditor to redeem the real estate in not more than three incremental payments that equal the total mount required to redeem the real estate prior to the issuance of the deed described above.

Given under my hand June 9, 2026

Christal G. Perry
Christal G. Perry
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of HARRISON County, State of West Virginia

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Charleston, West Virginia 25305.
Questions, please call 1-888-509-6568

LEGAL

(2025-C-000643 - HARRISON COUNTY - DAWN PHARES)

To: MARY JACINTHA FREDERICK, MARY JACINTHA FREDERICK, CURRENT OCCUPANT, CURRENT OCCUPANT, MARY JACINTHA FREDERICK ESTATE, MARY JACINTHA FREDERICK ESTATE, MARY JACINTHA FREDERICK ESTATE, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT GRANT OUTSIDE DISTRICT MAP 2006 PARCEL 0064 0000 0000

You will take notice that DAWN PHARES, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No.** 2025-C-000643, located in GRANT OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, 5 LOTS 52-53-54-46-47 GOOD VIEW (INC PCLS 64 THRU, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of FREDERICK MARY JACINTHA, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of HARRISON County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 7, 2026. DAWN PHARES requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate on or after December 1, 2026, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before November 30, 2026, will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2024 - 40693.	\$	94.99
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number.	\$	0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2025 - 41368.	\$	19.54
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	103.34
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	910.68
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	1,128.55

You may redeem at any time before November 30, 2026, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.
If the above real estate is your primary residence, you may petition the Auditor to redeem the real estate in not more than three incremental payments that equal the total mount required to redeem the real estate prior to the issuance of the deed described above.

Given under my hand June 9, 2026

Christal G. Perry
Christal G. Perry
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of HARRISON County, State of West Virginia

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Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305.
Questions, please call 1-888-509-6568

LEGAL

(2025-C-000641 - HARRISON COUNTY - DAWN PHARES)

To: MARY JACINTHA FREDERICK, MARY JACINTHA FREDERICK ESTATE, CURRENT OCCU-PANT, CURRENT OCCUPANT, MARY JACINTHA FREDERICK ESTATE, MARY JACINTHA FREDERICK ESTATE, MARY JACINTHA FREDERICK ESTATE, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representa-tives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT GRANT OUTSIDE DISTRICT MAP 2006 PARCEL 0047 0000 0000

You will take notice that DAWN PHARES, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No.** 2025-C-000641, located in GRANT OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, 1 LOT 40 GOODVIEW, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of FREDERICK MARY JACINTHA, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of HARRISON County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 7, 2026. DAWN PHARES requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate on or after December 1, 2026, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before November 30, 2026, will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2024 - 40692.	\$	86.63
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number.	\$	0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2025 - 41367.	\$	23.93
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	179.40
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	915.60
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	1,205.56

You may redeem at any time before November 30, 2026, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.
If the above real estate is your primary residence, you may petition the Auditor to redeem the real estate in not more than three incremental payments that equal the total mount required to redeem the real estate prior to the issuance of the deed described above.

Given under my hand June 9, 2026

Christal G. Perry
Christal G. Perry
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of HARRISON County, State of West Virginia

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Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305.
Questions, please call 1-888-509-6568

LEGAL

(2025-C-000524 - HARRISON COUNTY - RELLA B CVETICAN)

To: ROMETTA LEGGETT, OCCUPANT, ROMETTA LEGGETT, RONALD E LEGGETT, RONALD E LEGGETT, MARCUS EDWARD LEGGETT HEIRS, RILYNN LEGGETT, PAISLEE LEGGETT, GUN-NAR LEGGETT, SHONDRA LEGGETT, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT EAGLE OUTSIDE DISTRICT MAP 124 PARCEL 0042 0000 0000

You will take notice that RELLA B CVETICAN, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No.** 2025-C-000524, located in EAGLE OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, 2.05 AC QUAKER FORK (SUR-FACE), which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of LEGGETT MARCUS ESTATE, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of HARRISON County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 7, 2026. RELLA B CVETICAN requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate on or after December 1, 2026, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before November 30, 2026, will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2024 - 32826.	\$	764.60
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number.	\$	0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2025 - 33218.	\$	682.21
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	209.40
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	475.35
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	2,131.56

You may redeem at any time before November 30, 2026, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.
If the above real estate is your primary residence, you may petition the Auditor to redeem the real estate in not more than three incremental payments that equal the total mount required to redeem the real estate prior to the issuance of the deed described above.

Given under my hand June 9, 2026

Christal G. Perry
Christal G. Perry
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of HARRISON County, State of West Virginia

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“Broadband”

cont. from p. 3

the federal level, and I was proud to see President Donald Trump sign this legislation into law last month.

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

Time and time again, internet service providers have come to West Virginia and promised a fix to our connectivity issues using federal resources we’ve fought to secure. Too often, these assurances have failed to materialize, leaving us in the same position we started in while wasting taxpayer dollars and time.

RBPA aims to fix this by expanding on my previous broadband efforts and is a product of many discussions I’ve had with small rural service providers and West Virginians on the ground. These discussions made it increasingly clear that the FCC needs direction from Congress to ensure taxpayer dollars are being used properly and efficiently to fund broadband deployment in rural areas that need this service the most.

By verifying that providers can actually deliver on the commitments made to bring high-speed internet to rural areas, we can maximize the influx of broadband dollars coming to West Virginia and move toward our goal of closing the digital divide in communities of all sizes across our state.

West Virginians keep their word, and it’s time internet service providers do the same.

57 Cent Gift Brings Large Return

she had been included that she went to bed that night thinking about all the children who might have been told the same thing and had no place to worship Jesus.

Two years later, the child was found dead in one of the city’s poor tenement buildings. Her parents called for the kindhearted pastor who had befriended their daughter to help them with her final arrangements. As her little body was moved, they noticed a worn and crumpled purse clutched to her hand – probably one that had been rummaged from a trash dump. Inside was 57 cents and a note scribbled in her handwriting which said, “This is to help build the little church bigger so more children can go to Sunday School.” For two years it seems she had saved every penny she could find for this offering.

The pastor, touched by the note, carried it along with her dirty little purse, to the pulpit for his next sermon and told the story of her unselfish love and devotion. He challenged his parishioners to get busy and raise enough money for the larger building.

A newspaper heard of the story and published it as well. It was read by a realtor who offered the church a fairly large parcel of land worth a lot of money. Of course, they told the realtor

that price was way beyond their budget. But he offered it to them for only 57 cents!

Donations came from church members and checks came from far and wide, and within five years, the little girl’s gift had increased to \$250,000 – a huge sum for that time near the turn of the century. Her unselfishness had grown into quite an investment!

If you ever visit the city of Philadelphia, look up Temple Baptist Church, a church with a seating capacity of 1,300, and Temple University where hundreds of students are trained. Look, too, at the Good Samaritan Hospital and at a Sundry School building which houses hundreds of Sunday School rooms – so that no child in the area will ever be told “there is no room”. In one of those rooms is a picture of the little girl whose 57 cents made remarkable history. Beside it is a portrait of her kind pastor, Dr. Russel H. Conwell.

I am told this is a true story. Isn’t it amazing what a big impact grew out of a sacrifice of what seemed like such a small offering ... only 57 cents?!!!

Quote of the Week: “Great grace and small gifts are better than great gifts and no grace.” ~ John Bunyan

“PWA”

as mostly a social club into a community service organization with efforts and goals not unlike the Lions Club, Rotary, or Ruritan.

Like those organizations, PWA developed youth organizations to give children a sense of community and how they might contribute to it. Young women found leadership opportunities not always available in other organizations for a time.

“Every school had Y Teen programming,” remembered Queen. Members came into the organization in seventh grade. As older members mentored, new ones went through a playful initiation process. “You might have had to wear two different colored shoes or something like that,” Queen smiled in remembrance, but added that she didn’t think kids would go for that today.

“But were were excited to do that!” she remembered fondly. While a little silliness initiated a member, once involved “we did a lot of things in the community.”

Thirteen-year member Elinda Carson said “I’ve been in love with it since the first time I walked through the doors. She explained “We were the YWCA.” As a local partner with the Young Women’s Christian Association, the PWA acquired an event center in downtown Clarksburg where they hold special functions

and also rent to others.

Carson, who serves as Executive Director, explained that they broke from the YWCA about 14 or 15 years ago. She said that the YWCA desired a higher membership fee, but “we only charge \$25” and “we were doing our own programs” anyway.

Betty Waddy joined a decade ago and now serves as organization president. “We’re definitely a community service organization. We work alongside other organizations in the county.” The PWA organizes a number of programs, sponsors events, and also leads the way in recognizing and honoring the contributions of exceptional women.

With community needs always expanding, the PWA worked to help. Carson described how the organization started a food pantry. As she spoke with those who relied on it, she noticed that some would come more frequently. Carson stated that when she inquired, some would share that they shared some of the food with their pets because they could not afford to buy food for their dog or cat.

PWA then started a “pet pantry.” Carson proudly shared “we’re the first and only one here. We started it in 2019. It operates mostly from donations.”

Another program provides box lunches for

cont. from p. 1

those receiving cancer treatments at United Health Center.

Mayfield shared “I love what I do. The impact is just unbelievable.”

Like every good community service organization, PWA has faced increasing struggles to maintain membership and seeks to shape its functions and programming to help build for the future. “We don’t give up,” said Mayfield, who then said “we always work to get new members all the time.”

Queen also described the process of adaptation, saying “it’s hard” and adding “we can’t figure out what women want to do” and that “women just don’t have the time now.”

Every PWA member, however, continues to promote the value of the organization while continuing to bring in newcomers to the organization.

All the while, the roles of women and expectations of them continue to change. Through sometimes rapid social changes, the PWA continues to offer an organization that honors and supports women while also providing a way in which to give back, join a community, and enjoy both mentorship and friendship.

The PWA’s core mission, regardless of social changes, will always be to strengthen both women and also the community-at-large.

“Salem”

productive and influential players in Salem men’s basketball history, earning his place in the Hall of Fame through a standout playing career and decades of coaching and player development.

A standout at Victory High School in Clarksburg, West Virginia, Schneider began his collegiate career at West Virginia University before transferring to Salem. In two seasons as a Tiger, he averaged a double-double in points and rebounds and quickly became one of the program’s most dominant players.

Schneider earned All-WVIAC honors in 1966 and was also named to the All-WVIAC Tournament Team. Serving as team captain during his senior season, he finished his Salem career with 1,060 points and 680 rebounds.

Following his playing career, Schneider transitioned into coaching at both the collegiate and high school levels, including stops at Virginia

Tech and California Polytechnic State University, as well as Doddridge County High School and Washington Irving High School. He also built a successful basketball skill development business, continuing to impact athletes long after his playing days.

Mary Jane Curran Schafer – Women’s Basketball / Official (1968–72)

Mary Jane Curran Schafer is recognized for a lifelong commitment to athletics as a student-athlete, official, and coach, leaving a lasting impact on sports throughout West Virginia and Ohio.

After her time at Salem from 1968–72, Schafer built a distinguished career as an official. Among her most notable accomplishments was officiating the first-ever women’s basketball game held at the WVU Coliseum on January 16th, 1974, a landmark moment in the growth of women’s athletics in the state.

cont. from p. 4

She went on to officiate both high school and collegiate basketball across West Virginia and Ohio, earning respect for her professionalism, knowledge of the game, and consistency on the court.

In addition to officiating, Schafer dedicated many years to coaching volleyball, track and field, softball, and women’s basketball, influencing countless student-athletes through her leadership and mentorship.

Her combined contributions as a coach and official helped advance opportunities for women in athletics and strengthened the growth of multiple sports across the region.

The Salem University Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2026 will be formally inducted and honored during Homecoming festivities on October 9 at the Benedum Library, celebrating their achievements, contributions, and lasting impact on Tiger Athletics

WVSSAC Student-Athlete Transfer Regulations Updated for 2026-27

By Stephen Smoot

One of the bigger headaches plaguing coaches, athletic directors, and those who follow high school sports in West Virginia has been a legislative change that allowed more student-athlete transfers.

That change voided the previous laws establishing more open transfers and returned primary rule-making authority to the WVSSAC. Legislators requested that the governing body for scholastic extracurricular activities not return to the status quo prior to the bill repealed.

While some athletes found better opportunities, others landed in more challenging situations. Some schools aggressively recruited from others and some smaller rural schools had to cancel their football seasons.

A new set of rules governing these transfers came down from the WVSSAC. According to

that body, “the Board of Control voted 147-0 to approve a rule that preserves school choice for students and families while providing structure to support competitive balance among member schools.”

First, a ninth or 10th grader can have a “one-time transfer . . . with immediate eligibility.” That must occur prior to Sept 1. Should the student transfer during a sports season, he or she cannot compete in the sport currently in season, but will be eligible for all others.

The rule also allows for a “transfer-back provision.”

According to the WVSSAC, “a student in ninth, tenth or eleventh grade is entitled to one transfer back to a member school within the attendance zone where the student’s parents reside, provided it is the home school originally identified at the time of the initial out-of-zone enrollment.”

It goes on to add that “immediate eligibility

applies if the transfer is completed by September.

1. Students seeking transfers outside the scope of this rule may file for a waiver with the WVSSAC Board of Directors.”

The specific rule also states “Eligibility will be granted immediately if the transfer is on or before September 1.”

That rule is subject to this clause that states “if the transfer occurs during the remainder of the academic year the student will be ineligible for the remainder of that academic year and will gain eligibility after the end of that academic year, providing they meet the specified GPA requirements.”

Wayne Ryan, Executive Director of the WVSSAC stated “Once again, we are very grateful for the support of our legislature and the governor throughout this entire process. We appreciate their trust in the WVSSAC and its member schools on this matter.”



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Women Veterans Honored in Clarksburg By PWA for America 250



The VFW honor guard played Taps to open the event.



Six veterans shared their stories and received recognition Friday.

By Stephen Smoot

Like clockwork, the Progressive Women’s Association three times a year holds its Women of Distinction luncheon. This year, they saw the 250th anniversary of the independence of the United States as a way to add to the patriotic spirit of the occasion while also honoring women whose stories have not always been told.

Six women received recognition and got to share their compelling stories of service to America and the cause of freedom. What was planned as an event to honor these exceptional women became emotional sharing of the inspiration to commit to the nation and also personal sacrifice while serving.

Prior to the presentation, attendees stood as a Veterans of Foreign Wars honor guard played taps. It was followed by SFC Stephanie Ibarra leading all in the Pledge of Allegiance, then VFW State Chaplain, and honoree, Maria Saunders leading the blessing.

She prayed “Lord we just thank You and ask You to bless this food.”

PWA volunteers served a summertime meal of meatloaf, paprika sprinkled potato salad, baked beans, and Italian-style tomato salad. As attendees enjoyed their lunch Franchesca Aloï, the 46th West Virginia Italian Heritage Festival Regina Maria sang patriotic classics, leading with Irving Berlin’s “God Bless America.”

Susan Riddle, President and Chief Executive Officer of Visit Mountaineer Country Convention and Visitors’ Bureau served as the keynote. She spoke of the value of service to both country and community.

Her talk opened with the values of the United States of America as are expressed on the quarter-dollar. Liberty is the value all Americans hold dear. “In God We Trust” recognizes that the rights enshrined in the Constitution come not from the governments of mankind but the sovereignty of God. We receive our rights a priori, or at birth.

Finally, E Pluribus Unum means that freedom-loving peoples of all perspectives can unify under the values that Americans have held since

the Founding Fathers.

For those who dedicated parts of their lives to the military, “service begins at home” and “service doesn’t end when they take of the uniform.” These points underscored the stories shared later in the presentation.

Next came Secretary Ryan Kennedy, head of the West Virginia Department of Veterans’ Assistance. He shared information on a number of state-based programs, including assistance to receive federal Veterans Administration benefits for those who became disabled in military service.

The beating heart of the day came when PWA President Betty Waddy came to the podium. One at a time, she would introduce each honored veteran, asking each to share some of their life with the audience. Many there came to support family or friends and join in the celebration of their service.

Thelma Louise McGriff offered “a special thank you to my family who have come here to support me.” The Stonewood native and Roosevelt Wilson High School graduate joined the United States Air Force towards the end of the Vietnam War in 1972. She related that she “never expected” a four-year commitment to become “my life for over two decades.” McGriff also pointed out that women made up about 2.3 percent of service members in 1972, around 11,500. In 2026, between 68 and 72,000 women serve, making up about 21 percent of the armed forces.

In her biography, she shared “I trust we are inn good hands with the military because my daughter is one of them.”

For Sheree Rosevear, recognition by the Progressive Women’s Association helped her come full circle in a sense. She served in the PWA youth organization Y-Teens while still in school. The Roosevelt Wilson High School graduate joined the United States Air Force in 1976 and served 11 years.

Rosevear spoke of a recurring theme among the women, saying “the honor of being in the military, working with people as a family. I

will treasure it all my life.” Most spoke of their colleagues in the service and/or the VFW afterwards as forming a family unit of mutual support and camaraderie.

“The VFW is the family you need,” she explained, adding that with them, “somebody has your back.”

Carol Saunders, a veteran of the United States Air Force, the USAF Reserves, and the National Guard from 1985 to 2015 recalled that “discipline, purpose, and service became my foundation.” From 2009 to 2010, she was deployed in Mosul, Iraq. For part of that time, her daughter in the United States Army was deployed there as well.

“One of the hardest things I ever had to do was to say good-bye” at the close of her deployment, “knowing she’s remaining in Iraq.” After she retired “I shifted who I served” and worked in a VA hospital call center to assist veterans, calling it “a chance to give back to those who gave so much.”

She closed by quoting John 15:13, saying “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

Her daughter Maria Saunders rose next to speak. She shared painful remembrances related to an all-too-common tragedy of military suicides. In Saunders’ military career, three who served alongside her at different times took their own life. She spoke of how she carried this unbearable pain until she found two paths to help.

She said first “the one thing missing from my life was faith in God” and talked of returning to her childhood home of faith in Victory Baptist Church. The church that always supported her in her military service welcomed her back. She spoke of taking her pain to the altar and giving it to God and said “I found my purpose again.”

Again, finding a family in the VFW helped her find a new community of support,

Carol Thorp joined the United States Air Force in 1983. She explained that “my goal was a job in the medical field. Four years, learn a skill, get out.” Thorp then smiled and said “the Air Force decided differently.” Assignment to Minot AFB to work on B-52s and KC-135s led to meeting her husband and raising a family.

She added “I saw things I never imagined” while growing up in Pittsburgh.

Nancy Valentin of Los Angeles, California planned to graduate from fashion school in May of 2002, but never made it.

On September 11, 2001 the life of the nation and Nancy Valentin changed forever. Instead of a career in fashion, she went straight to a recruiter and joined the United States Army, getting deployed in 2003.

“It’s always an honor to be identified as a female veteran,” shared Valentin. She then explained how that saved the life of her and her fellow soldiers.

As a sergeant and an Army engineer, she accompanied a team to Egypt to complete a construction project on a military base. As her team commenced to work, one of them noticed a turret of an Egyptian Army tank turning to aim at them. As it turned out, the team’s lieutenant had forgotten to secure permission from the Egyptian Army to start the project.

The only thing that kept them from firing was seeing a female in uniform. The Egyptian soldiers recognized her from her morning runs and held their fire because a woman in a military uniform was unusual to them.

The emotional story served as a coda that reminded all of the different sacrifices made by all servicemen, but the also the special contributions made and challenges endured by women in service.

Aloï closed the ceremony by sharing a song she had written about the glory and beauty of the Mountain State. All left the PWA event center with a little more pride in country, a little more appreciation for those who served in the military, and a little more understanding of the women of distinction who served our nation and the cause of freedom around the world.

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Shinnston Women's Club Hears "State of the City" From Mayor Kovalck

By Deb Herndon

The Woman’s Club of Shinnston met for a luncheon meeting at the Bice-Ferguson Memorial Museum on Monday, June 15 th . Co-President Debra welcomed those president and led the pledge to the flag. Co-President Mary Ann Ferris brought devotions on turning to scripture in good times and bad. Minutes were presented and approved and Treasurer Kathleen Panek gave a report on bank balances.

Shinnston Mayor Patrick Kovalck gave a splendid “State of the City” talk. He recounted the progress the City has made in the last decade in areas of recreation, finance and City services

and outlined future goals the City hopes to achieve. Kovalck then fielded questions from those present.

The Club’s semi-annual rummage sale was set for August 7 th and 8 th to benefit Clubhouse maintenance. The Ham and Bean dinner to benefit Club projects will occur October 28th .

Upcoming meetings (July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 21 and Oct. 19 will be held at noon in the meeting room of the Museum. Mary Ann Spadafore provided refreshments of Subway sandwiches, chips and brownies.

Those present not previously mentioned were: Viviane Spagnuolo, Deborah Starkey and Robin Lamb.

“Shinnston Business”

cont. from p. 1



B3 Styles owner Shannon Kellar is seated inside her boutique’s new entry, a setting that is comfortable and welcoming, just like the service you will receive!



Pictured here is the new location of B3 Styles, now located at 223 Pike St. in Shinnston. While the sign has not been erected yet, you will see the OPEN flag waving!

for women, but menswear is sold as well. Home Décor has been another addition and. visitors can find furniture, tabletop items, lamps, candles, floral displays, and artwork – with some items made here locally! For example, local resident Shari Barnes, who for a while owned and operated MADE, LLC in the downtown area, also contributes some of her tee-shirts and sweatshirts that will change with the seasons. Customers will find some of Shari’s floral arrangements, and jewelry too. Another local ,Andrew Kisamore, displays some of his artwork there as well. Bridgeport resident Kate Keys, of “Kraving Krumbs”, offers some of her delicious sour dough pastries for sale there too ... and another Bridgeport resident Alexis Davis has clean laundry detergent, non-toxic carpet fresheners, and air fresheners she makes in stock there as well – with some body products coming soon! There are many unexpected surprises if you visit and browse at B3 Styles’ new location that have caught the eye of shoppers outside of Shinnston too.

Shannon cautions, though, that although she stocks clothing (comfortable clothing for every day or a special occasion, in a variety of sizes from X Small to X Large, she purchases, unlike big box stores, just a few of each size so that you won’t see many wearing the same thing you’ve chosen! And check out the purses and accessories too!

One area in the rear of the store often features a rack of reasonably priced sales items; and a kitchen area has been added in the space too for prepping light refreshments that are served on Ladies Night, which is held every 3rd Thursday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. Those attending see special collections, enjoy snacks and a positive



Some of the tee-shirts made by Shari Barnes are on display and available for purchase. They will change frequently and will be school and team related when school begins and expect holiday themed apparel as the seasons progress.

environment. Shannon is also looking forward to hosting Pop-Up night events in the near future with other local businesses participating.

Whether you’re looking for yourself or for a gift for someone else, be sure to stop and browse the

numerous collections at B3 Styles. Open hours are Thursdays from noon until 7 p.m., Fridays from noon until 4 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. You can also check her website at shopb3styles@commentsold.com.

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