

City Council Meeting Draws Crowd For Public Hearing

By Leigh C. Merrifield

Shinnston City Council met on July 27th for its regular work session and a Special Meeting which included a Public Hearing. Expecting a greater crowd and several representatives from First Energy, the meeting was held at the Woman’s Club clubhouse to accommodate additional seating.

Following the standard opening practices, Mayor Patrick Kovalck welcomed those in attendance and moved the Public Hearing to the top of the agenda. The Public Hearing was to discuss First Energy/Harrison Power Station’s announcement to possibly terminate their water service with the City of Shinnston. The mayor encouraged those who wished to offer comments to do so with courtesy and respect, despite potential differences of opinions.

Mayor Kovalck explained to those attending that many years ago, the City was approached by officials from the Harrison Power Station, inquiring about the possibility of the City taking over their provision of water. The City did so, updating what was needed, adding a line and an additional tank to help the power plant in 2005, and has since been their water provider. He stated that the power plant would like to see a reduction of the charge they are paying the City (\$4.14 per thousand gallons) because they feel they could build their own filtration system and save 50% of that cost.

The mayor stated, “Water rates for our citizens have not been raised since 2019, but should this occur, it will mean that we will have to confront that increase.”

He then introduced Tim Pingley, the power plant’s legal engagement specialist, who was the only plant spokesperson who attended. Mr. Pingley



The Public Hearing at last week’s Council meeting led to plenty of interest stirred among residents. While many left following the Public Hearing, numerous folks remained until the meeting adjourned.

said they value the relationship they have with the City and added that their goal is not to hurt the City of Shinnston. However, he said they would like to see the City try to be competitive with the price cut they could have by handling their own water filtration.

Several people then offered their comments and asked questions. For instance, one person asked if the power plant paid a sewage fee like the residents do; the answer was no, they do not pay a sewage fee. This motivated another citizen to say that he felt businesses should be held to the same standards as citizens.

Another asked just how much of the water system’s income came from fees paid by the power plant. The answer was 41% of the city’s water budget comes from power plant fees. So, yes, this would most certainly hurt the City of Shinnston and its other water customers.

Shinnston resident Steve Cain worked for a company as an engineer back in the early 2000s

when the City was approached by the power plant with a request for water. “They did not have enough water flow to take care of business,” he said. “It is important to know this information; the City of Shinnston rescued them and this project’s cost was 4.7 million dollars. It was a 40-year loan. Now, 20 years have passed and during that time, the power plant has had quality water to maintain their business, and their monthly bills have helped to make those loan payments. BUT, 20 years of that loan’s balance still remains, and I think the power company should still be helping the City repay the rest of that loan!”

Former mayor Sam DeMarco also recalled a time when garbage service was put out for bid and another contractor won the bid. The PSC denied the first bidder because it would have put the other vendor out of business. “I think it is important for everyone to know all this history from the past. If the PSC permits

See “Council” Pg 7

West Virginia Folklife Seeks Applications Statewide for 2026-27 Folklife Apprenticeship Program

Charleston—West Virginia Folklife, a project of the West Virginia Humanities Council, is now accepting applications for its statewide Folklife Apprenticeship Program.

Since 2017, the West Virginia Folklife Apprenticeship Program has supported expert traditional artists working with dedicated apprentices on a yearlong apprenticeship to teach traditional music, dance, craft, foodways, storytelling and more. This popular program follows the time-tested model of one-to-one teaching so that apprentices may carry on techniques, artistry, stories and traditional knowledge of communities from throughout the Mountain State.

Applications are due September 18, 2026, for the 2026-27 program. The application, guidelines and instructions for how to apply can be found at wvfolklife.org. Mentors and their proposed apprentices must apply together. Applications will be evaluated by a review panel, and successful applicants will be notified in November 2026.

Teaching artists will receive \$3,000, and apprentices \$800, for participating in the program. Pairs may request an additional \$400 to reimburse for expenses related to their apprenticeship. Folklife apprenticeship pairs design their own work plans, and they are expected to participate in a public presentation, recorded interview, virtual meetings as a cohort with other selected pairs and a final public showcase.

The West Virginia Folklife Apprenticeship Program is facilitated by the West Virginia

See “Folklife” Pg 4



A Day at TPC Sawgrass

One of the great joys of life is when an unexpected opportunity turns into an unforgettable experience—one that leaves you grateful for good friends, good fortune and the chance to do something you never imagined doing.

For me, one of those experiences was a recent golf trip to TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

For those who don’t follow golf, TPC Sawgrass is a bucket-list destination for millions of golfers around the world. It is home to The Players Championship and the famous 17th hole, with its island green surrounded by enough water to make even an experienced golfer nervous.

As an amateur golfer—and I use the word “amateur” in its truest sense—I felt some trepidation about walking onto the same pristine course where Scottie Scheffler, Rory McIlroy and the best players in the world compete.

My golf history includes a few unfortunate etiquette violations. I once sneezed in the middle of another golfer’s backswing. On another occasion, I forgot to latch my golf bag onto the cart. As I drove away, my clubs, balls, tees and everything else spilled out for nearly 100 yards. I then had to collect them sheepishly while dozens of people watched from the clubhouse windows.



By JIM HUNT

Building Amazing Cities

For the Harrison County Journal

With that kind of résumé, TPC Sawgrass had every reason to be concerned about my arrival.

Our group reached the course a few minutes before our tee time, and the starter asked where we were from. When we said West Virginia, his eyes lit up.

His wife was from Buckhannon, and he had many nice things to say about our home state. He mentioned several places he had visited during a lifetime of trips to West Virginia. That brief connection immediately made us feel welcome.

He also gave us a few helpful instructions for navigating the course: Stay on the cart path and keep up the pace. He warned that we didn’t want the course marshal paying us a visit.

Then he pointed us toward the 10th hole, where we would begin our round.

See “Hunt” Pg 3

OPINION

Education and Cooperation

By Stephen Smoot

Last month, as the Harrison County Board of Education held its first meeting under partial intervention from the West Virginia Department of Education, one official noted a statistic.

Thirteen children had left the HOPE Scholarship program and rejoined public school education.

With education so politicized, one camp might feel inclined to crow and the other to ignore it sullenly.

One must remember, however, that one of the stated goals of alternative education advocates of all stripes lay in using competition to push public schools to perform better.

And that has happened.

Five years ago, the West Virginia State Legislature passed the HOPE Scholarship to help support reforms that made the Mountain State the most libertarian state in terms of education options.

Five years later, as the West Virginia Board of Education reported last May, a “commitment to getting back to basics in reading and math continues to produce results in students’ academic recovery.” Nationally, the Harvard and Stanford University Education Scorecards ranked the state sixth in math recovery and eighth in reading recovery since the pandemic.

West Virginia’s embrace of Science of Reading and the “Ready, Read, Write West Virginia” initiative, as well as benchmark testing and support by organizations such as Communities in Schools, has helped push the state to the top. Successful school system central offices have adapted to the new expectations and worked to encourage and support teachers.

Building on that success, the West Virginia Association of School Administrators rightfully launched a program to capitalize on those successes. The “I Love West Virginia Public Schools” campaign seeks to bring back pride in community schools and focus on hard work performed in the classrooms.

And it has much to celebrate in the past few years.

Classroom success has not made as many headlines recently as misadministration in some county school systems, a small percentage of teachers accused of abusing students, and reports of pervasive discipline issues in some parts of the state. Students doing better in reading and writing don’t work quite as well as “clickbait” outrage articles to some in journalism.

West Virginia’s public schools felt pressure from the executive and legislative branches to improve performance, but they also felt competition from alternative education. Whichever impetus provided the most motivation, clearly the state’s schools as a whole are on an upward track.

Although with a lot more work to do, many school systems in West Virginia can rightly feel pride in progress made.

That said, the alternative opportunities offered under the HOPE Scholarship give parents and other

See “Smoot” Pg 6

ACROSS

1 Arctic footwear item

9 Triaging concern

15 “Rope- —” (Ali ring tactic)

20 Study of forces acting on mechanisms

21 Twinkled

22 Adversary

23 Brief seconds

24 Diane plays her role flawlessly?

26 See 61-Across

27 Dandy dudes

28 On guard

29 Foxx amuses his audience?

34 Flock babies

37 Droop

39 Phone button abbr.

40 Special span

41 Granola snack option

43 Flood preventer

44 Muscles called “guns”

47 Paul acts in a serious film?

50 Military pupils

52 One of a pair of sense organs

53 Expiators

54 Elmer greatly anticipates catching Bugs Bunny?

57 Favored ones

60 “Hence ...”

61 With 26-Across, maker of Tater Tots

62 Philadelphia’s La — University

63 WWII battle city in France

64 Adaptable truck, in brief

65 Christ, in Cremona

67 Oldham fashions clothes?

70 Cheer shouts

74 Court org.

76 “Look at Me” novelist Jennifer

77 Bunk

79 Gunk

80 “ATM” rapper

83 Small warbler

84 Wynonna puts out her first album?

86 Orchestrate

88 Miracle- —

90 Brown ermines

91 Roger describes a news event?

96 “C’mon, quit it!”

98 “It’s all clear”

99 Lightning source, informally

100 TV “Science Guy” Bill

102 Put in a juicer

103 One of a pair of sense organs

104 Cultural spirit

105 Billy steps off his ship?

109 Plow inventor John

111 Swiss mounts

112 “— had it!”

113 Jason bounces the basketball?

117 Kitchen tools

122 Architect Jones

123 — d’ (head-waiter)

124 Cubic — (fake diamond)

125 De Mille the dancer

126 Less than retail

127 How this puzzle’s nine longest answers are viewed?

DOWN

1 Do the slopes

2 Writer Anaïs

3 Carry- — (flight totes)

4 Sweaty, say

5 Straitlaced

6 Indian tongue

7 Scale’s span

8 Road curve

9 Certain opening for a bolt

10 Elated bliss

11 Gives help

12 German link

13 Rx request

14 Suffix with lime or Gator

15 Seed casings

16 Belly flop, say

17 Unusually big

18 People eating meals, e.g.

19 High trains

25 Maze-running rodent

27 Mrs., in Berlin

29 Burglarize

30 Gourmet

31 Tenths of centuries

32 “Judge —” (Stallone film)

33 Slip up

34 Piece of mail: Abbr.

35 Court org.

36 Mothers, informally

38 Undercoat for an oil painting

42 Skilled sorts

43 Evening eats

45 People who are hoofing it

46 Rock layers

48 — Moines

49 Perfectly

51 Song for one

54 Hazy stuff

55 Not as young

56 Pigeon perch, maybe

58 Yale for whom Yale is named

59 “I swear —!”

63 Capitol fig.

64 No longer bothered by

66 Remove the cargo from

68 Hazard

69 Motions “yes”

71 “Equus” actress Jenny

72 Time in a Jacuzzi, e.g.

73 “Rescue us!”

75 Road curve

78 “The Lady” star Michelle

80 Farr or Foxx

81 Fighting for change

82 Called for a pizza, say

83 Like Cardiff natives

84 Write hastily

85 City in Iraq

87 Go- — (no idler)

89 Climbing roses

92 “Am — blame?”

93 Refusals

94 Cuts off

95 Pink Floyd’s Barrett

97 Evening hrs.

101 Add while proofing

104 Paul who published many math papers

106 Surprise win

107 Tennis legend Chris

108 Park seat

110 Threshold

111 Counter-tenor

113 Rio carmaker

114 “— bad boy!”

115 Slugging club

116 Razor brand

117 Israeli weapon

118 College org. of sisters

119 Suffix with opal

120 Tell fibs

121 Mournful

©2026 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

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.

Aug. 5, 1958: Jennings Randolph defeated former governor William Marland in the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate. Randolph soon became the senior senator from West Virginia and served for 26 years.

Aug. 7, 1864: In what became known as the Battle of Moorefield, Union troops under Gen. William W. Averell attacked the headquarters of Gen. Bradley Johnson. The Confederates were routed and fled south into the town; the Union captured 500 men and 400 horses.

Aug. 7, 1877: West Virginia voters chose Charleston as the state capital over Clarksburg and Martinsburg. Aug. 7, 1893: Parsons became the county seat of Tucker County. Parsons was named for Ward Parsons, a prominent resident and the largest landholder.

Aug. 7, 1928: Author Betsy Byars was born in Charlotte, but her most productive period occurred during her 20 years in West Virginia. Her books during this time included the 1971 Newberry Medal-winning *The Summer of the Swans* and *Goodbye, Chicken Little*, which the New York Times named an outstanding book for 1979.

Aug. 8, 1915: Businessman Alex Schoenbaum was born in Richmond, Va. After settling in Charleston in 1943, he went into the restaurant business. His restaurants were named Shoney’s when Schoenbaum’s nickname was selected in an employee contest.

Aug. 9, 1916: A storm front from the northwest dumped nearly six inches of rain in less than five hours on the headwaters of Cabin Creek in eastern Kanawha County; 71 people died, and 900 homes were destroyed in the flood.

Aug. 9, 1927: Matthew Reese was born in Huntington. During the 1960 presidential Democratic primary, he helped organize all 55 counties and recruited thousands of campaign volunteers for John F. Kennedy. JFK’s victory forged Reese’s national political consulting career, working on more than 450 campaigns.

Aug. 9, 1954: Don Chafin died in Huntington. As sheriff of Logan County, Chafin was a bitter

foe of union organizers and, with financial support from coal companies, used his many deputies to keep labor organizers out of the county. He most notably led the anti-union forces at the 1921 Battle of Blair Mountain.

Aug. 10, 1913: Sam Shaw was the beloved third-generation editor of the Moundsville Daily Echo from 1951 until his death in 1995. His letters home during World War II earned him the Ernie Pyle Award. He was also a tinkerer, long-distance runner, hiker, musician, photographer, linguist and bird watcher.

Aug. 10, 1920: General Frank Kendall “Pete” Everest Jr. was born in Fairmont. Everest was a military aviator and a pioneer in U.S. rocket plane flying. In 1956, he flew the X-2 at Mach 3, exceeding 1,900 miles per hour and breaking the record of Chuck Yeager, his rival and close contemporary.

Aug. 11, 1844: Emanuel Willis Wilson was born at Harpers Ferry. He served as the seventh governor of West Virginia from 1885 to 1890.

Aug. 11, 1910: Funeral director Elizabeth Harden Gilmore was born in Charleston. In 1958, she was an original organizer of West Virginia’s first Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) chapter and, on her 48th birthday, began leading demonstrations that desegregated Charleston businesses.

Aug. 11, 1914: U.S. Ambassador Joseph S. Farland was born in Clarksburg. He helped facilitate U.S. Secretary of State’s Henry Kissinger’s secret 1971 trip to China as a prelude to President Richard Nixon’s historic visit.

Aug. 11, 1941: Musician John Ellison was born near Montgomery, Fayette County. While performing with his band, the Soul Brothers Six, he wrote the classic song “Some Kind of Wonderful.”

Aug. 11, 1974: Singer Landau Eugene Murphy Jr. was born in Logan. In 2011, he won the nationally televised America’s Got Talent competition, performing standards. His win offered him a chance to perform at Caesar’s Palace in Las Vegas.

Aug. 11, 1994: The Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge became the 500th refuge in the National Wildlife Refuge system. It is one of the largest and most diverse freshwater wetland areas in central and southern Appalachia.

e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia is a project of the West Virginia Humanities Council. For more information contact the West Virginia Humanities Council, 1310 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston, WV 25301; (304) 346-8500; or visit e-WV at www.wvencyclopedia.org.

“A Newspaper The Whole Family Can Read”

ShinnstonHarrison County

The News & Journal

USPS 494-420

Michael Showell
Publisher

Stephen Smoot
Editor

Debra Smith
Advertising

Bill Nestor
Sports Editor

Published weekly by
Mountain Media, LLC, P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV,
with the exception of the week of July 4th.
Single Copy \$1.00

Annual Subscription Rates
In-County: \$49 • Out-of-County: \$53 • Out-of-State: \$56
Periodicals Postage Paid at Shinnston, WV

POSTMASTER: send change of address to:
The Shinnston News & Harrison County Journal
P.O. Box 429
Lewisburg, WV 24901

How To Let Us Know

To start home delivery or to report a service problem,
call our office at 304-647-5724 or fax us at 304-647-5767.

OBITUARIES

Dorsey Funeral Home

LOUIE MALE, Owner/Licensee-In Charge
701 South Pike Street, Shinnston, WV 26431
Office: 304-592-2500 ~ Fax: 304-592-2571
www.dorseyfuneralhomewv.com



Harmer Funeral Home

Shinnston, WV · 592-2500
www.harmerfuneralhome.com
Jay D. Harmer, LLC,
Jacob A. Harmer, Licensed Funeral Director



Perine Funeral Home

Call 592-5925 • 1348 S. Pike St. Shinnston
Timothy E. Perine - L.I.C./Owner
Adam T. Perine - Funeral Director/General Manager
Patrick A. Kovalck - Licensed Director



Statement on School Clothing Allowance and TANF Review

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Communications Director Lars Dalseide released the following statement on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding and the Administration’s ongoing review of TANF-funded programs:

When this Administration began reviewing West Virginia’s TANF-funded programs, the first data we received described a program in crisis. The state was spending far more each year than the federal grant provides, and the savings that had covered the difference were nearly gone.

Compounding the problem, the eligibility system the state depends on - a system that has cost West Virginia nearly \$400 million and still does not work properly - cannot tell us reliably what is being spent while it is being spent. A state cannot manage what it cannot measure. That is why the Governor ordered a comprehensive review: not to reduce support for families, but to establish what West Virginia actually spends, what it actually receives, and what it can sustain.

Where we go from here
The Governor has directed the Department of Human Services to maintain spending levels for all TANF programs through the end of the current fiscal year, so those programs can continue to provide services to West Virginia families. The Governor will also seek a supplemental appropriation of \$10 to \$15 million from surplus funds to ensure adequate resources last through June 30, 2027, because some of the federal funds now being drawn down for these programs will be nearly exhausted by then.

School clothing this year
Our goal was to keep support

consistent with last year while making sure the state’s capped federal TANF funding can still cover the other programs that depend on it. Last year the School Clothing Allowance spent roughly \$11.4 million and assisted approximately 57,000 children. Applications for this year are still being processed and verified, and we expect this year’s program to match or exceed last year’s level of support.

How West Virginia compares
West Virginia is one of only a handful of states in the country that runs a statewide school clothing program, and it is the only state in the region where every eligible child, in every county, qualifies on the same terms. In the states that border West Virginia, this kind of help is generally limited to children in foster care, left to each county to offer or not, or not offered at all. Among the states that do run a program, West Virginia’s investment is among the most generous in the nation. Michigan - with more than five times our population and an economy more than six times the size of ours - appropriates about \$10 million a year, while West Virginia invested about \$11.4 million last year. The chart below sets out the comparison.

No money for TANF is sitting unused
Two different figures are being mistaken for money the state is free to spend.
The first is West Virginia’s spending authority. That is a ceiling the Legislature sets - the most the state would be allowed to spend if it had the money in hand. It is not money. The federal block grant actually provides about \$98.8 million a year, and we are spending

almost \$137 million.
The second is the balance in the state’s TANF savings account, and it is not a surplus either. That gap - about \$38 million a year - has to come from somewhere, and it has been coming from those savings. The account has fallen from roughly \$141 million three years ago to about \$41 million today. It is almost gone. Every dollar still in it is already committed to child care for working parents, cash assistance, family support centers, and the other programs paid for out of this same grant, so money spent on any one of them is money taken from the others. When those savings are exhausted, all of these programs are in jeopardy - and the West Virginians who rely on them are the most vulnerable people in our state.

How the state got here
The prior administration committed West Virginia to permanent, long-term obligations using one-time, temporary federal money in the savings account the state was only ever going to have once. Larry Pack was that administration’s acting revenue chief when those commitments

were made. He kicked the can down the road, and it landed on these children.

Moving forward
Governor Morrissey is doing the responsible thing - determining how West Virginia can live within its capped federal allocation and support every program that helps vulnerable families, not only this year but over the long term. The Governor has also directed agencies to continue identifying reforms that strengthen accountability, improve transparency, and preserve these programs for future generations of West Virginians. In addition, the Governor will work with the Legislature to develop a permanent solution - one that does not depend on the one-time COVID-era money the state once relied on to paper over the gap - and to put safeguards in place that make sure every dollar in these programs reaches the children and families it is meant to serve.

Governor Patrick Morrissey’s policies will always put kids first. He fights for kids, and he is working to make sure they have the benefit of these programs for the long term - funded through sustainable revenue sources.

Attorney General McCuskey Announces \$400 Million Settlement in Principle with Sandoz Over Conspiracy to Inflate Drug Prices and Limit Competition

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Attorney General JB McCuskey today announced a \$400 million settlement in principle with Sandoz Inc. The action is to resolve allegations that the generic drug manufacturer engaged in widespread, long-running conspiracies to artificially inflate and manipulate prices, reduce competition, and unreasonably restrain trade with regard to numerous generic prescription drugs. The agreement to settle the litigation is subject to approval by a bi-partisan coalition of 43 states and territories.

If approved, Sandoz Inc. will pay a total of approximately \$469 million to settle the claims brought by the coalition of Attorneys General, including amounts paid pursuant to previous settlements with other states. The settlement will also resolve allegations that Sandoz Inc.’s past and present international affiliates, Novartis AG, Sandoz AG, and Sandoz Group AG, participated in the alleged anticompetitive conduct and fraudulently transferred assets in order to avoid liability.

As part of the settlement in principle, Sandoz has agreed to meaningful injunctive terms including a series of internal reforms to ensure fair competition and compliance with antitrust laws. This settlement is contingent upon obtaining signatures from all necessary states and territories and

comes as the States prepare for an anticipated trial in 2027.

“Drug prices in this country are out of control and have been for far too long. This lengthy litigation has revealed the depths of the conspiracy among various companies to keep prices high and limit affordable options, hurting those who need these drugs to survive. It’s wrong and I’m proud of the work of this bipartisan coalition to hold these companies accountable for putting profits over people,” Attorney General McCuskey said.

The States have also secured settlements in the same litigation with Glenmark, Lannett, Bausch, Apotex and Heritage totaling approximately \$96.5 million.

Connecticut is leading the bipartisan action against the various drug manufacturers, joined by West Virginia, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Northern Mariana Islands, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, U.S. Virgin Islands, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

“Hunt” cont. from p. 1

Waiting at the tee box was Hoyle, our forecaddie. A friendly young man from Louisiana, Hoyle explained that he would stay ahead of us, locate our shots and use his knowledge of the course to guide us.

Since this was only my second time playing with a caddie, my nerves were already on edge.

I walked onto the 10th tee carrying my driver. A combination of sand and water stared back at me. At that moment, I had three modest goals: Don’t miss the ball completely, don’t hit it into the water and don’t bury it in the enormous sand trap.

I gripped the club, swung and sent my drive down the middle of the fairway. It was a far cry from where the professionals usually land, but I didn’t care. I had survived my opening drive at TPC Sawgrass.

It took me another three or four shots to reach the beautifully manicured green—and three more to finish the hole. Putting on professional greens is an entirely different experience. What feels like a gentle tap can send the ball rolling 30 feet past the cup.

Needless to say, I gained a new appreciation for professional golfers who play courses like this under tournament pressure and make it look easy.

Golf in Florida during July presents another challenge: heat and humidity that can quickly drain your strength. Our group of eight kept the beverage carts busy supplying us with cold water and Gatorade.

Whoever decided that 18 holes was the perfect length for a round of golf had clearly never played in Florida in July.

Still, the day could not have been better. Our sweaty group had a wonderful time making our way around one of the most famous golf courses in the world.

Then came the legendary 17th hole.

I am proud to say that I eventually landed a ball on the island green. When we later told the story, we may not have emphasized that it took three attempts to get there. Some details are better left on the scorecard.

After finishing the round, we headed into the restaurant to cool down and recount our greatest putts, longest drives and near-miraculous recoveries. As golfers often do, we polished the stories almost as carefully as the grounds crew polishes the course.

I won’t reveal my final score, except to say that it reached triple digits. I was also proud that I didn’t lose a ball during the entire round, although that accomplishment probably had more to do with Hoyle’s eagle eyes than with my golfing ability.

People often say that a bad day on the golf course is better than a good day at work. On that hot July day at TPC Sawgrass, I understood exactly what they meant.

But the day was about much more than golf or a scorecard. It was about friendship, laughter and the unexpected opportunity to walk onto a course I had watched so many times on television.

Long after I forget the number of strokes I took, I will remember how fortunate I felt to be there—and how grateful I was for the friends who shared the experience with me.

Read Local
Keep up with your community!



The toughest opponent of the summer



The Bottom Line

By Bill Nestor
Sports Editor

The recent flooding and neighboring counties of Lewis and Upshire have caused devastating losses. The floodwaters and the destruction left in both areas are reminiscent of that of the 1985 flood. In some parts of Western and Weston and Buchanan, there have been talk that the total loss was worse this time around. As is the case with most disasters, there was little warning and no time to prepare. In some cases, the water dropped just as fast as it came up. In other scenarios, the waters remained at a high level for a longer period of time, adding the additional stress of people being trapped in dangerous places. There is no place like home unless there is no way out. And the water is rising. Once the last of the water subsided, it was time to get to work. Leaders stepped up and made a plan. The National Guard rolled in and volunteers moved into the decimated counties that were physically and

mentally fractured. I've been through a similar situation years ago. We had a house fire that left us homeless, less than a week before Christmas. The feeling of emptiness is overwhelming, and it leaves you feeling exhausted. In this case, there was no time to rest, as there was a time crunch to remove all of the ruined remnants of what was their previous lives. There were timelines in place for everything that needed to be hauled away, to be out in curbside, or it would be the responsibility of the homeowner, to have it removed. It's not as simple as just taking items out of houses. The several inches of sludge left after the waters left had to be shoveled out, and that stuff is extremely heavy. Old carpet had to be ripped up and wrangled, which is no easy chore. All of this is labor intensive work that many of these older individuals cannot do on their own. They were in desperate need of help, and they needed it fast. When the going gets

tough, the tough get going. Our community has always been one that has been willing to roll up its sleeves and get to work. On the football field of the basketball courts, the Minutemen and the Bucks are opponents. But in this case, they are our teammates. We are fighting against the same arch rival, and even though it's late in the game and the scoreboard isn't looking good, there's no giving up because there's no way we are giving up . Pulling together when it matters the most is the greatest feeling in the world. Helping someone in need is the best feeling you can ever have. Take it from me. You never know when you will be the one on the other end. If you haven't had time to help, there's still more work to do, and there are several families in need if you would like to donate. There is a long way to go to achieve recovery, but with our help, our friends next door can get there sooner. I have a feeling if the situation were reversed, and we were in their shoes, they would be here with us. That will do it for now! Until next week, take care . . .and God bless!!!

Tee It Up!



By Bill Nestor

This week's edition of Tee It Up took us to one of the top venues in West Virginia, the Palmer course at Stonewall Resort, located in Roanoke just outside of Weston. Designed by the king himself. Arnold seemed to put his heart and soul into this premier 18 hole par 72 public golf course that plays over 7,100 yards from the tips. This gym opened in 2002, but elevated to an even higher level when Mike Rogers assumed the position of director of golf. Rogers leads an exceptional staff that is extremely knowledgeable and friendly. They're eager to help in any way possible, and while others go the extra mile, Rogers and his crew lap the competition when it comes to effort and detail. Striving for perfection is the name of the game here as every time you turn around, another major improvement takes place. Previously, it was the bunkers,

which have been enhanced and stack up with any that you will find. The most recent renovation has been the paving of the cart paths. The layout is contained. The layout is contagious, making golfers want to come back for another round as soon as their current one is completed. And when you look back on the entire day, it resembles a fairy tale. Everything from start to finish is perfect. The award winning pro shop possesses all that you need for a great day on the links, the practice area includes a driving range, chipping and pitching areas, and a putting green. After your round is over, the 19th hole, Lightburns, offers a gorgeous view of the resort to recap your round. Let's stay and play packages along with membership options available. The Palmer course at Stonewall Resort is a must play this golf season.



"Folklife"

cont. from p. 1

Folklife Program at the West Virginia Humanities Council. The Folklife Apprenticeship Program is supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. West Virginia Folklife is dedicated to the documentation, preservation, presentation and support of West Virginia's cultural heritage and living traditions. For more information, visit wvfolklife.org. For questions about the West Virginia Folklife Apprenticeship Program, contact Jennie Williams at williams@wvhumanities.org or 304-346-8500. Follow our YouTube channel @WestVirginiaFolklife to watch past West Virginia Folklife Apprenticeship showcases.

WWW.SHINNSTONNEWS.COM



GENERAC

#1 standby generator worldwide.

Get whole-home power, automatically.

Call 844-901-2301 to schedule your free quote today!

*Terms & conditions apply

Super Crossword

Answers

S	N	O	W	S	H	O	E		T	R	A	U	M	A		A	D	O	P	E	
K	I	N	E	T	I	C	S		S	H	I	N	E	D		R	I	V	A	L	
I	N	S	T	A	N	T	S		L	A	D	D	E	L	I	V	E	R	S		
				I	D	A			F	O	P	S				A	L	E	R	T	
R	E	D	D		D	I	V	E	R	T	S		L	A	M	B	S		S	A	G
O	P	E	R			E	R	A			O	A	T	B	A	R		D	I	K	E
B	I	C	E	P	S		R	U	D	D		D	R	A	M	A	T	I	Z	E	S
		C	A	D	E	T	S			E	Y	E			A	T	O	N	E	R	S
F	U	D	D		D	R	O	O	L	S		P	E	T	S		A	N	D	S	O
O	R	E		S	A	L	L	E		S	T	L	O		U	T	E				
G	E	S	U		T	O	D	D		E	S	I	G	N	S		R	A	H	S	
		N	B	A		E	G	A	N		H	O	O	E	Y		G	O			
J	C	O	L	E		W	R	E	N		J	U	D	D		E	B	U	T	S	
A	R	R	A	N	G	E			G	R	O		S	T	O	A	T	S			
M	U	D	D		D	E	L	I	N	E	A	T	E	S		O	H	S	T	O	P
I	S	E	E		T	S	T	O	R	M		N	Y	E		B	R	E	A	M	
E	A	R		E	T	H	O	S		B	U	D	D		E	B	A	R	K	S	
		D	E	E	R					A	L	P	S		I	V	E				
K	I	D	D		D	R	I	B	B	L	E	S		U	T	E	N	S	I	L	S
I	N	I	G	O		M	A	I	T	R	E		Z	I	R	C	O	N	I	A	
A	G	N	E	S		A	T	C	O	S	T		I	N	T	H	R	E	E	D	

West Virginia Statewide Classified Network

Featured in WVPA Newspapers Across West Virginia

HEALTH/MEDICAL

AUDIEN HEARING. The world's first hearing aid with touchscreen controls. No tiny buttons, apps or prescriptions. 45-day risk free trial. Free shipping. Lifetime support. More than 1.5 million happy customers. Call Audien 1-866-327-9323

DONT LET THE STAIRS LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 1-844-592-5113

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-405-3412 www.dental50plus.com/press #6258

INTERNET/TV

GET DISH SATELLITE TV + INTERNET! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-855-736-4350

CONSUMER CELLULAR - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-855-615-6411

MISCELLANEOUS

PUBLIC AUCTION! HUGE - NO RESERVES. William A. Hazel, Inc. Equipment & Trucks. Friday, Aug 14. 10am. Bid Onsite & Online. Winchester, VA. Motleysindustrial.com. VAAL #16/ NCAL #5914

REPAIRING OR REPLACING APPLIANCES AND HOME SYSTEMS LIKE HEATING AND COOLING CAN BE COSTLY. A home warranty plan can help. Start saving and get 30% off any plan today. Workmanship Guarantee included. Terms apply. Call Cinch Home Services 1-855-968-0741

JACUZZI BATH REMODEL can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 12/27/26.)

ACCULEVEL. YOUR FOUNDATION REPAIR AND BASEMENT WATER-PROOFING EXPERTS. Whether basement, crawl space or concrete slab we'll guide you on the right path to a healthy home. Act now! Up to \$600 off. Restrictions apply. Call for a free consultation. 1-833-974-2676

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES TODAY with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-901-2301 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

UP TO \$15,000.00 OF GUARANTEED

LIFE INSURANCE! No medical exam or health questions. Cash to help pay funeral and other final expenses. Call Physicians Life Insurance Company- 888-217-5559 or visit www.Life55plus.info/wv

SAFE STEP. NORTH AMERICAS #1 WALK-IN TUB. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-844-803-1282

NO MORE CLEANING OUT GUTTERS. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferable warranty. Call today 1-844-295-2840 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Plus, Military & Seniors get an additional 10% off. Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

TRAVEL

YMT VACATIONS. Over 50 guided tours available. Affordable, social and stress-free travel designed for mature travelers. Our tours include accommodations, transportation, baggage handling, sightseeing, entrance fees, a professional Tour Director and select meals. For a limited time SAVE \$250 on all tours. Call YMT today. 1-833-649-1532

Place YOUR statewide ad today
Call the WV Press at (304) 342-1011



BUSINESS MATTERS

Business of the Month Menard’s: A History of Customer Convenience and Community Service

By Stephen Smoot

On January 30, 2024 the doors opened. On February 2nd came the dignitaries to cut the ribbon. Ever since then, Menard’s has served as a staple for contractors, do it yourself repairmen, and anyone else needing economically priced reliable merchandise to get the job done.

Along the way, the company has also launched multiple drives to help the community.

For almost 70 years, John Menard Jr has endeavored to back those who build. He started working on pole buildings in 1958 to supplement income earned at a movie theater. Pole construction proved popular at the time around his Eau Claire, Wisconsin home as dairy farmers wanted low cost, low

maintenance storage structures for livestock and equipment.

Hardware Retailing described Menard in an article, saying “in business, Menard is detail-oriented, thrifty, and an opportunist, similar to many retail entrepreneurs who built large companies in the 20th century.

Unlike most, however, the founder retains private ownership over his company.

Menard saw an opportunity to supply the boom.

As Hardware Retailing explained in an article on the company, “Menard began his business to serve the rapidly changing farm industry in 1958.” His business quickly developed a reputation for good workmanship.

Menard opened his operation in 1962. That same year, Sam Walton’s

first store opened in Rogers, Arkansas. By 1964 it had evolved into Menard Cashway Lumber. By the late 1960s the company had developed factories manufacturing items such as steel siding, roofing, and doors.

By the 1990s, Menards rapidly expanded from its Wisconsin base throughout the Midwest, with big box style outlets coming in the early 21st century. Currently it operates nearly 340 stores, driven by its “save big money” tagline.

Menards also participates in big ways to help the community. As of August 1, Menards in Bridgeport and elsewhere will be “serving as a drop site for a local Humane Association for two full months “through September 30, 2026.”

The company will also donate significant amounts of materials and

needs to a local humane association “including food, treats, feeders, collars, beds, storage containers, mats, and much more.”

Others can bring in donations as well, placing them in the box marked for that purpose.

In January, February, and March of this year, Menard’s ran a similar campaign for local food pantries. It requested donations of non perishable food from the public and also gave from its own stores. A release stated that “we’re excited to participate in this wonderful opportunity while lending a helping hand to the community during the next three months.”

In late 2025, the company also ran a toy drive to help make sure that area families in need could have gifts for Christmas.

Walk With Ease Program Opens in Harrison County

By Stephen Smoot

Not long ago, a National Institute on Aging publication article highlighted the need for seniors to continue to make mobility a priority. It shared that mobility “is critical for functioning well and living independently.” The aging process does affect mobility, especially when seniors experience “changes in gait . . ., balance, and physical strength.”

Others, however, find that pain from problems such as arthritis or the sciatica nerve can also discourage seniors who might otherwise enjoy walking for exercise.

The “Walk With Ease” program, promoted by the Harrison County Senior Center, was established to encourage walking, even in those who have health problems serving as barriers. As a United States Department of Agriculture website explains, it “is a direct education program that is designed to promote education about successful physical activity for people with arthritis, arthritis self-management and walking safely and comfortably.”

“A simple six week walking program,” a release states, will ease participants “living with arthritis, joint pain, or other chronic conditions” to find ways to walk with

comfort.

As the USDA shares, the program has three options:

- **Group:** All 18 sessions are led by an in-person, Arthritis Foundation-certified leader.
- **Self-Directed:** An individual uses the Walk With Ease Guidebook to complete the six-week program on his/her own.
- **Self-Directed Enhanced:** A group of individuals begin and end the six-week program at the same time. A designated leader coordinates communication to ensure participants are organized and motivated to complete program. Detailed toolkit.

The program was developed for the USDA by the Arthritis Foundation and also conforms to its guidelines on health and safety. Techniques come from “evidence-based ways to stay active and manage joint pain” and are aimed at seniors who are most physically, socially, or economically vulnerable.

Harrison County Senior Center recommends participation “to enhance mobility, reduce pain, and improve quality of life.” A QR code shared in the image run with this story can help those interested in signing up or learning more about it.



WALK WITH EASE

A Simple 6-Week Walking Program

Walking is one of the safest and most effective ways to improve your health — especially for people living with arthritis, joint pain, or other chronic conditions.

The **Walk With Ease** program, developed by the Arthritis Foundation, helps you build a safe and sustainable walking routine over six weeks.

Getting started is easy.

1. Scan the QR code on this flyer, or type: <https://startwalkwithease.org/Identity/Account/Register/ww>
2. Create your free account.
3. Choose “Harrison County Senior Citizens, Inc.”
4. Start walking!



Brought to you by the West Virginia University Office of Health Services Research. CDC Award: 6 NU58DP007479-03-01

Lots of gas and liquid pipelines in WV



Guest Column

By Charlotte Lane
Chair, WV Public Service Commission

If gas and hazardous liquid pipelines underlying West Virginia were pulled into a straight line, they’d reach three-fourths of the way around the Earth. That’s a lot of underground lines to inspect.

But the Public Service Commission pipeline inspectors do just that. It’s the Commission’s duty to make sure those pipelines are safe.

In addition to state laws, we enforce federal law for all in-state pipelines. It’s a big job and grows larger each year. We’re confident our inspectors are up to the duties of keeping the public safe while ensuring gas keeps flowing.

Last year, our staff of five inspectors oversaw the safety of 18,554 miles of gas and hazardous liquid transmission and gathering lines, as well as gas distribution pipelines in the state.

Although most inspectors come with pipeline experience, each inspector must take a minimum of seven training classes to inspect the pipelines in West Virginia. They must understand regulations and what it takes to perform their duties. To be fully trained in all aspects of pipelines requires about 20 different classes. Additional classes are necessary as regulations are added or changed.

Just this past year, several new operators and more pipeline mileage were added to our system, upping what we have by more than 1,000 miles. This comes through additional transmission lines, pipeline extensions, as well as repairs and replacements, and other improvements to provide safer pipelines.

In 2025, our inspectors spent 680 days on inspections and performed 358 separate inspections. They visited every regulated pipeline operator in the state – a total

of 65. Inspections include new construction, pipeline repairs and replacements, leak patrols, emergency response, and integrity management. The diligence of the gas pipeline inspectors keeps our pipelines safe.

Sixty percent of all residential fires in the United States are believed to be the result of gas leaks. And natural gas explosions occur in homes and offices across the nation. Approximately 80 percent of natural gas explosions are caused by pipeline leaks or ruptures.

The U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration’s website shows there were 301 serious or significant gas pipeline events nationally last year.

These events caused 24 fatalities and 301 injuries, in addition to costing operators more than \$279 million. The same website shows that the number of natural gas incidents has decreased over the last 20 years because of improved regulations and increased inspection activity.

We want you to be confident that when it comes to your safety, our pipeline inspectors are doing the job for you.



Your ONE STOP for all your Business & Leisure travel needs!

North Central West Virginia Airport

FLY VIP – FLY CKB

Mike Ross

Producer & Supporter of Natural Resources

Coalton, WV 26257

Phone: (304) 472-4289



Humor Versus Mockery

While laughter is good for the soul, it can also be hurtful to others. There is a big difference between ‘humor’ and ‘mockery’. Humor is meant to entertain and be playful and lighthearted, while mockery is typically harsh and often offensive.

I remember when I was in high school, Polish people were victimized with so-called ‘jokes’. I’m sure many of you are familiar with some of those. For example, one was: “How many Polish people does it take to change a lightbulb?” - The answer was 4; one to hold the lightbulb and 3 to turn the ladder. This was supposedly intended to produce a laugh, but it was also hurtful and implied stupidity.

West Virginians have suffered from numerous similar insults as well, remarks intended to make everyone think that if you lived in West Virginia, you didn’t wear shoes, couldn’t read or write, and had no indoor plumbing!

I recently ran across a list of one old “comedian’s” repertoire, which included the following abusive insults about the people of West Virginia:

- Their Halloween pumpkins have more teeth than they do.
- They marry their cousins.
- They wear overalls to funerals.
- They don’t mind driving in winter because their potholes are filled with ice.
- Their idea of a traffic jam is ten cars waiting to pass a tractor on the highway.
- They use an ironing board as a buffet table.
- Their matching set of luggage consists of two or more brown paper bags.
- Their dinnerware includes salad bowls that all say Cool Whip on the front.
- They know which leaves make the best toilet paper.
- These backwoods rednecks all live up a holler.
- Their culture consists of a twangy singer accompanied by a banjo.

This is just a partial list, but I think that’s quite ENOUGH! If this ‘comedian’ (?) managed to reap enough money from his performances, he should have taken a trip to our Mountain State and witnessed the glory of its breathtaking beauty. During his visit, he could have met some of the wonderfully kind people who live here - and who would have welcomed him regardless of his failed attempts to insult us. Yes, West Virginia IS “Almost Heaven” and God blessed us with not just an abundance of natural wonders, but also the grace to overlook offensive slurs.

Quote of the Week: “Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge our future.” ~ Paul Boese

THANK YOU FOR READING
THE SHINNSTONS NEWS &
HARRISON COUNTY JOURNAL



“Smoot” cont. from p. 2

caregivers more options. Many children who have been, for example, traumatized by abuse or other tragic circumstances cannot function in a typical school environment. For them, home or microschool environments with fewer people and less chance of overstimulation provide the least restrictive learning environments because of less stress and anxiety.

Other children must work to overcome certain disabilities or learning challenges and non traditional models of education may benefit them more than a traditional classroom. Most kids can thrive in public schools, but a small percentage cannot. It just makes sense to support as many options as are both possible and reasonable.

All that said, the West Virginia public school system faces challenges that it has never seen previously. The requirement to provide each child that walks through the doors the best education possible has strained many systems’ resources to the limit. Hardy County, for example, has a significantly higher rate of special education and also foreign language challenges than any other county, due to the presence of relatively large numbers of foreign-born workers.

Yet they must face these challenges with the same ratio of resources as everyone else.

Sparsely populated counties had to consolidate schools, often with the strong encouragement of the State. Now they have ballooning transportation and other costs related to population and geography that more urban counties do not face, necessitating the “1,400 floor” that mitigates some of those issues.

Politics and fear has taken hold of the conversation of West Virginia’s newly richly diverse system of education. Frustration and anger on both sides has colored the discussion and made it too difficult to explore how these systems should work together. Funding problems for public schools have made HOPE a scapegoat for advocates of traditional education.

Public schools are the best way to educate the mass of students, but large scale institutions in general struggle to adapt to outlier situations. Non traditional homeschooling, microschools, and co-op arrangements can pick up where it is most difficult and costly for the public schools to educate, whether the students live in remote areas or have special needs.

It’s been proposed in this space before, but the best way to break the ice wall between public and alternative education is to enable and encourage public school supports of the newer models and compensate the traditional system for that work. Siloing helps neither side when both traditional and non traditional education can work with and also learn from each other.

After all, the vast majority of those involved in the education of children do so to make a difference in kids’ lives. They also want to build a better future with people more prepared for the workforce and life in general. That shared passion should result in working together when appropriate and possible to create those better outcomes.

Someone has to lead the effort. Someone has to say, how can the State come up with a comprehensive plan that helps to preserve the independence of alternative education, but also allow it to integrate with traditional schools when beneficial. And officials working on school funding must find a way to not allow HOPE to become, or appear to be, a zero sum game with traditional education in terms of how schooling is paid for.

Both the HOPE supported models and also the public schools are performing and improving outcomes, so let’s stop pitting them against each other.

That means that enrollment can no longer be the overwhelming determining factor in how schools

Jacuzzi

Bath Remodel

Safety. Style. Stress-Free Installation.

SPECIAL OFFER
Waiving All Installation Costs!

CALL NOW
1.866.465.3017

Add'l terms apply. Offer subject to change and vary by dealer. Expires 12/27/26.

SERVICES

ALL STATE PAVING Driveways, parking lots, basketball courts, resurfacing old asphalt, patchwork, seal coating – Machine laid and rolled–All Work guaranteed–Over 40 years experience – Licensed and insured- Competitive prices and discounts–Free Estimates–304-472-8097.WV014137.

are funded because so many other cost factors come into play, especially with challenging populations of students.

That means that creativity should be exercised in helping to not only preserve schools currently serving remote areas, but expand their number through partnerships with non traditional education models. This would seem to be an area of “low hanging fruit” in terms of creating cooperation between traditional and non traditional education in West Virginia.

That means that the traditional school system in West Virginia needs to be recognized for responding successfully so far to the challenges posed to it, including competition from non traditional schools. Public schools must be reassured to not see HOPE education as a threat to their own resources.

Though few may know it, or want to admit it on either side, the West Virginia Republican Party is the creator of public education in the Mountain State. Coming out of the Civil War, “free public schools” were seen as the perfect catalyst to educate children with focus on workforce skills, patriotic citizenship, and even military arts.

Establishing them served as one of the biggest priorities of the GOP before it was nicknamed the GOP.

West Virginia Republicans have an opportunity to build on both traditional schools’ success and also the creativity of HOPE supported programs to create a system both resilient to stand the times and flexible enough to educate all students in all places.

Stop fussing, stop fighting, get your heads together, and use all of these diverse educational resources to make the system as a whole continue to work better.

SHINNSTON

MCDONALD'S

Purchase basket of fries receive

2 FREE MEDIUM SOFT DRINKS

Expires August 12, 2026

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

Breakdowns happen. We'll take it from there.

Let Cinch Home Services help you save on costly repair bills.

With nearly 50 years of experience, we are passionate about protecting our customers and their homes from the expensive costs that come with a home appliance or system breakdown. In fact, we've handled 1 MILLION+ service jobs in the last 3 years.

\$5,065	\$600	\$1,340	\$500	\$315	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$275
per hour	per hour	per hour	per hour	per hour	per hour	per hour	per hour

National average based on actual project costs as reported by unaffiliated third-party home project websites.

All covered repairs are backed by our industry leading 180-day Workmanship Guarantee!

30% OFF*
PER MONTH

Get 30% off your home warranty plan
Don't wait! Call now for our best offer.
(855) 968-0741

Our home warranty covers:

Furnace/Heating Systems
Air Conditioning Systems
Electrical System
Plumbing System and Stoppages
Refrigerators
Water Heaters
Interior Gas Lines
Ceiling Fans
Garbage Disposals
And Much More!

*Discount applies to the first year of a new Repair Only Plan, Repair + Replace Plan or Repair + Replace Premier Plan. Excludes optional coverage and add-ons. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Not available in all states.

2-Year TV Price Guarantee

dish
Authorized Retailer

Celebrate

AMERICA'S 250th ANNIVERSARY

★ WITH ★
DISH & SAVE BIG!

\$250 OFF
YOUR DISH SERVICE

THE LOWEST PRICE IN SATELLITE TV
JUST GOT EVEN BETTER

Switch to DISH for just \$109.99/mo \$99.99/mo
Includes 240+ Family-Favorite Channels

USE OFFER CODE
DISH250
★ 2-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE ★

Premium Movies On Us!
FREE Premium Movie Channels for 3 Months

Hopper 3 DVR Included
Record up to 10 shows at once.

Free Professional Installation
FREE Professional Installation - \$100 Value

CALL TODAY!
OFFER ENDS SEPTEMBER 6, 2026!
1-855-736-4350

★ GET UP TO ★
\$300
WHEN YOU SWITCH TO DISH

\$300
DISH SERVICE

Trusted by Millions of Customers Nationwide

Nationwide Availability
DISH is available almost anywhere.

Signal Reliability Guarantee
Your signal is ready for any forecast.

Call for full offer details.

LEGAL

(Cert. No. 179174 Cato Energy)

To: SANDRA L BURT, SANDRA BURT, 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 285 PARCEL 0073 00010000

You will take notice that Cato Energy, the purchaser of the following real estate, Certification No. 179174, located in COAL-OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, 1 LOT PT #6 0.72 AS LIMESTONE, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of BURT SANDRA L, 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, Cato Energy requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after 09/21/2026, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before 09/21/2026 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to 09/21/2026	\$	3571.53
Amount of taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to 09/21/2026	\$	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 09/21/2026	\$	1496.31
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest to 09/21/2026	\$	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.	\$	5067.84

You may redeem any time before 09/21/2026 by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

Given under my hand 7/16/2026

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

LEGAL

(2025-C-000769 - HARRISON COUNTY - VALLEY LAND GROUP LLC)

To: OCCUPANT, UNKNOWN CREDITORS, HEIRS, AND ASSIGNS OF EDWARD L ROBINSON, EDWARD L ROBINSON, WV UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CORP DBA UNIVERSITY HEALTH ASSOCIATES, CITY NATIONAL BANK OF WEST VIRGINIA, CITY NATIONAL BANK OF WEST VIRGINIA, 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 SIMPSON BRIDGEPORT CORP MAP 2405 PARCEL 0102 0000 0000

You will take notice that VALLEY LAND GROUP LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No. 2025-C-000769**, located in SIMPSON BRIDGEPORT CORP District, 1 LOT 99 WILLIS HTS (214 WMS AVE), which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of ROBINSON EDWARD L, 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. VALLEY LAND GROUP LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate on or after January 1, 2027, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before December 31, 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 - 59250.	\$	873.46
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 - 60310.	\$	799.74
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	209.95
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	1,141.26
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	3,024.41

You may redeem at any time before December 31, 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 July 6, 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

(2023-C-000541 - HARRISON COUNTY - CLARENCE & MARY MUTSCHELKNAUS)

To: HEIRS OF LEE MORRISON, HEIRS OF ASHTON MORRISON, HEIRS OF SARAH MORRISON, BARBARA LEACH, 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 9999 PARCEL 0620 9747 0000

You will take notice that CLARENCE & MARY MUTSCHELKNAUS, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No. 2023-C-000541**, located in EAGLE OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, 1/9 INT 147.25 AC O&G LAMBERTS RUN(KRISCOTT/API#41, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of MORRISON LEE HRS BARBARA LEACH AGT, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of HARRISON County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 8, 2024. CLARENCE & MARY MUTSCHELKNAUS requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate on or after October 1, 2026, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before September 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 2022 - 32950.	\$	149.24
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 2023 - 33172.	\$	129.56
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	221.50
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	710.23
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$	789.11
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	1,999.64

You may redeem at any time before September 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 July 29, 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

Tariff Form No. 8-C
(Tariff Rule 14.2 et seq. (Historical Rule 30-C))
PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGE IN RATES UPON APPLICATION

NOTICE is hereby given that Hope Gas, Inc. (the "Company"), a public utility, has filed with the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA, an application containing increased rates, tolls and charges for furnishing natural gas service to all of its customers at various locations in the Counties of Barbour, Boone, Braxton, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Harrison, Jackson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Marion, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monongalia, Nicholas, Pleasants, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Taylor, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Wayne, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood and Wyoming.

The proposed increased rates and charges will become effective November 1, 2026, unless otherwise ordered by the Public Service Commission and will increase revenues approximately \$20.3 million annually, an increase of 10.08%. The average monthly bill for the various classes of customers will be changed as follows:

HOPE GAS, INC. - PROPOSED		
TYPE OF CUSTOMER	\$ INCREASE/ DECREASE	% INCREASE/ DECREASE
Residential Sales (Rate Class RS)	\$8.18	7.34%
Small Commercial Sales (Rate Class SGS)	\$34.43	9.67%
Small Commercial Transport (Rate Class SGS) 1/	\$65.92	3.01%
Large Commercial Sales (Rate Class LGS)	\$2,223.85	15.52%
Large Commercial Transport (Rate Class LGS) 1/	\$834.61	5.60%
Large Commercial - Industrial Distribution Sales (Rate class LCI-D)	\$13,761.98	22.58%
Resale Sales (Rate Class WS)	\$4,438.30	15.34%
Daily Balancing - Transport	\$147.19	24.82%

1/ To account for an increase in standby rate.

Resale customers of the Company include Cardinal Natural Gas Company and Mountaineer Gas Company. The increases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated classes. Each class may receive an increase greater or less than stated here. Individual customers may receive increases that are greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested increased rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increase or decrease) by the Public Service Commission in its review of this filing. Any increase or decrease in rates and charges will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Public Service Commission. (If a hearing is conducted, notice will be given of the time and place of hearing.)

A complete copy of the proposed rates, as well as a representative of the Company to provide any information requested concerning it, is available to all customers, prospective customers, or their agents at the Morgantown office of the Company, 781 Chestnut Ridge Road, Suite 100, Morgantown, West Virginia.

A copy of the proposed rates is available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Secretary of the Public Service Commission at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia.

The 30-C procedure is designed to provide a procedure for changing rates charged to customers by natural gas distribution utilities based exclusively on the cost of purchased gas. Consequently, protest should be limited to the reasonableness of such costs and the method by which they are calculated. Anyone desiring to protest or intervene should file a written protest or notice of intervention within twenty-five (25) days following the date of this publication unless otherwise modified by Commission order. Failure to timely intervene can affect your rights to protest any rate increases or to participate in future proceedings. Requests to intervene must comply with the Commission's rules on intervention set forth in the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. All interventions must be mailed or hand-delivered and be addressed to the Executive Secretary, Public Sen./ice Commission of West Virginia, Post Office Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323, with copies to Daniel M. Taylor, Jr., Hope Gas, Inc., 781 Chestnut Ridge Road, Suite 100, Morgantown, WV 26505 and Kurt L. Krieger, Post Office Box 1588, Charleston, WV 25326-1588. Protests may be filed online through the Commission website using the "Submit a Comment" link or may be mailed to the Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, Post Office Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323.

THANK YOU FOR READING

PUBLIC NOTICE: Proposed Amendment to the WV Constitution to be on the November 3, 2026, General Election Ballot.

Title of Amendment: "Amendment 1: Citizenship Requirement to Vote in West Virginia Elections Amendment"

Summery-of-Purpose: "This amendment provides that in all elections held in West Virginia only citizens of the United States who are citizens of this state are qualified to vote."

Full Text of the Amendment: *§4-1. Only citizens of the United States who are citizens of this state shall be entitled to vote at all elections held within the counties in which they respectively reside; but a person who is a minor, or who has been declared mentally incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction, or who is under conviction of treason, felony or bribery in an election, or who has not been a resident of the state and of the county in which he or she offers to vote, for 30 days next preceding such offer, shall not be permitted to vote while such disability continues; and, a person in the military, naval, or marine service of the United States shall not be deemed a resident of this state by reason of being stationed therein.*

“Council”

First Energy to move forward with this, it will *strongly* affect the City of Shinnston and its many residents/customers. They need to know this,” DeMarco stated.

Shinnston native Delegate Clay Riley was the last to take the floor. He mentioned that the rate the power plant has been paying for years was always considered to be fair, and now, at a time when everything is or has gone up, they want a reduction? “YES, it will greatly impact Shinnston citizens.

The Public Hearing then concluded and Council moved on to Petitions of Citizens.

Chris Greaver again approached Council about speeding and running red lights and nothing being done about it. He also cited examples when City police cannot be reached. He encouraged the City Manager and City Council to exercise the authority they have to get some results.

Chris Harrison also spoke about Code Enforcement needing to do some inspections and instead of just threatening to fine people, actually do it. He said it had been his experience that carrying through with fines makes a great deal of difference rather than just issuing warnings of potential fines.

Action items included: Coal Severance Budget’s 1st revision (passed); General Fund Budget’s 1st revision (passed); Change order for Phase 3 Water project (tabled for next meeting).

*City Manager Tori Drainer offered her executive report, noting that she had met with members of the DOH, Modjeski & Masters, and a third-party consultant regarding the South Shinnston Bridge. There had been a tentative plan of going to the left of the existing bridge coming into town, widening Monroe Street and taking the car lot out. Now, the property owner on the opposite side of the street, is willing to be bought out, so plans may need to be altered. Another meeting will be held soon to finalize plans. Construction is still intended to begin and be completed in 2027.

*The City has also received the go-ahead from the County Commission for the boat ramp and are working with Richard Gaines of Stantec and attorney Trey Simmerman to get the exhibits for the DOH.

*The Dog Park has been cleared of all debris and low hanging branches. The legal ad will be placed in the newspaper next week, inviting bids for the fence installation.

*Mrs. Drainer also gave a reminder about Shindy 2026 going on at Ferguson Memorial Park on August 1st from 1 p.m.- 10 p.m. It will include Farmers’ Market, craft vendors, inflatables, food, drinks, and lots of music.

Discussion items included:

- Process for abandoning alleys: Councilperson Mary Ann Ferris said she thought that a policy should be established where all parties involved should be in agreement before an alley is abandoned.

cont. from p. 1

- Water/sewer projects will be done by City employees over the next 90 days, but note that work done on the Scudere property in Enterprise will take a great deal of time.
- Councilman Andrew Kisamore noted that attention should be given to the area just north of Price Cutter clear to the 1st stoplight where there appears to be drainage issues that should be addressed. He also mentioned that Public Works might keep an eye out for eyesores, such as when fence rails along the trail are down, when garbage appears along our streets, etc. that are blemishes to the community. Kisamore also suggested that department heads submit reports, and police have 24 hour coverage and make it a priority to take and respond to calls.

Delegate Clay Riley made the final statement prior to adjournment. Riley announced that he met with the DNR Director and discussed getting the trail fixed and getting boats on the river. He asked for funding to be run through and felt they would quickly accommodate.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned, but an executive session was requested first to address legal and personnel matters; however, no action would be taken that evening.

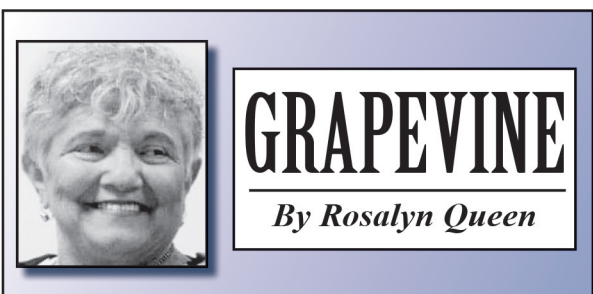
Vacationing to Experience a Piece of West Virginia’s Coal Mining Past

Now that we are entering the month of August there is not much time left to plan a little summer vacation, I wanted to share with you a one or two day trip to Southern West Virginia that will be worth your time. It will be an experience that will appeal to both adults as well as children.

In Beckley there is an Exhibition Coal Mine that is open to the public. West Virginia is known for its coal mines and I venture to say that there are very few families in West Virginia who have not been touched by coal mining. Those of us who have not been directly exposed to a mine cannot imagine what it is like to go down in a mine. Once you have made this trip you have an altogether different outlook on mining.

The Beckley Exhibition Mine is not a working mine but it does introduce you to the basics of a mine. There is a small fee to take this trip. You will board coal cars and ride them into the mine and back out. Once inside you will view the walls from where the coal is mined. Usually the mine is damp and cool. If all the lights were turned off, it would be very dark as no outside light can infiltrate the inside of the mine. This type of a trip will only introduce you to an actual mine and not to the mining of coal.

Now I will share with you an experience I had several years ago with a coal mine. As the director of the Italian Festival I was contacted by a National magazine who wanted to do a story



on West Virginia’s Italian community. Of course in the interview the topic of employment came up and the large majority of Italians who went to work in the coal mines. I made a few calls and was able to get us in a mine in Philippi for an actual visit. We had to take a class and then we were suited up in gear to be able to enter the mine. We entered the mine on an elevator that went down many feet. Then we got into coal cars that took us back in the mine for what seemed miles. At one point our guide stopped the cars , turned all the lights of and asked us to touch our noses, hard trick in a very dark place. We were in the mine for about an hour and observed the miners actually mining the coal and loading the cars to take the coal out. As for me this was an experience that I did not soon forget. The miners were actually mining the coal. The mine was not tall and we spent the entire time bent over. Can you imagine working in these conditions for eight hours. A new appreciation for those miners,



The Exhibition Coal Mine at Beckley gives a taste of what hard working coal miners experienced on the job. Photo courtesy of City of Beckley.

especially those immigrants who worked under much worse conditions. I am very happy that I could add this experience to my repertoire but was not planning another trip soon.

While you are headed to Beckley, plan on visiting Tamarac, which displays the Best of West Virginia. The National Radio Astronomy Observatory is at Green Banks which is about 80 miles from Beckley. A great mini vacation in our beautiful state.

I hope you will have the opportunity to plan this trip. Summer is quickly fading away. Do not miss out on a mini vacation. Stay cool, enjoy summer and until next week “Now You Have Heard It Through The Grapevine.”



The Bice-Ferguson Memorial Museum announces the People’s Choice awards from the July Exhibit: PHOTOGRAPHY!

Pictured: First Place – Robin Lamb; Second Place – Maurine Goodwin; Third Place – Debi Estep.

Capito, Justice, Miller, Moore Support Major Disaster Declaration Request for West Virginia

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Today, U.S. Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) and Jim Justice (R-W.Va.), and U.S. Representatives Carol Miller (R-W.Va.-01) and Riley Moore (R-W.Va.-02) joined together in sending a letter to President Donald J. Trump and FEMA Region 3 Regional Administrator Andre McCoy in support of Governor Patrick Morrisey’s (R-W.Va.) request for an expedited Major Disaster Declaration for the State of West Virginia. The request follows the severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding across the state beginning last Tuesday, July 21, and would provide support for Barbour, Doddridge, Harrison, Lewis, Pleasants, Ritchie, and Upshur Counties.

“As members of the West Virginia Congressional Delegation, we write in strong support of Governor Patrick Morrisey’s request for an expedited Major Disaster Declaration for the State of West Virginia following the severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, flash flooding, and landslides that struck our state beginning on July 21, 2026,” the West Virginia Congressional Delegation wrote.

“Our state and local officials responded immediately and decisively. First responders, emergency management personnel, law enforcement officers, members of the West Virginia National Guard, volunteer organizations, faith-based groups, and countless neighbors have worked tirelessly to protect lives and support recovery efforts. Despite these extraordinary efforts, the scope of this disaster exceeds the capacity of local governments and the State of West Virginia to recover without federal assistance,” the West Virginia Congressional Delegation continued.

“Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your continued support of the people of West Virginia. We stand ready to work with your Administration, FEMA, and state and local officials to ensure these communities receive the assistance they need to recover and rebuild,” the West Virginia Congressional Delegation concluded.

THANK YOU FOR READING

Summer Savings!

Convert an outdoor appliance to natural gas before summer ends & get a \$250 credit on your account

*Proof of installation required
*Must be installed between July 1st, 2026 and August 31st, 2026

Visit www.utilitypipelineld.com/apply or call 1-888-863-0032 to apply for service and find out how you can save today!