

“*Hunt*”

cont. from p. 1

public expression.

They are commercial spaces where restaurants offer outdoor dining, merchants display products and vendors conduct business. They are social spaces where neighbors meet, children play and people experience the life of a community.

They are also places where questions of accessibility become very real. A broken sidewalk may be an inconvenience for some people. For someone using a wheelchair, walker or cane, it can become an impassable barrier.

Pollack uses an interesting story to demonstrate how long cities have struggled with sidewalk responsibility.

In January 1851, Ulysses S. Grant, then serving as an Army quartermaster, slipped on an icy sidewalk in Detroit and injured his leg. He sued the owners of the adjoining properties. One of them was Zachariah Chandler, who also happened to be Detroit’s mayor.

During the trial, Chandler reportedly complained that soldiers who remained sober might not fall on other people’s pavement. Nevertheless, the future president won the case. Chandler received a fine of only six cents plus court costs.

There were apparently no lasting hard feelings. Years later, President Grant appointed Chandler secretary of the interior.

The story is amusing, but the question behind it remains relevant: Is the sidewalk the responsibility of the property owner or the city?

The answer varies considerably from one community to another. In many places, cities own the public right-of-way but require the adjoining property owner to maintain or repair the sidewalk. Responsibility for snow removal, tree-root damage, accessibility, construction and injuries may be divided in different ways.

Pollack believes this fragmented approach helps explain why sidewalks receive less attention than streets. Roads normally have a clearly identified department, professional staff, maintenance program and dedicated funding. Sidewalk responsibilities may be scattered among public works, planning, transportation, parks, code enforcement and individual property owners.

His provocative recommendation is that communities establish a “Department of Sidewalks”—or at least designate one office with clear responsibility for sidewalk policy, construction, maintenance and funding.

Not every city needs another department. Small communities certainly do not need another layer of bureaucracy. But every community should know who is responsible for its pedestrian network and whether that network is safe, connected and accessible.

Cities routinely prepare street-paving plans and evaluate the condition of bridges, water lines and public buildings. Perhaps we should give similar attention to the infrastructure located just a few feet from the street.

After talking with Michael Pollack, I came away looking at sidewalks differently.

They may be ordinary, but they are not insignificant. A good sidewalk connects more than two locations. It connects people to opportunity, commerce, government and one another.

That makes the humble sidewalk one of the most important public spaces in any community.

ACROSS

1 Off-guard way to be caught

9 Bread has a lot of them

14 Anchorage locale

20 Aspire to something specific

21 Love, in Lido

22 Hoped for

23 Founder of the Miracles

25 Lodged

26 Pulley part

27 With long suffering

29 Rajah’s wife

30 Alternatives to Cokes or Pepsis

33 — -mo

34 Twice LI

35 Raptor’s claw

36 Record player

41 Ape in an arcade game

43 1307-27 king of England

44 Prefix with natal or con

46 Comic book shriek

47 Thick deli cut

48 This, in Baja

50 Olduvai Gorge paleontologist

57 Beer cask

58 Removes (oneself)

60 Veteran

61 Europe’s “Eternal City”

62 French battle site of ‘44

63 Doesn’t skip, as an event

65 Reagan appointee

71 Jungle gym

73 Film director

74 1954-76 Dodgers manager

76 T-man Eliot

77 Outing ruiner

78 “How was — know?”

79 Self-server

81 Some IRA contents

84 Master of the dog Pluto

88 Sundown’s direction

89 Accepted

90 China’s Long March leader

91 2012 Best Director Lee

93 Alternative to Match or OkCupid

95 It’s pushed in an ice rink

DOWN

1 Tart gin cocktail

103 Once-popular anesthetic

104 Certain pipe shape

105 Maple fluid

106 Tax return ID

107 Tiger’s sound

108 Restricting freedom of thought

111 Work site welfare org.

115 Poppas’ partners

117 “Arrow’s Fall” novelist

121 Of high peaks

122 “Rapture” singer

123 All aspects considered

124 Fitting one inside another

125 A-bomb trial

126 Index entries ... or what 10 answers in this puzzle have?

1 KGB’s land

2 Lost clown fish of film

3 Sitting on

4 Stir to life

5 Go gray, say

6 Singer Acuff

7 It may get plugged up

8 Pig food

9 Jenner of reality TV

10 Prenatal exam

11 Suitor’s flower

12 Rodeo horse

13 Submitted, as an entry

14 Out of whack

15 Taoism’s — -tzu

16 Inuit parka

17 Fr. resort port

18 Really into

19 Appending

24 Bottom

28 In this way

30 — Nabisco (old corp.)

31 World Champion Bull of 2009

32 Clip, as a coupon

35 Young kid

36 Study fixture

37 Not in use

38 Gala bagful

39 Hailed car

40 Thing flown in the wind

41 Scooby- —

42 Wiggling fish

45 Otherwise

49 “Still I Rise” poet

51 Until this time

52 Element #26

53 Saudis, say

54 Nut with caffeine

55 Kuwaiti royal

56 Positive votes

58 Env. alert

59 Santa’s bagful

62 Short-limbed lizard

64 Urban haze

65 Reel from a wallop

66 Certain skin bulge

67 Time in office

68 Jai —

69 Secular

70 Green Hornet’s valet

72 Fried stuffed dumplings

75 Many a new driver

78 “Pass the ball to me!”

80 Crawl (with)

81 Diner worker

82 Concluded

83 Vodka brand

85 Part of ER: Abbr.

86 “Huzzah!”

87 Cinch — (trash bag brand)

89 Sister station of Flix, in brief

92 Give the evil eye to

94 — Tin Tin

95 Politico Cain

96 “Troy” actor

97 Bites, as a horse at the bit

98 Muppet frog

99 Tracey of “Mrs. America”

100 Patron

102 Apple debut of 2010

105 Splinter groups

108 Opposite of new

109 Spreadable cheese

110 It may get plugged up

111 Eight, in Baja

112 Alternative to Heath, candy-wise

113 Clutched

114 Positive votes

116 Netflix’s “Anne With —”

118 Opposite of NNW

119 Install, as tile

120 “How cute!”

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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 23, 1863: Financier and industrialist Isaac Thomas Mann was born in Greenbrier County. As president of the Bank of Bramwell and the Pocahontas Fuel Company for three decades, “Ike” Mann held vast holdings in coal, timber and especially financial institutions.

July 23, 1900: Author Julia Davis was born in Clarksburg, the daughter of future presidential candidate John W. Davis. She achieved acclaim writing for youth and adults, fiction and nonfiction. She died in Ranson, near her Jefferson County home in 1993.

July 23, 1919: Novelist Davis Grubb was born in Moundsville. His renown came with his first novel, *The Night of the Hunter* (1953), a gripping suspense story adapted into a classic film in 1955 and for TV in 1991.

July 24, 1823: Arthur Boreman, West Virginia’s first governor, was born in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania. His family moved to Middlebourne, Tyler County, when he was still an infant.

July 24, 1919: Sam Taylor of Mercer County became the first West Virginia State Police trooper. During his tenure, Taylor tracked moonshiners and bootleggers, and helped set up new state police detachments.

July 24, 1929: Cornelius Charlton was born in East Gulf, Raleigh County. Charlton was killed in battle during the Korean War, and he was honored posthumously with the Medal of Honor.

July 24, 1942: Actor Chris Sarandon was born in Beckley. A film, stage and television performer, some of his credits include *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, *The Princess Bride* and an Oscar nomination for *Dog Day Afternoon*.

July 24, 1983: Kansas City Royals hall of fame player and Glen Dale native George Brett was involved in the “Pine-Tar Bat Incident.” After hitting a game-winning home run against the New York Yankees, the umpires ruled that Brett’s bat contained too much pine tar and called him out. The ensuing melee at home plate is classic baseball lore.

July 25, 1864: A colony of eight Catholic nuns set out from Washington, D.C., and Frederick, Maryland, for Parkersburg. The sisters, who created a monastery there and named it DeSales Heights, ran a boarding school for young women for 75 years.

July 26, 1922: Country music producer and recording label executive Jim Foglesong was born in Lundale, Logan County. In Nashville, he found success working with Roy Clark, Donna Fargo, Hank Thompson, Barbara Mandrell, The Oak Ridge Boys, Don Williams and many other artists.

July 26, 1942: Camp Washington-Carver was dedicated and opened to the public. The camp, located at Clifftop, Fayette County, was the first statewide 4-H camp for African Americans in the country. The camp’s Great Chestnut Lodge is West Virginia’s largest log structure.

July 27, 1895: Singer, instrumentalist and educator Revella Hughes was born in Huntington. After becoming a star of the Harlem Renaissance, she returned home to care for her ailing mother and lead the music department of Cabell County’s segregated Black school system.

July 27, 1896: Clark Kessinger was born near Charleston. He was among the most prolific and influential fiddlers of the 20th century, and one of West Virginia’s most important traditional musicians.

July 27, 1909: Coach “Dyke” Raese was born in Davis, Tucker County. He directed West Virginia University to its first major sports national championship, winning the 1942 National Invitation Tournament in basketball.

July 28, 1836: Nathan Cook Brackett was born in Maine. In 1867, he founded and became the first president of Storer College in Harpers Ferry. For 25 years, it was the only Black college in West Virginia.

July 28, 1915: Frankie Yankovic was born in Davis, Tucker County. Yankovic did more to popularize polka music than any other performer.

July 29, 1873: Malcolm Malachi “Mack” Day was born. As sheriff of McDowell County, he claimed that God had called him to enforce Prohibition, even arresting an uncle and his own son.

July 29, 1900: Musician Don Redman was born in Piedmont, Mineral County, and then graduated from Storer College in Harpers Ferry. He was a multi-instrumentalist whose innovative arrangements for jazz greats laid the foundation for the big band era.

July 29, 1915: Camp Good Luck, the world’s first 4-H encampment, began at Elkwater, Randolph County.

July 29, 1918: Novelist Mary Lee Settle was born in Charleston. Her experiences in West Virginia, World War II and life abroad shaped her writing, including the National Book Award-winning *Blood Tie*. She is best known for the Beulah Quintet, a five-novel series tracing four centuries of West Virginia history.

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OBITUARIES

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Kenneth Edward Ashby



Kenneth Edward Ashby, 83, of Monongah, West Virginia, passed away on July 15, 2026 at his home surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Fairmont, WV on July 16, 1942 to the late Kenneth Ashby and Barbara Ellen (Stewart) Floyd. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle who dedicated his life to providing and caring for those he loved.

Kenneth was a hardworking man who took great pride in providing for his family. He enjoyed working outdoors, fishing and spending time in his garage, where he was always busy with projects he loved. Above all, he treasured the time he spent with his family. His strength, kindness, generosity and unwavering love for those closest to him will be remembered always. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

In addition to his parents, Kenneth is preceded in death by his step-father, Harvey Floyd; his brother and sister-in-law, Leslie Elwood and Jan Ashby; his daughter, Bonnie Sue Ammons; and his brother-in-law, Robert Closson.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, Charlotte Diane Ashby and his six children: Barbara Kees and husband Darryl of Monongah, Joyce Cottrell of Wadsworth, OH, Jennifer Fluharty and her partner David Pellegrin of Mt. Clare, Cynthia Watton and husband Bob of Fairmont, Edward Ashby and wife Janie of Fairmont and Rebecca Ashby of Monongah. Kenneth was the proud grandfather of Richard Ammons, Joey Rager, Kenny Rager, Evan Ashby, Andy Cottrell, Samantha Fluharty, Cody Fluharty, Kaitlyn Jenkins, Abigail Eddy, Hayden Ashby, Hailey Ashby and Emilee Harris. He was also blessed with twelve great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. He's also survived by his brother, Arlie Ashby and wife Brenda of Petersburg; his sister, Cindy (Loucinda) Closson of South Carolina; his son-in-law, Gary Ammons of Shinnston as well as many cherished nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family members.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to everyone for their prayers, love and support during this difficult time.

Family and friends will be received at Dorsey Funeral Home, 701 S. Pike

St., Shinnston, on Monday, July 20, 2026 for visitation from 11:00AM until time of service, 1:00PM with Pastor Sharon Core officiating. Interment to Shinnston Memorial Cemetery.

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

Jeremy Scott Black



Jeremy Scott Black, 50, of Clarksburg, passed away on Monday, July 13, 2026, at his residence following an extended illness. He was born in Ashland, KY, April 20, 1976, a son of Kenneth Norman Black, Jr. and Peggy Ann Wooten Black, of Okeechobee, FL.

Surviving are his wife, Stephanie Lee Devericks Black, whom he married, June 22, 2018; five children: Makenzie Black (Annie), Catlettsburg, KY, Hudson Black (Madyson), Pine Bluff, AR, Brayden Black, Reno, NV, Miley Black, Reno, NV, and Colt Black, Clarksburg; two grandchildren, Easton and Carter; one brother, Derrick Black, Okeechobee, FL; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Michael and Jo Devericks; brother-in-law, Corey Devericks (Michelle); sisters-in-law, Bobbi Jo Ridenour (Jason), Tracy Messenger (Jeffrey), Katie Knight (Mack); and several nieces and nephews.

Jeremy was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Fay and Gene Wooten, and his paternal grandparents, Kenneth Black, Sr. and Ruby Black.

Jeremy was a great man who loved his family. He was tough as nails and had the strongest will power to push through anything that came against him. He never gave up! He was always up for an adventure. Jeremy loved the outdoors, everything from shooting, hunting, and fishing to boating and horse-back riding. He loved to tell jokes and to laugh. He just genuinely loved life. Jeremy loved the Lord and attended Life Point Church in Clarksburg. He will be sadly missed.

The family will receive friends at the Perine Funeral Home, 1348 S. Pike St., Shinnston, from 2pm until the time of the funeral service at 6pm, Thursday, July 16th with Rev. Robert Perine officiating. A graveside service will be held at 1pm, Friday, July 17th at the Black Cemetery in Durbin, KY, with Pastor Neil Wilkes officiating. Condolences may be extended to the family at www.perinefunerals.com. The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Black family.

Roger Brown



Roger Brown, 78, of Enterprise went to meet his Lord on July 12, 2026. He was born on December 25, 1947, a son of the late Calvin and Vivian Lytle Brown. He was also preceded in death by his daughter-in-law, Eva Wolfe Brown.

He is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Verlon Hanson Brown; his son, Michael of Bridgeport; his daughter, Vanessa of Clarksburg; his sweet granddaughter Isabella, whom he adored; his siblings, Donna (Clark) Bruner, Amherst, OH, Sherri Brown, Lakewood, OH, Twila Tomer, Fairmont, Roy (Judy) Brown, Maryville, TN, Paul (Bev) Brown, Enterprise; his Brother-in-law, Jim Pratt, Salem; many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Roger graduated in 1965 from Shinnston High School and from Fairmont State College. He was a life long member of Shinnston Church of Christ, where he served as treasurer and song leader. He was employed for over 30 years as a coal miner having worked at Clinchfield, Martinka, and retiring from Federal #2. He was a member of U.M.W. of A. local 1570.

Roger loved sports, following WVU, Pittsburgh Steelers, Duke basketball, and his favorite; watching his granddaughter Isabella play volleyball, run track, and dancing. He loved going to the beach with his family and for his 50th wedding anniversary, traveled to Hawaii with his wife, which was a lifelong dream of his.

Friends will be received at Harmer Funeral Home, 300 Pike St., Shinnston from 3:00 to 8:00 PM Wednesday. A funeral service will be at the funeral home at 11:00 AM Thursday, July 16, 2026 with Evangelist Jesse Phillips officiating. Interment will follow at Enterprise Cemetery.

Online memories and condolences may be sent to harmerfuneralhome.com

A service of Harmer Funeral Home

Beulah Lueda Malson Fisher



Beulah Lueda Malson Fisher, 97, of Folsom, passed away on Saturday, July 11, 2026, at the Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown. She was born in Smithfield, WV, January 13, 1929, a daughter of the late Artie and Stella Carol Hayhurst.

Twice married, she was preceded in death by her first husband, Marion Francis Malson, on April 30, 1993; and her second husband, Lewis Dewayne Fisher, February 14, 2017.

Surviving are three children: Brian Dwayne Malson and his wife Cindi, Traveler's Rest, SC, Jeanne Sue Harris, and her husband Mike, Clarksburg, and Timothy Malson, Folsom; her grandchildren: Sarah Malson, Frederick, MD, Stacey Michel, Traveler's Rest, Brian Scott Malson, Fairfield, PA, Amy Davis, Clarksburg, Arwen Palmer, Folsom, Lauren Reed, Lost Creek, and Joseph Swiger, Weston; 12 great grandchildren; 4 great-great grandchildren; two sisters, Wilma Bowen, OH, and Dale Quesada, PA; and several nieces and nephews. Beulah was also preceded in death by one sister and five brothers.

Beulah was a homemaker. She attended the Pentecostal Church of God in Wallace. She helped, along with her church family, to cook meals for the Wallace Lion's Club for many years. Following her second marriage, she attended the Mannington Church of Christ. She enjoyed gardening, cooking, and sewing. She was a wonderful, beloved mother and grandmother. She was kind, compassionate and caring to anyone she encountered, no matter who they were. She will be sadly missed.

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, Saturday, July 18th with Rev. Mike Harris officiating. Interment will be in the Hood Cemetery in Folsom. Condolences may be extended to the family at www.perinefunerals.com. The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Malson/ Fisher family.

Violet Barker Hall



Violet Barker Hall, 92, of Lumberport passed away Thursday, July 16, 2026 at her residence. She was born June 22, 1934 at Dola, a daughter of the late Charles and Evelyn Barker. Her husband Gary preceded her in death on January 15, 2007.

Violet was the last

surviving member of her immediate family. In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by one brother, Charles "Bud" Barker; four sisters, Ina Lee Crouser, Lucille Swiger, Betty Carroll, and Wilma Jean Warsing.

She is survived by her sister-in-law, June Barker of Lumberport; special nieces Penny and Stephanie Barker-Fleece; several nieces and nephews; great-nieces and great-nephews.

She lived in Cleveland, Ohio for over 20 years. She attended a beauty academy and worked as a beautician. She also attended business college in Cleveland and worked in a furniture store for 18 years. After returning home, she worked for Jack's Friendly in Clarksburg. She was caregiver for several family members before their death.

Her hobbies over the years were serving and making crafts. She loved working outdoors.

She was a member of Lumberport United Methodist Church.

Per Violet's request, a graveside funeral service will be Monday, July 20, 2026 at 11:00AM. Interment will be held at Shinnston Memorial Cemetery with Rev. Sam Cale officiating.

Brenice Ilene Nichols



Brenice Ilene Nichols, 79, of Shinnston, is on her way to Gloryland. She was also known to some as "Sally". Brenice passed on July 11, 2026 at her residence surrounded by her loved ones. She was born February 14, 1947 to the late Virgil W. Woofter and Alice Maude (Day) Woofter. She was preceded in death by her sister Hester Gaston; her two brothers: Ernest and George Woofter; sister in law Grace Woofter; two brothers in law: Ross Moore and Paul Rife; foster sister Doris Atkins; one niece Marie Gaston; two nephews: Christopher and Timothy Woofter; the father of her children, Kenny Talkington and her late husband Richard Warner.

She is survived by her husband Gregory Nichols whom she married on April 9, 2004; her twin daughters: Terri (Chris) MacKinnon and Sherri (Paul) Barlow; her son Jason (Stacia) Talkington; 11 grandchildren: Andrew, Matthew and Chloe Barlow, Madison (Noah) Wolford, Wyatt and Kole Gould, Kiku MacKinnon, and Isaac, Leah, Jude and Eden Talkington. She also has her first great granddaughter due in December to Madison and Noah. Also, her two sisters: Joyce Moore and Julia Rife; sister in law Candice Woofter; brother in law

Stanley (Marlene) Gaston as well as many nieces and nephews, including those of the Talkington and Warner families.

Of her husband's family she is survived by her mother in law Nina Nichols; sister in law Amber (Ed) Cassidy; brothers in laws: Larry (Clare) Nichols and Nick (Ronette) Nichols and many nieces and nephews. She also is survived by two stepchildren: Kari (Dave) Sweet and Kristin (Vicki) Nichols; six step grandchildren and two step great grandchildren.

Brenice graduated from Mannington High School (class of 1964) and WV Business College in 1983. She had worked briefly as a maid, then eight years at Westinghouse, two years with CLT reprisal company, two years with the WV Extension Office before retiring with 22 years at Pratt Whitney Aircraft in 2009.

She loved spending time with her family and friends, going to church and being of service by helping others. She loved the old-time gospel songs, square dancing (where she met her husband Greg) and listening to yodeling. Her favorite hobby was reading and getting to travel. She has been to 24 of the 50 states and stated her favorite was South Dakota. She also enjoyed participating in the Wallace Chapter of the Harrison County Senior Citizens, her Friends in Christ group and seeing her "retired" friends at their Pratt Whitney breakfasts.

Her eleven grandchildren have always been a delight for and to her. They were always wondering who her favorite was, and then asking "I'm the favorite one right Grandma?". Of course, she had to answer no. They and my three children, six in-laws and 2 sisters know that they are greatly blessed and loved.

She attended church regularly but was never a member of any specific church. She always said that she was a child of God and didn't need a church membership for that.

She has stayed great friends with the Talkington family and the Warner family that included Sharon, Phyllis K. and Dolly Barber.

She wanted to thank everyone for the cards, beautiful flowers, prayers and especially all the food that was provided to her. Thank you again. Love to all and may God bless each and every one of you.

Family and friends will be received at Dorsey Funeral Home, 701 S. Pike St., Shinnston for visitation on Thursday, July 16, 2026 from 2:00PM to 8:00PM and on Friday, July 17, 2026 from 9:00AM until time of service 11:00AM. Interment to Floral Hills Memorial Gardens.

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

More Obituaries Listed on Page 8

Heat on the hardwood this summer



The Bottom Line

By Bill Nestor
Sports Editor

A pair of West Virginia natives are trying to make an NBA roster as they compete in summer league games. Isaac McKneely and John Elmore have been suiting it up for the Atlanta Hawks and the Los Angeles Lakers respectively.

McKneely, the 22 year old from Polka, was the Bill Evans Award and Gatorade player of the year in the Mountain State. as a junior, repeated once again winning both as a senior, McNeely was a four star recruit, and spent three years at the University of Virginia before transferring to Louisville. After his 1st year of college hoops, McNeely was a very consistent score averaging just over 12 points a game. And during his one year with the Cardinals, he averaged 10.9 points per contest.

At the end of June, he was signed by the Hawks. to and exhibit 10 contract allowing him to play in the NBA summer league. This type of contract is related to the two-way contract, Former mountaineer Baylor, Bear, and Fairmont native Jalen Bridges was signed to a two-way deal. His rookie year with the Phoenix Suns. McKneely started out the summer league, averaging just over 19 minutes per game. But a shoulder injury has put him on the bench for the remainder of the summer league, making it more difficult to make a name for himself once cleared from injury.

Elmore was an explosive scorer in high school

at George Washington High School, where he averaged 31 points a game. Elmore was state player of the year in 2014. He spent four years at Marshall after leaving VMI, where he originally signed to play. John wanted to follow in his father’s footsteps, but it didn’t work out, leading to the transfer to Huntington.

Elmore had a great season with the Thundering Herd, becoming the 1st player in division one history to score over 2,500 points, and dish out more over 750 assists after going undrafted in 2019 Elmore played in the summer league for the Boston Celtics. He didn’t stick there and played overseas until 2022. It was then that Elmore made it to the NBA’s G League.

He has been trying to make an NBA roster since then, and this summer, the wiley veteran hoopster is turning heads in Hollywood. At 30 years of age, Elmore is the oldest player in the summer league and has helped Los Angeles to an undefeated start.

Elmore’s G League play, along with his efforts this summer, have impressed those around the league. It has been. Rumored, if the Lakers didn’t sign them, Boston former WV standout Joe Mazzula might nab in. This looks to be the best opportunity yet for Elmore, who comes from a basketball family. His father, Gay, was VMI’s all-time leading score, and his grandfather played at West Virginia University.

Jon has a chance to surpass both of them if he can make an NBA roster. There’s nothing like seeing. There’s nothing like summertime hoops, and thanks to Isaac McKneely and John Elmore, we have some in-state talent to cheer on.

That will do it for now until next week! Take care . . . and God bless.

Capito Applauds West Virginia University’s Selection for NSF Investment in Energy Innovation

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito, a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS), applauded the U.S. National Science Foundation’s (NSF) announcement that the Resilient Energy Technology and Infrastructure (RETI) Consortium, which is led by West Virginia University (WVU) in collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, and more than 60 regional partners, will be one of 12 National

Science Foundation Regional Innovation Engines award recipients.

“I’m incredibly proud of WVU’s leadership in securing the RETI Consortium right here in Appalachia, designed to spur economic opportunities and create good paying jobs through the development of resilient energy and industrial technologies. This was a competitive selection process that I advocated for on WVU’s behalf, and it’s great to see NSF recognize the capabilities that we know exist in our region to power the future of

Tee It Up!

Deschambeau can’t win for losing.

By Bill Nestor

The oldest golf major is also the last major of the season. The Open Championship, or British Open, started in 1860 and is 35 years older than its nearest challenger, the U.S. Open. Golf, as sport, prides itself on integrity, and players self policing themselves. As far as following the rules, there is, on occasion, situations where players are assessed a penalty that they don’t agree with. And that was the case this past weekend at the open championship at Royal Berksdale.

Bryson Deschambeau was assessed a two stroke penalty after a second round by illegally improving the conditions affecting his stroke. In other words, big Bryson trumped down on some tall grass around his ball. Officials determined his actions improved his backswing path, and since players are not allowed to move or bend grass, he was penalized. Deschambeau’s round went from 7 under to 5 under, he spent 15 minutes after the round arguing his cause.

On Saturday, Bryson took several jabs and even engaged the crowd, mocking his, Mocking lies of his ball in the rough. His attempts to make light of the situation helped take away from his mental focus, which arguably could have helped his score climb while he fell down the leaderboard. Even though the conclusion of the 3rd round, Deschambault, was the only previous major winner to be found in the top 10.

He would never seriously contend on Sunday, but he teaches us all a very important lesson. All we can control is what we can control.

Officials make calls, that is their job, and players’ job is to stay focused and play until the end. If Bryson would have done that, he would have he might have secured his 3rd major championship.

America. West Virginia has long been an energy leader, and this investment will further build on that proud tradition to meet the growing demand for energy solutions and manufacturing that we need. This is just the beginning, and I look forward to working with WVU and our regional partners to make this initiative as successful as possible,” Senator Capito said.

Read Local

Keep up with your community!





GO, TEAM!

Good luck to our local student athletes!

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Shinnston City Manager Delivers Outlines & Timelines On Scheduled Projects

By Leigh C. Merrifield

Shinnston City Council held its regular meeting on July 13th . In the absence of both the Mayor and Vice-Mayor, the meeting was conducted by longstanding Council member Mary Ann Ferris.

Several citizens petitioned to speak of their concerns. Steve Miker was the first to address Council regarding the revocation of a pool pass and if it included ALL activities on park property. The City Manager will discuss this further with those in charge of park decisions.

Joe Roberts was displeased that the library would not allow Faith Baptist Church members to use their electricity when providing food for the hungry in the adjacent parking lot. He also drew Council’s attention to unsightly trash lying around the park and pool area and at the dumpster. Mr. Roberts was directed to take the electricity issue up with the Library Board. The City Manager will address the park trash issue with the company that provides garbage pickup.

Chris Greaver was the last to speak, and he first applauded the high quality of the Independence Day celebration at the park this year. He also commented that he had noticed police doing more patrolling in East Shinnston for speeders and hoped they were at least issuing warnings to slow down. He also suggested that someone should be posting City events on its website instead of mostly on Facebook which many folks don’t follow.

The City Manager’s report included:

- informing Council that the software technician had completed corrections needed in their system for bank reconciliations and will schedule a follow-up to ensure it remains working well. The City should still meet its timeline for the accountants’ visit.
- She also reported that Council would have to hold a special meeting to approve budget revisions for carryovers.
- Mayor Kovalck, the City Manager, City Clerk Kathleen Panek and Council member Vance Sosinsky have registered to attend the meeting of the Municipal League in Charleston on August 5th & 6th.
- Mrs. Drainer will be taking part in a virtual class offered by the Public Service Commission.
- The Mayor and City Manager will also be attending a meeting on plans for work on the South Shinnston bridge.
- The Police Clerk will be temporarily working from the City’s office building while improvements are made at Police Headquarters.
- Upcoming event dates were noted: Shakespeare in the Park on July 19th; City Wide Yard Sale on July 25th; and Shindy 2026 at the park on August 1st.
- All new medical kits have been ordered for the pool, sewer plant, and an updated one for the Public Works garage.
- The project outline for the dog park on West Side has been drawn up and Public Works has begun to clear the landscape.

Old Business included discussing the project outline for the Boat Ramp; construction is scheduled to begin in 2027.

Council also reviewed the proposed project outline for Phase 3 of the water improvement project. The City Manager has worked closely with Richard Gaines of Stantec and a few cuts were made. Mr. Gaines will put in a change order and start the process moving forward. Mrs. Ferris commented that this has been on hold long enough, and to avoid more costs going up, it needs to begin ASAP.

New business included naming a new Councilperson to sign City checks (replacing Amanda Sayers). Newly elected Council member Kimberly Howell agreed to be the new signatory.

Council also discussed the proposal for a replacement meter truck for Public Works. Bids will be gathered, and the City Manager confirmed that this expenditure had been included in the budget.

Another discussion was held to consider the request for the abandonment of a portion of an alley near Mercer Street. It was noted that all property owners would need to be contacted and any legal expenses would not be paid by the City.

The City Manager offered detailed plans of what

would be handled in the coming months. The 30-day plan will encompass sidewalk replacement on the 400 block of Pike Street, 6 water tap installations, cleanup of properties for the Dog Park, and trenching revision for Walnut Street.

The 60-day plan includes 6” water line replacements, and the 90-day plan is cleanup for the Park Project on West Side.

The City Manager noted that Public Works had done an overwhelming amount of work in July, and they would be requested to set aside time slots to do beautification and cleanup of City property at the end of each week and the beginning of the following weeks.

Brendan Gallagher spoke briefly on the amount of high praise that was voiced regarding the July 1st celebration of our country’s 250th anniversary. Gallagher said it was a result of a highly coordinated effort of many people. “The only complaint I was given was that perhaps the sound amplification of the concert might have been a little much. I must compliment the Public Works Department who by the following morning had the park looking like nothing had ever happened there the night before.”

Following the meeting’s adjournment, Council met briefly to discuss personnel matter.

Costs and rates for residential electric bills



Air conditioning and heating are going to be the largest components of your monthly electric bill. Let me take you through a number of things mentioned by the website ElectricRates.org. Your bill can fluctuate because of old appliances, which can use vast quantities of power through inefficiency. ElectricRates.org says heating and A-C account for between 40 and 60 percent of the average homeowner’s electric bill. This site suggests you can help control your electric rates by setting your thermostat to 78 degrees in the summer and 68 degrees in the winter. It helps if you can use a programmable thermostat. If not, fix the temperature by hand. Check for leaks around windows and doors. This can be costly. Check your current bill against the same month last year to see if this is one reason your costs have increased. Old and inefficient appliances account for 10 to 25 percent of a customer’s bill. Consider replacing your older appliances with energy-efficient

devices that bear an Energy Star certification. Water heaters can account for between 14 and 18 percent of your bill. To help in this area, you should fix the temperature at 120 degrees. Try to insulate your tank or consider a tankless or heat-pump water heater. Devices on standby – what we call phantom loads, such as TVs, computers, chargers, and gaming consoles – all draw power when we think they are turned off. Consider using power strips to actually turn them off. Unplug chargers when they are not needed. The old standby -- the space heater -- can cost you 10 to 30 percent more on your bill.

An average-sized space heater that runs eight hours a day can add 35 to 50 dollars to your monthly bill. Use sparingly and not for whole rooms. Keep rooms closed when the heaters are in play, and consider using a blanket instead. Electric dryers, pool pumps, and poor insulation all have varying impact levels on your electric bill. Poor insulation and air leaks can amount to up to 20 percent of your bill. You should seal gaps with caulk or use weather-stripping. Put insulation in your attic. And if you have an electric vehicle, that can add 25 to 60 dollars a month to your bill, depending on your rate. Try to charge during off-peak hours. All of us worry about our power bills. And I’m with you in having those concerns. I hope this gives you some ideas about how you can manage yours.

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Taken prior to 1920, this image shows a group of friends enjoying a Sunday afternoon picnic at Norwood Park.

Harrison County’s roller coaster

Since summertime is the time for picnics, outings, and day trips, I thought I would select this image from my collection as this month’s story behind the photo. The image was taken at Norwood Park in Nutter Fort, which is now part of Clarksburg City Parks.

My great grandmother, Cora (Hogue) Nay, is shown in the left foreground. I’m guessing she was 12 or 14 years old here. Having been born in 1906, this would make the photograph taken between 1918 and 1920. The image was snapped just as she was taking a bite to eat. To the right of her is her friend, Genevieve Robinson, and the remaining members are John Ford and his family. Today, it would be a rare sight to see a similar group of people— many of which are in light colored dress clothes— spread out a blanket on high grass and sit to have a picnic, but that’s exactly what is depicted in this image.

While the photo itself is interesting, it’s actually the background of the photo that’s this month story. Several years ago,I saw a post on Facebook that questioned a park in Nutter Fort. Of course several people were commenting about Norwood Park and the different experiences they had there over the years. I made a comment that in its early years, the park had a roller coaster. There was immediate rebuttal by several people, claiming that I didn’t know what I was talking about and that Norwood Park never had a roller coaster. In addition to laughing reactions, I received comments such as, “I guarantee you that there was never a roller coaster at Norwood Park”, “No one around Clarksburg ever had a roller coaster”, “I’m 72 years old, lived here all of my life, and I know there’s never been a roller coaster around here.” I immediately remembered why I hate to comment on social media posts... the “know it alls” are always in full force!

I never questioned the thought of a roller coaster at Norwood Park because during my teenage years when I started taking an interest in photographs, I clearly remember showing this photograph to my great grandmother and asking her who the people were. She pointed herself out, along with the other people, and then pointed to that roller coaster in the back and said that the photo was taken at Norwood Park. She said they used to have a roller coaster and they would spend time at that park, sometimes on Sunday afternoons, ride the roller coaster, and picnic there. So for someone to say that I didn’t know what I was talking about, it made me remember why I do not like commenting on posts on Facebook.

As a rebuttal back to the people who were telling me that I didn’t know what I was talking about, I got this photograph out, scanned it, and uploaded it to the post so that people could see the



The Story Behind the Photo

By Bobby Bice

image. I do wish the photo had been taken where it could show more of the roller coaster itself, but the interest at the time was to capture the group, not the scenery. In a world full of people who rarely admit their wrongs, I did NOT receive any responses from the ones who told me I didn’t know what I was talking about. I did, however, intrigue the interest of others, which is what I like about history. One gentleman did some research of his own and found a newspaper article from April 1916 that headlined, “Roller Coaster to be built at Norwood Park.” One woman found an article from July 1916 that mentioned the roller coaster was completed and would be in operation all day for July 4th activities of that year.

One of the articles stated the roller coaster had two trains of three cars each. Each car must have held six people because the article further stated that the ride could carry 36 people. Further information on the ride stated that it traveled over seventeen hundred feet and had a dip of forty-five feet. It cost \$15,000 to build, which is equivalent to over \$450,000 today. I don’t know what year the ride was dismantled, but it was already gone by the onset of the Second World War.

Other attractions at the park in its early years included a merry-go-round, ferris wheel, along with a shooting gallery, pool room, box ball alley, and bowling alley. There was also a grandstand built where 1,000 patrons could watch horse races, as well as motorcycle races. Again, keep in mind, these are all attractions found from a 1916 newspaper!

History isn’t just what you know and what you’ve experienced (as proven from the people who told me there was never a roller coaster at Norwood Park), but history is more about adding a link to the old chain and the new chain...making connections so that history doesn’t get lost. I’ve always said that history can only be appreciated by someone who is willing to listen. And I’ve listened to the stories from countless elderly people throughout my life. Someone would have eventually come across newspaper articles or maybe even another photograph that captured a better view of the roller coaster, but I captured the mind and memory of a woman who told me her first hand experience of being there.

And that is this month’s story behind the photo!

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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.

Saturday, July 25, 2026

Blare Family Reunion

The Howard and Virginia Blare family reunion will be held at the VA Memorial Park in Clarksburg, on July 25, 2026 from 9 a.m.-until close. All family members are welcome to attend. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the day. Follow signs to location.



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OBITUARIES

Ernest Donald Scheuvront

Ernest Donald Scheuvront, 81, of Clarksburg, passed away on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at WVU Hospitals Ruby Memorial in Morgantown. He was born in Clarksburg, May 14, 1945, a son of the late Terry Leroy and Flossie Mae Kelly Scheuvront.

He is survived by his wife, Edith Jeanette McKinney Scheuvront whom he married, July 31, 2011; their children, Abigail Carder and April Johnston, Clarksburg. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Barbara S. Scheuvront; and survived by their children: Stephen Scheuvront and his wife Linda, Good Hope, Karen Weekley and her husband James, Good Hope, Sherry McClain and her husband Brandon, Worthington, Christie Barth and her husband Glen, NC, Jeremiah “Jamie” Scheuvront and his wife Tasha, Boothsville, Phillip Scheuvront and his companion Shirley Potts, Clarksburg; his daughter-in-law, Adena Scheuvront, Philippi, 22 grandchildren; 28 great grandchildren; one brother, Kenneth Ray Sheuvront and his wife Barbara, OH; and several nieces and nephews.

Ernest was also preceded in death by two children, Donald Scheuvront, and Ernest Lee Scheuvront; and three grandchildren, Spencer Selmon, Aaron Sheuvront, and Sean Scheuvront.

Ernest was a truck driver for many years having been employed with H&W Trucking. He enjoyed playing guitar, farming, and loved tractors, and cutting grass. He was a Hank Williams, Sr. and Carl Story fan and a member of the Old Time Baptist Church in Clarksburg.

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, Monday, July 13, with Pastor Leonard Ludwick officiating. Interment will be in the Randolph Cemetery in West Union. In lieu of flowers, donations to help with funeral expenses may be given at <https://www.tmcfunding.com/funds/ernest-donald-scheuvront/16557/>. Condolences may be extended to the family at www.perinefunerals.com. The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Scheuvront family.

Almost 900 Ontario Wildfires Put West Virginians Air Quality At Risk

By Stephen Smoot

Last week, the Canadian Wildfire Information System reported to the British Broadcasting Corporation that “there are currently 858 fires actively burning in Canada, including 30 new fires on Thursday.” The BBC added that “the vast majority are burning out of control.”

The BBC later reported that “Many of the wildfires remain out of control, forcing evacuations and destroying homes and infrastructure. The blazes left one tribal community completely decimated in northern Ontario, ripping through the Namaygoosisagagun First Nation with little warning.”

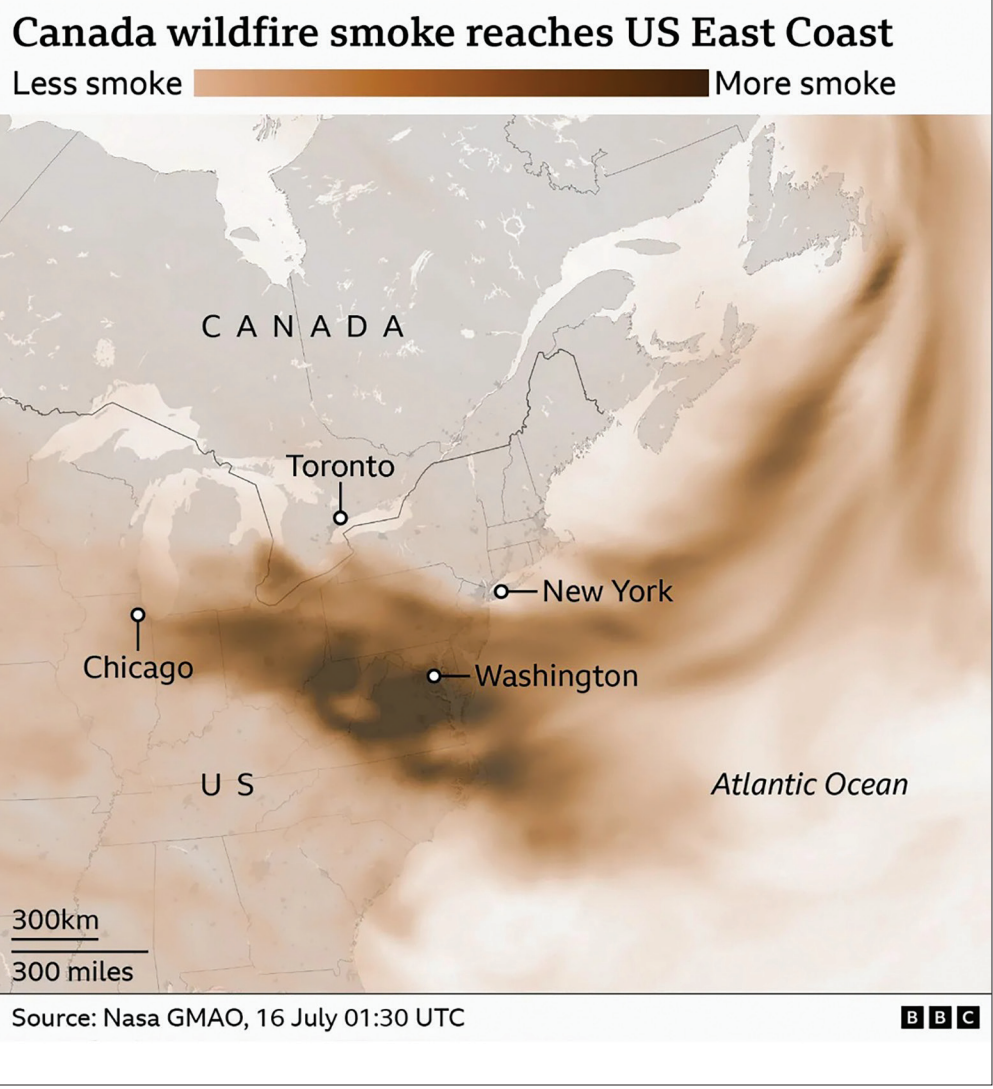
Many continue to burn north of the Minnesota - Canada line and north of Lake Superior in Ontario. Smoke plumes moving to the southeast temporarily made Toronto, New York City, and Washington DC the cities with the worst air quality anywhere.

Droughts have dried up forests in northwestern Ontario, leading to a large number of fires sparked by lightning strikes. Not unlike Appalachian forests, accumulation of natural debris has created significant amounts of natural fuel that raise the potential for fires to burn hotter and longer while creating more damage.

Smoke from those fires crossed the Great Lakes and afflicted air in Wisconsin and Michigan first as the plumes moved in the general direction of Pennsylvania and New York.

As of last Thursday, Hancock County National Weather Service reports referred to “widespread smoke.” The Air Now gauge operated by the federal government for Weirton reported air there as “unhealthy” as early as Thursday afternoon.

Additionally, the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection issued a Code Orange Air Quality Alert, “due to elevated particulate matter from wildfire smoke across West Virginia.”



This graphic from NASA shows the areas hardest hit by Canadian wildfire smoke.

Level Orange indicates that Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.

By Sunday the air quality had improved in the Harrison County area to Code Yellow, which states that Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are usually sensitive to air pollution

That said, pockets of more intense smoke around Morgantown and Parkersburg kept them in Code Orange through at least Sunday afternoon.

Health officials advise that in a Code Orange, possible measures to take include:

- avoid strenuous outdoor activities
- stay indoors and close windows
- wear a well-fitting N95 mask
- seek medical attention for symptoms that include wheezing, breathlessness and chest pain

While changing weather patterns and rain in some areas have reduced the threat, Canada will likely remain vulnerable to wildfires through the end of the summer and into the fall.

“Champions Cup”

cont. from p. 1



Both teams took home championship trophies.

Fueled by Raley Cochran, who won the 800 meter run and also Kaylin Sipher who took first in the long jump, the Cougar girls’ track squad placed second in the West Virginia State Track Meet, finishing behind Williamstown.



Cougar girl’s soccer also climbed the mountain and nearly took the summit, placing second in state championship competitions. The team won 15, lost five, and tied one, losing only one game in Big 10 action.

Lincoln’s girl’s basketball team reached the state tournament as well, upending Moorefield



but then falling to James Monroe while the girls also placed third in cross country in state level competition. Softball made the trip to South Charleston to compete at states as well.

Lincoln High School’s boys programs tallied a very respectable fifth place in Class AA.

“Bureau”

cont. from p. 1

been accomplished by the 2019 “Right to Farm Act” which he had written. It prevents prosecution of those engaged in agriculture for environmental issues unless “clear and convincing evidence” exists.

Environmental cases that take the course of civil action had relied on a much lower standard of evidence, leaving farmers vulnerable to “lawfare” from activists and other malcontents. The “Right to Farm Act” required a much higher standard of evidence, thus potentially saving farmers untold amounts of money in defending themselves. The act also made the Mountain State, next to the Lone Star State, the most farming friendly state in the Union.

Also mentioned was House Bill 4416 that added forestry equipment to the category of untaxable farm equipment. O’Dell moved from that quickly to a more in-depth discussion of property tax assessments. He stated that West Virginia used to have the ninth lowest property taxes in the nation. We have now moved to 19th.”

Much of the reason for the escalation comes from the rules package attached to prior legislation addressing property taxes. O’Dell stated that “it directs assessors to assess at replacement value” taxable items on a property. With replacement values escalated substantially by inflation, the property tax rates have risen considerably in a very short amount of time.

O’Dell noted that “we don’t want to hurt the school system” and noted that it receives 40 percent of State tax dollars yearly.

He then discussed the momentum toward the establishment of data centers in West Virginia, stating that “they could be a significant economic driver in this state, should they be approved and built.” O’Dell mentioned he knew of “eight or nine” currently proposed.

“West Virginia is late to the table on this,” he stated, then went on to share that the State “could nearly do away with the personal income tax in this state if they are built and taxed as proposed,” O’Dell added before noting opponents’ environmental complaints.

Of the proposed major electrical transmission line plans, O’Dell stated that the West Virginia Public Service Commission “will make the final decision.”

Significant issues from the federal level include a lawsuit from activists seeking to force every American farmer to monitor emissions from their fields after laying out fertilizer. The Environmental Protection Agency has thus far refused to take such a radical step, but O’Dell warns “this issue is not going away.”

Proposed federal legislation also includes \$15 billion for farmers affected by drought and other problems in production.