

OPINION

No War, No Peace, and No Hope for Iran’s Mullahs

By Stephen Smoot

In early 1918, the brutal Bolsheviks had seized control of the dying Russian Empire. As they killed the Czar, his wife, his minor children, and even their spaniel Jimmy in a dirty basement, Leon Trotsky was seeking to end the conflict with Imperial Germany.

Trotsky declared that the new Communist state would not pursue war, but would not surrender. He stated “no war, no peace” and left it to world opinion if the German Empire advanced. Not impressed with Trotsky’s subtlety, the Imperial armies moved on until Vladimir Lenin ended the ridiculous farce, ordering Trotsky to sign a surrender to end their war.

Trotsky’s plan did not work because Communist Russia held no leverage, no advantage, in the struggle.

President Donald Trump has likewise crafted a different type of strategy against Iran that seems like “no war, no peace,” but the United States holds every advantage, including that of time.

Americans have a singular interpretation of what war looks like and a very extreme definition of what victory entails. It goes back to Ulysses S. Grant placing Fort Donelson in Kentucky under siege. Confederate General Simon Bolivar Buckner asked Grant for his terms of surrender. General Buckner expected an old fashioned parlay in which the victor would allow some semblance of terms to respect the fighting spirit of the defeated, which was customary.

“Unconditional surrender” was Grant’s reply, which became his nickname as well. General Buckner replied that the Union commander was “no gentleman” and signed the surrender. That said, not even Grant imposed unconditional surrender on Robert E. Lee at Appomattox.

Americans tend to imagine war as pounding the enemy until they beg for mercy and surrender without terms. This is why military actions that do not satisfy those definitions seem less than victory, but there are many ways to skin a cat.

President Trump could have used conventional strategies and tactics to bludgeon Iran into the stone age, organized an army of Iranian expats to join US forces, invade, and topple the regime. This would have killed large numbers of Iranians and exposed American troops to casualties. The US could have attacked like a tiger or a bear, ripping apart the enemy in a storm of blood, then pick up the bill of restoring the nation afterwards, as the US typically does.

Under President Trump, however, the United States has not attacked like a tiger or a bear. It has conducted this war as a boa constrictor by putting the entire Iranian state under siege.

In this tale of two sieges, as 1862 came to a close and 1863 opened another year of war, Grant was conducting a complex series of maneuvers to

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Shinnston

Harrison County

The News & Journal

• EDITORIAL Sept 3 - Sept 9, 2026

ACROSS

1 More serious, as a matter

7 It's hidden by head hair

12 Quivered

20 Sure to succeed, as a proposition

21 Marisa of "Cyrus"

22 César Ritz or Conrad Hilton

23 Immediately

24 Of the hipbone

25 With great happiness

26 Start of a riddle

29 Breathe hard and fast

30 Seat of Kansas' Allen County

31 Whale like Shamu

35 Bouncer's age-verifying duty

39 — Park (site of Edison's lab)

41 Shock absorbers, of sorts

44 Riddle, part 2

47 Overly affected

48 Two, in Spain

49 Certain blood type, in brief

50 Quantity: Abbr.

51 Egyptian sun god

53 Fiber-yielding plant

56 Charlotte — (rich dessert)

58 Erwin of old films

61 Web portal since '95

62 Riddle, part 3

66 Mailed, e.g.

68 Pen name

70 Tiny, informally

71 Riddle, part 4

74 Really binges, briefly

77 Atlanta-to-Tampa dir.

78 Dog's tether

79 Edict

80 Expend all of

82 Lay (down)

83 84-Down of Bart Simpson

85 "Indubitably!"

87 Dazzling effects

91 End of the riddle

97 Signs up

98 Fishing line attachments

99 Private school

100 Personal manner

101 Chimney stuff

102 Skewed view

103 Riddle's answer

113 Egyptian carrier until 2021

116 Makes level

117 Disappear without —

118 Least narrow

119 Fix, as a bow

120 Papal crowns

121 Cutting parts of some

122 Sulky states

123 Accompany for security

DOWN

1 Chew like a rat

2 Horror film director Eli

3 Emollient plant juice

4 Gold-winning skier Lindsey

5 Locked place where people solve puzzles to find the key

6 People staging old battles, say

7 Clown's leg lengthener

8 E. — (bacterium)

9 Lady friend, in France

10 On a slant

11 Small flute

12 Iota preceder

13 Do deep massage therapy on

14 And the like: Abbr.

15 Portion (out)

16 Ignored, informally

17 Pan topper

18 Sinuous fish

19 Parched

27 Egyptian sacred cross

28 Truckloads

32 Goes over, as old issues

33 Sevastopol natives, e.g.

34 Deputy: Abbr.

35 Hairy TV cousin

36 Whoop-de- —

37 Co. VIP

38 Owns, to Shakespeare

39 L-P link

40 Mag VIPs

41 Big Mac base

42 Wombs

43 Fill with steam

45 Mag revenue sources

46 Cry to a baby who makes a boo-boo

52 Potentially offensive, in brief

53 Attacked aggressively

54 Business coll. subject

55 Repair

57 Neighbor of Nor. and Fin.

58 Dir. 45 degrees from 77-Across

59 "Madam Secretary" star

60 Perturb

62 Rig on a road

63 Panther

64 Med. insurers

65 "Ready Player One" co-star

67 "J to — L-O!"

69 Until now

72 Dots on ocean maps

73 Switch gears

75 Become less intense

76 In the current state

80 Land with a 50-star flag

81 Said "guilty" or "not guilty"

82 Apple discard

84 Bro's sibling

85 Hearty laugh

86 Three in "maximum"

88 "Botch- —" (1952 hit)

89 Pro — (for now)

90 Pigs' hangout

92 Makes an allusion to

93 Sneaker, e.g.

94 Horn honkers

95 A baker may wear a mitt to handle one

96 Longtime depilatory brand

101 Singer Patti or Sam

102 Greyhound transports

104 Deputy

105 Body part with a cap

106 Brooklyn Bridge's river

107 Legendary snow beast

108 Doing the task

109 — II (Gillette razor)

110 Starchy tropical root

111 Plug-in auto

112 Repose

113 Sit-up targets

114 Lyricist

115 Seating tier

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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.

Sept. 3, 1851: Mollie Gabe was born into slavery in Flatwoods, Braxton County. After emancipation, she became a widely respected midwife, washerwoman, farmer, and community leader who raised a large family while preserving Appalachian traditions. She died in 1951.

Sept. 3, 1890: West Virginia Wesleyan College opened in Buckhannon as the West Virginia Conference Seminary. In that first year, 201 men and women undertook a largely preparatory school curriculum. Gradually the school added college-level studies and awarded its first five degrees in 1905.

Sept. 3, 1946: Fiddler and banjo player John Morris was born in Ivydale, Clay County. He and his brother David created the influential Morris Family Old-Time Music Festival in the late 1960s and played an important role in founding the Vandalia Gathering. In 2020, John Morris was named a National Heritage Fellow, the nation’s highest honor in traditional arts.

Sept. 3, 1966: President Lyndon B. Johnson dedicated the Summersville Dam and Reservoir. Summersville Lake (now State Park) is located on the Gauley River in Nicholas County. It is West Virginia’s largest lake, with 2,790 surface acres at summer pool stage and over 60 miles of shoreline.

Sept. 4, 1862: General Albert G. Jenkins and his men crossed the Ohio River and became the first to raise the Confederate flag on Ohio soil during the Civil War.

Sept. 4, 1894: Jessie Maynard was born in Williamson. Two of her husbands were killed in violent incidents during the Mine Wars: Cabell Testerman during the shootout at Matewan in 1920 and Sid Hatfield on the steps of the McDowell County Courthouse a year later.

Sept. 5, 1861: Sutton was occupied by 5,000 Union troops. Later in 1861, Gen. Rosecrans bivouacked 10,000 Union troops there, including a future president, William McKinley.

Sept. 5, 1936: Baseball Hall of Famer Bill Mazeroski was born in Wheeling. He played all 17 years of his career for the Pittsburgh Pirates. His walk-off home run to win the 1960 World Series over the New York Yankees is one of the most famous moments in baseball history.

Sept. 5, 1950: Appalachian Bible Institute opened in Sylvester, Boone County, with an enrollment of seven students. Now called Appalachian Bible College, it has served thousands of students since moving to Raleigh County in 1956.

Sept. 6, 1875: Members of the notorious James Gang allegedly robbed the Bank of Huntington and got away on horseback. The robbery spawned a host of legends, including stories about outlaw Frank James—brother of Jesse James—hiding out in Wayne County.

Sept. 6, 1942: Award-winning woodcarver, dancer, playwright and educator Jude Binder was born in Maryland. In 1982, she founded Heartwood in the Hills, a school for the arts in Calhoun County. For more than two decades, she has been Charleston’s “FestivALL Princess.”

Sept. 6, 1980: The new Mountaineer Field opened in Morgantown with a 41-27 win over Cincinnati. It was the first game for new coach Don Nehlen, who would become the most successful football coach in West Virginia University history.

Sept. 7, 1808: Peter Godwin Van Winkle was born in New York City. In 1863, Van Winkle was elected as one of the first two U.S. senators from the new state of West Virginia.

Sept. 7, 1848: Christopher Harrison Payne was born in Monroe County. In 1896, Payne became the state’s first Black legislator when he was elected to the House of Delegates from Fayette County.

Sept. 7, 1937: Photographer Arnout “Sonny” Hyde Jr. was born in Bluefield. His images of nature and people appeared in magazines, books and calendars throughout the U.S. and Europe.

Sept. 8, 1947: Morris Harvey College (now University of Charleston) moved to its current location on the south side of the Kanawha River.

Sept. 9, 1839: Anderson “Devil Anse” Hatfield was born in Mingo County. He was the patriarch of the Hatfield family and their leader during the Hatfield-McCoy feud.

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Ralph Edward Campbell



Ralph Edward Campbell, of Fairmont, West Virginia, was welcomed into the presence of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on August 26, 2026, at the age of 90.

Born on January 24, 1936, Ralph lived a life defined by steadfast faith, quiet resilience, generous service, and unwavering devotion to his family. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, friend, and neighbor, and his life consistently pointed others to Jesus Christ.

In 1984, Ralph was diagnosed with throat cancer during an era when such a diagnosis often carried little hope. By God’s grace, Ralph survived. Although the cancer eventually took his voice, it never touched his heart. Those who knew him remember a man whose kindness, gentle spirit, warm smile, sense of humor, and enduring joy transcended every physical limitation. He was widely known for extending God’s grace to others, faithfully praying for those in need, encouraging the discouraged, discipling new Christians, and sharing the hope of the Gospel with everyone he met.

Ralph and his beloved wife, Shelvvia “Joan” Campbell, were inseparable throughout their 63-year marriage. Together, they built a Christ-centered home, faithfully served the Lord, and modeled a life of devotion, generosity, and hospitality. Ralph deeply loved his children and their spouses and especially cherished every opportunity to spend time with his grandchildren and great-granddaughters, who brought him immeasurable joy.

After a notable career with his sole employer, Consolidated Gas Corporation, Ralph retired in 1995. Retirement simply opened new opportunities for ministry. He devoted countless hours serving Fellowship Bible Church in Bridgeport, where he was known as a faithful intercessor, an encourager, and a willing servant. He joyfully supported numerous Christian ministries and nonprofit organizations, including

Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child, while quietly investing in many Kingdom endeavors that only eternity will fully reveal.

Ralph and Joan were among Liberty University’s earliest supporters, embracing its mission from its formative years in the 1970s. Their lifelong commitment to Christian higher education led them to serve on the Liberty University Board of Regents, reflecting their shared desire to advance the Gospel and equip future generations of Christian leaders.

Ralph is survived by his devoted wife of 63 years, Shelvvia “Joan” Campbell; his five children and their spouses: Chris and Cynthia Campbell of Bridgeport, West Virginia; Aaron and Kim Campbell of Dexter, New York; Happy and Randy Plaugher of Salem, West Virginia; Philip and Anna Campbell of Park Rapids, Minnesota; and Amanda and Chatto Hill of Fairmont, West Virginia.

He is also survived by his beloved grandchildren: Daniel Plaugher and wife Michelle; Rosa Yake and husband Taylor; Chelsea Campbell; Brendon Campbell and wife Ellie; Bailey Campbell; Emma Campbell; Tori Berg and husband Pete; Anika Ngai and husband Elijah; Trey Campbell; Amelia Campbell; Jiyell Face and husband Charles Jr.; Danyell Hill; and Jazmin Hill; along with two darling great-granddaughters, Nova Rae and Georgia.

He is further survived by his brother, Michael “Mick” Campbell, of Big Springs, West Virginia.

Ralph was preceded in death by his parents, O. M. and Olive Campbell; his brothers, Charles “Chuck” Campbell and Joseph “Joe” Campbell; and his sister, Linda Stanley.

The family will receive friends on Friday, 2pm-8 pm, August 28, at Fellowship Bible Church, 70 Deegan Lake Road, Bridgeport, West Virginia. A celebration of Ralph’s life will be held the following day, Saturday, August 29, at 11:00 a.m. at Fellowship Bible Church, followed by burial at Westphal Cemetery in Smithville, West Virginia. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Samaritan’s Purse, Operation Christmas Child.

Though cancer silenced his voice many years ago, it never diminished his witness. His greatest desire was

that others would come to know the Savior he loved so deeply and served so faithfully. His life continues to bear witness to God’s sustaining grace, enduring faithfulness, and the sure promise of the resurrection through Jesus Christ.

Condolences may be extended to the family at www.perinefunerals.com. The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Campbell family.

Mary Patricia Cottrill



Mary Patricia Cottrill, 74, of Clarksburg, passed away on August 26, 2026 at her residence. She was born in Clarksburg on October 31, 1951 to the late Clarence Hayhurst and Mary Louisa (Swiger) Hayhurst.

She is survived by two sons: Ronnie Eugene Cottrill and wife Michele of Clarksburg and Bryan Keith Cottrill of Lumberport; one daughter, Patricia Sizemore and husband John of Clarksburg; six grandsons: Ronnie Eugene Cottrill, Jr., Travis Joshua Cottrill, Bryan Keith “Boo” Cottrill, Jr., Christophor William Cottrill, Jaycob Cottrill and Conner Cottrill; three granddaughters: Courtney Paige Lopez and husband Elias of VA, Haylee Marie Amsler and Danielle Jean Amsler; three great granddaughters: Isabelle Cottrill, Paisley Marie Cottrill and Tianya Cottrill; one great grandson, Bryan Cottrill, III; one sister, Dolly Mae Smith of CA; one sister in law, Alma Hayhurst of Lumberport; one brother in law, Jack Cottrill of Lumberport; several nieces and nephews and her loving friends at Glen Elks Apartments, especially her best friend, Jeanie Luzader.

In addition to her parents, Mary is preceded in death by her husband, Ronnie Dale Cottrill; three sisters: Edith Hayhurst, Ruth Main and Joann Cottrill; five brothers: Clarence L. Hayhurst, Jr., Donald P. Hayhurst, James Buster Hayhurst, Johnny Hayhurst and Dwight Hayhurst; one daughter in law, Shawn Marie Cottrill; one brother in law, George Smith; mother in law, Sally Cottrill,

who became a second mother to Mary and her father in law, William Clarence Cottrill.

The family would like to give a special “Thank you” for the care provided by Amedisys of Anmore.

Family and friends will be received at Dorsey Funeral Home, 701 S. Pike St., Shinnston, on Sunday, August 30, 2026 from 2:00PM until 8:00PM. Funeral service will be on Monday, August 31, 2026 at 11:00AM with Pastor Tim Sandy officiating. Interment to Shinnston Memorial Cemetery.

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

Ronald “Tuly” Thomas Tulanowski



Ronald “Tuly” Thomas Tulanowski, 79, of Shinnston, passed away on August 30, 2026 at his residence. He was born in Fairmont on April 30, 1947 to the late Arthur Thomas Tulanowski and Eva Vera (Gumont) Tulanowski.

Ronald worked for Consol as a coal miner from 1969-1977 then as an inspector for MSHA from 1977-2014. He dedicated his life to the health and safety of coal miners. He was also a member of the MSHA Mine Rescue Team. He proudly served in the United States Navy. Ronald enjoyed hunting, fishing and the outdoors. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge #31 in Mannington.

He is survived by his wife, Sandra Kay (Stout) Tulanowski of Shinnston; two sons: Ronald Thomas Tulanowski, II and wife Barbie of Idamay and Sam Stier and wife Kelly of Nutter Fort; one daughter, Melissa Anne Utt and husband Andy of Fairmont as well as several nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In addition to his parents; Ronald is preceded in death by one brother, Roger A. Tulanowski.

In honoring his wishes, cremation services will be provided.

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

“Hunt” cont. from p. 1

world. In one of the song’s most memorable observations, he reminds us that “old people just grow lonesome.” It is a song about something most of us have witnessed but too often fail to notice: people can slowly disappear from our attention even while sitting directly in front of us.

As I finished my bagel and prepared to leave, I looked outside again. Something told me I shouldn’t simply walk past the man without acknowledging him.

I approached his table and caught his attention.

“Hey, hope to see you again next time,” I said.

For a second, he looked stunned. Then his face changed. He looked up, smiled and replied, “Sure thing.”

That was all. I didn’t ask his name. I didn’t sit down or ask where he was from. I offered only a few words before walking to my car.

But during the long drive home, his face remained with me. I kept thinking about what else I might have said. I could have asked whether he was from Washington. I could have commented on his Steelers sweatshirt. I could have asked if I might join him for a few minutes.

Perhaps he would have welcomed the conversation. Perhaps he would have preferred to be left alone. I will never know because I didn’t take the opportunity to find out.

We move through life surrounded by people whose stories we cannot see. The older person moving slowly in front of us may once have led a company, raised a family, served a community or fought in a war. They may be grieving someone they loved or facing a future that suddenly feels uncertain.

And sometimes they may simply need another human being to notice them.

My few words may not have meant anything to that man. But his smile told me they meant something in that moment.

John Prine’s song is more than a reflection on loneliness. It is a gentle instruction: Slow down. Look around. Notice the people whom the world has begun to overlook.

And when the opportunity presents itself, take a moment to say hello in there.

Congressman Riley M. Moore Presents Check for \$1 Million for Pennsboro and Ritchie County Water Project

Washington, D.C. – Today, Congressman Riley M. Moore presented a check worth \$1,000,000 to [insert the officials that received the money] to complete the Bonds Creek Water Project in Ritchie County. These federal Community Project Funds that Congressman Moore secured through his work on the House Committee on Appropriations are a major investment in Pennsboro and Ritchie County intended to address serious water quality and supply issues while also strengthening access to reliable water service.

Congressman Riley M. Moore released the following statement:

“No one living in America in the 21st century should be dealing with arsenic in their water. I was proud to secure \$1 million in Community Project Funding for the Bonds Creek Water Project in Pennsboro and Ritchie County through my position on the House Appropriations Committee to help address serious water quality and supply issues, including removing arsenic from the water and strengthening critical infrastructure. I will continue fighting to bring federal resources back to West Virginia to deliver clean water for our communities.”

The Bonds Creek Water Project will help address critical water infrastructure needs in Pennsboro and Ritchie County, remove toxins like arsenic from the water, improve overall water quality and supply, and provide a more reliable water system for residents and communities served by the project.

This investment represents a long-term commitment to strengthening West Virginia’s water infrastructure and ensuring families in Pennsboro and Ritchie County have access to safe, reliable water.

Opening Weekend of Area Football



The Bottom Line

By Bill Nestor
Sports Editor

The high school football season is finally underway. All four teams were in action this past weekend with Bridgeport, Robert C. Byrd, and South Harrison posting up game one wins.

The Indians blanked Buckhannon-Upshur 68 to nothing at Wayne Jamison Field. The Tribe sustained damage to their facility due to the flooding that took place a few weeks ago, but thanks to community efforts, they were able to host the Bucs.

A quick start led to 35 first quarter points followed by a 21-point second quarter to put the game out of reach by halftime. Running back Gabe Martin earned 199 yards on just 10 rushes with a pair of touchdowns, Reigning Frank Loria winner Gavin Williams gained 142 yards on just eight attempts. Williams found pay dirt on the first score of the game en route to three rushing scores. Graham Vincent tossed a 38-yard scoring strike to Brody Jeran and scored on a 10-yard scamper.

The Flying Eagles opened up on the road at Lewis County and came away with a 29 to six victory. Robert C. Byrd held an eight to six halftime lead but outscored the Minutemen 21 to nothing in the second half.

Signal caller Isiah Herlin was 14 of 21 passing for 271 yards and three touchdowns. He was also the team's leading rusher with 52 yards on 15 carries. His favorite target was Junior Smith. Smith hauled in six balls for 46 yards and two touchdowns, including a 70 yarder.

The Hawks took a trip down I 79 to Braxton County and blanked the Eagles 14 to nothing. A scoreless first quarter gave way to a two yard scoring play from South Harrison's Shepard Paugh. The two-point conversion failed and the hawks took a six to nothing lead into the break. They would add some insurance on a one-yard scoring run in the third segment from Lucas Nutt. Landon Ross would tack on the two-point conversion to seal the deal for the hawks. Paugh ended up with 92 yards on eight carries. Zane Harlow added 65 yards on 12 attempts.

Lincoln had a road trip to Elkins and would suffer a 40 to 27 setback. The battle was deadlocked at 21 a piece heading into the final period where Seth Robinson would score three rushing touchdowns for the Tigers.

Cougar quarterback Jacob Bart was 18 of 29 for 128 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Colton Edwards caught six balls for 109 yards and two scores. Conner Rice paced the ground game for Lincoln, picking up 124 yards on 17 carries. Cade Mooney added two rushing touchdowns for the Cougars on runs of four and one yards respectively.

Lincoln alum Mike Kellar made his coaching debut at West Virginia Wesleyan this past Saturday. Kellar inherited the Bobcart program that had lost 35 consecutive games dating back to 2022. His team not only earned a win in their opener over Post University, they did it in decisive fashion with a 31 to 13 victory. His leadership and his offensive coordinator's playcalling were impressive. His O.C. is Cougar alum Jeremy Harmer.

The win was the 98th of his career and it was special to Bobcat backers who are overjoyed to have the top-notch coach in Buckhannon.

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

Harrison County EMS



Athletes of the Week

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

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

By Bill Nestor

The Harrison County athletes in the spotlight this week are Bridgeport's Gabe Martin and Robert C. Byrd's Isiah Heflin.

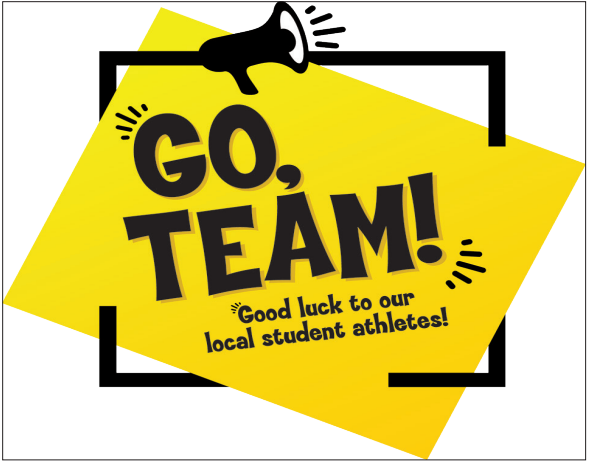
Indian running back Gabe Martin led his team to an opening win over Buckhannon-Upshur Friday. Martin picked up 199 yards on 10 carries with a pair of touchdowns.

Flying Eagle quarterback Isiah Heflin helped his squad to a victory over Lewis County Friday evening. Heflin was 14 of 21 passing with 271 yards and three touchdown passes. He was also the team's leading rusher with 52 yards.

Congratulations to Bridgeport's Gabe Martin and RCB's Isiah Heflin for shining bright in the SN and HCJ athlete spotlight!

Read Aloud WV Salutes Dolly Parton's Commitment to Literacy, Launches Campaign to Further Boost Reading Throughout West Virginia

Charleston, W.Va. – Dawn Miller, Executive Director of Read Aloud West Virginia, announced the launch of a fundraising campaign to remember the late Dolly Parton and the Imagination Library she created to promote literacy.



For the month of September, in memory of Dolly Parton, Read Aloud West Virginia will share any donations dollar for dollar with Parton's award-winning Imagination Library partners in West Virginia, if donors note "in memory of Dolly" when donating to Read Aloud WV online, by mail, in person or via stocks.

"Dolly was so special," said Miller. "When she created Dolly Parton's Imagination Library 31 years ago and made it available in other states, including West Virginia, we began to realize she had been lifting us up in ways other than her wonderful music."

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on Your Goals

Miller indicated that Imagination Library provides books from birth to age five and Read Aloud West Virginia's primary mission is to offer books and resources for school-aged children. "This allows Dolly's passion to intersect with our core mission and enhance reading, literacy, educational attainment and quality of life for more West Virginians."

Miller said Read Aloud only has resources to have formal programs in 28 West Virginia counties, but enjoys some level of presence in 40 counties, and responds to teacher requests for books for school-aged children from all 55 counties of the Mountain State.

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Labor Day

West Virginia appears to be engaged in an economic resurgence as we remember to celebrate the workers of our state who made this possible. September 7th is Labor Day. It is traditionally thought of as the last day of summer. The idea of celebrating labor began in 1882 to honor working men and women. It became a federal holiday two years later while Grover Cleveland was president. One might think with the new emphasis on data centers and discussion of Silicon Valley that computer and electronics would lead the nation’s current employers. But Walmart, Amazon, and Kroger – all employee-heavy -- are the top three employers in the United States. Of the top 10 national employers, only IBM, at No. 9, is focused on high-skilled technical and professional roles. In our state, the coal industry remains a major employer and provider of fuel for the electric power industry. Natural gas, while it has a smaller workforce, is a growing part of that energy sector, too. The utilities that provide

us with electricity, water, sewer, and other public convenience services also are major employers. As with the nation as a whole, the economy of West Virginia has changed significantly since the first Labor Day.

Where once we had major heavy and labor-intensive industries, now we have smaller, more specialized plants. Our major growth areas seem to be the Eastern Panhandle, the Interstate-79 corridor between Morgantown and Flatwoods, the lower Kanawha Valley, and the Northern Panhandle. We’ve had some good and strong economic location announcements in recent years.

The Public Service Commission regulates in some way most of the new industries locating here. We hope they bring good jobs with them and help reverse the state’s migration of population. We oversee many of the power rates – electricity and/or natural gas – that will fuel these operations, or provide power for security, telephones, and



Guest Column

By Charlotte Lane
Chair, WV Public Service Commission

other systems that they will be needing.

The world has certainly changed since I was a young girl living in the shadow of mighty industrial complexes that once filled the Ohio River Valley, but are no more. And I hope the world continues to change and develop in positive ways. It’s good to remember the past, but important to look forward to exciting new opportunities for the future.

I see only bright things for our nation and state, and I want to thank the men and women who worked so diligently to get us to where we are today.

“Banking”

cont. from p. 1

service and good financial reputation make up the foundation of how community banks do business.

One way in which PCB, for example, has responded to the challenge of digital preference customers is in the ITM. As opposed to an ATM, automatic teller machine, the ITM is the interactive teller machine. During banking hours and days, the ITM can connect a customer with help quickly.

Community banks also tailor their activities to the needs of their area and local economic conditions. Banks in much of the state by necessity must have an agricultural and small business focus. Agriculture and small business, both those that serve locals and tourism, serve as a foundation in many smaller communities of local

economic activity.

Bruce Fitzwater, president of Grantsville-based Calhoun Banks, described a different focus for his bank. Located in a rugged section of the state with more sparsely scattered communities and fewer large farms, Calhoun Bank has for a long time followed a strategy of first and foremost providing residential loans. He shared that “64 percent of our loan portfolio is mortgages” and that “we strive to help people out with their homes.”

“Each home loan is different,” he added, explaining that they work closely with each applicant to try and structure home loans to fit their needs and conditions, as opposed to what might be easiest or most profitable for the bank.

Like Loving, Fitzwater emphasized the

importance of a community bank and its staff to the community, including “our folks working at ball games in the concession stands” and “judging contests.”

Community bank presidents could rightly ask when the last time was that someone saw a Chime, Citibank, or Wells Fargo employee volunteering to help out personally and locally. They could also point out that Bank of America appears on no Little League baseball jerseys.

Nor would any of those institutions find it financially worthwhile to focus, as community banks do, on the economic success of small towns and rural areas.

“Emergency”

cont. from p. 1

management to keep training.”

The organization added that “it’s the year round work of reducing risk, bringing partners together, coordinating resources, and helping people, organizations, and communities prepare for, respond for, recover from, and move forward after a disaster.”

As required by law, County emergency management officials coordinate quarterly with Local Emergency Planning Committees. These are generally composed of county and city/town representatives, members of local law enforcement, fire, and EMS, the area power company, and others whose fields touch emergency planning or response.

LEPCs gather data and strategize. For example, they use studies from State highways officials to determine the frequency of trucks carrying hazardous materials on the highways. Then they will put together drills to practice response if one

of those vehicles has a catastrophic accident. In LEPCs come discussions about responses to floods, wildfires, wind disasters, and other challenges, as well as how better to plan for the future.

Keeping authority and decision-making local ensures that each county has the opportunity to tailor its actions and policies to its unique combinations of conditions.

OEM officials have the responsibility to anticipate future issues, even those that have no precedent. For example, Pendleton County Emergency Services Coordinator Rick Gillespie has in recent years worked with federal officials overseeing the National Radio Quiet Zone, successfully negotiating to reform rules that hamper modern emergency communications. He also secured county commission support to purchase additional gauges on local rivers to measure streamflow and provide early warnings of flooding.

Another initiative came after the discovery that the South Branch River in the county seat of Franklin had seen a rise in the riverbed level due to the accumulation of debris that federal laws and regulations make difficult to address, making flood zone maps potentially dangerously obsolete. Gillespie successfully spearheaded an effort to move county and state offices from a government building now threatened by floods to a decommissioned elementary school on higher ground.

Local OEMs and officials also will combine efforts to plan regional responses based on pooled resources or mutual aid.

The hard work undertaken and risks faced by first responders in a disaster should rightfully always earn them praise. Their success and efficiency, however, often relies on months or even years of planning by the team at the local Office of Emergency Management.

West Virginia Recognized as a National Leader in Small Business Development and Entrepreneurship

For generations, West Virginians have been known for their hard work, determination, and willingness to build something from the ground up. Today, those qualities are matched by an entrepreneurial ecosystem that is helping new businesses not only launch, but succeed in the long term.

A recently released business longevity study found that West Virginia leads the nation in five-year business survival.

According to the study, 57.6% of businesses launched in West Virginia in 2019 achieved a five-year survival rate, which is the highest in the United States and well above the national average of 51.6%. Connecticut ranked second at 57.5%, while Pennsylvania and Alaska tied for third at

56.0%. Other larger, traditionally stronger business markets such as California, Florida, New York, and Texas, ranked even lower.

This research tracked employer establishments through their first five years of operation, a period that included the COVID-19 pandemic and significant economic disruptions. High survival rates are often viewed as indicators of economic resilience, strong local support systems, and an environment where entrepreneurs can sustain and grow their businesses.

This achievement did not happen by accident.

It is the result of years of collaboration among state legislators, entrepreneurs, business owners, educators, economic development professionals, chambers of commerce, lenders, workforce leaders,

local governments, and state agencies. Together, they have worked to create an environment where innovative ideas don’t just begin, but also grow into sustainable businesses.

When people discuss entrepreneurship, much of the attention is focused on startups. Launching a business is certainly important, but longevity is the true measure of success. Starting a company takes courage. Keeping it alive through economic uncertainty, market shifts, staffing challenges, and changing customer demands requires persistence and support.

That is why this study is so significant. It tells us that West Virginia is becoming a place where entrepreneurs are finding the resources, networks,

See “Recognized” on Page 10













Choosing The Perfect Gift

On a recent trip to the mall, I happened to be browsing in an aisle where two ladies were expressing their displeasure that retailers already had Christmas trees, pine garlands, and all sorts of ornaments and holiday décor on display - way too soon, they thought - in AUGUST! They were in agreement that the holiday season, particularly gift-giving, not only put a heavy strain on their budgets but was very stressful! What stressed them even more than costs was choosing the ‘right’ gift – something the receiver would like, didn’t have, and would appreciate. I’m sure we’ve all experienced that dilemma.

Whether it’s a friend or a relative ... whether it’s a young child, a teenager, or an adult ... “choosing” can be grueling! For example, let’s say you’re considering something to wear - What brand do they like; what style would they prefer; what colors do they favor; what size would fit - and numerous other considerations can drive you crazy with endless pondering. To ensure that you’re not duplicating something they already have, maybe ask some questions, and IF you’re lucky, someone will guide you in the right direction!

While giving cash or a gift card eliminates some of the giver’s stress, they also may feel it is too impersonal; however, some receivers might actually appreciate that opportunity to choose what they want or need.

In all honestly, we need to worry less about purchasing gifts that will be soon forgotten and focus more on gathering with family and friends to make lasting memories.

Let me share a little humor. Three adult brothers were each debating on the BEST gift they could buy their elderly mother. Since all three were successful and very well off, cost was not an issue. Brother #1 decided to buy his mom a large, exquisite new home. Brother #2 chose an expensive new car with all the bells and whistles for mom. Brother #3 thought he was being more imaginative and thoughtful, and had spent a year paying a small fortune to have a parrot trained in memorizing Bible verses because he knew how much his mother loved her Bible.

The holiday came and went, and each of the brothers got thank you cards from their mother. To son #1, mom wrote, “The big house is truly very nice, but I can hardly get up the stairs, and it will be a lot for me to clean!” To son #2, mom wrote, “What a lovely car, but my vision is not as good as it used to be, so I don’t drive much any more.” To son #3, mom wrote, “I just want you to know how thrilled I was with your gift; it was the most delicious chicken I’ve ever eaten!”

It seems that mom could have cared less about the overwhelming amount of money her sons had spent. I’m just guessing that the perfect gift she might have most enjoyed would have been if they had shown up, wrapped her in hugs, spent the day with her, and perhaps brought in a take-out holiday meal. The gift of their shared time would have given her a precious memory never to be forgotten, wouldn’t you agree?? After all, the value of a wonderful gift is not etched in an expensive price tag. Just celebrating the birth of Jesus and sharing the joy of that day with those we love is really a priceless gift in itself. The quote below offers some meaningful suggestions.

Quote of the Week: *“The best gifts to give: To your friends, loyalty; To your enemies, forgiveness; To your boss, service; To a child, a good example; To your parents, gratitude and devotion; To your mate, love and faithfulness; To all humanity, charity.” ~ Oren Arnold*



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Treasurer Pack Announces Hope Scholarship Technology Improvements Boost Order Productivity by 42 Percent

More Than 18,600 TheoPay Orders Completed Since July 1

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – State Treasurer Larry Pack, who serves as Chairman of the Hope Scholarship Board, today announced new technology improvements to the Hope Scholarship Program have increased productivity for processing TheoPay orders by 42 percent as families begin utilizing scholarship funds for the 2026-2027 school year. As part of the new TheoPay Self-Serve process, artificial intelligence technology reviews eligible orders under \$75, allowing families to more quickly access approved educational items while increasing the program’s overall processing capacity.

“The Hope Scholarship Program continues to grow rapidly, and it’s important that the technology supporting the program scale with it,” Treasurer Pack said. “By embracing artificial intelligence and regularly reviewing the program with Student First Technologies, we can find smarter, more efficient ways to serve families. Thanks to these efforts, our team has processed thousands more orders while giving parents greater flexibility and faster access to the educational resources their children need.”

“This is exactly the kind of innovation we should pursue across state government. By using technology to improve efficiency and reduce processing times, we can deliver a better experience for the people we serve. It is time for all agencies to move at the speed of business, not bureaucracy.”

From July 1 through August 24, the Hope Scholarship Program completed 18,647 TheoPay orders, an increase of nearly 87 percent compared to the 9,974 orders completed during

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the same period last year.

Of the 18,647 TheoPay orders approved and completed since July 1, 10,769 were processed through TheoPay Fulfillment. An additional 7,878 orders were completed through the new TheoPay Self-Serve option between August 10 and August 24. The Self-Serve technology has increased TheoPay order productivity by 42 percent.

The Hope Scholarship Program is also utilizing artificial intelligence technology to assist with identifying eligible educational products. To date, the technology has scanned more than 125,000 eligible items.

“TheoPay allows Hope Scholarship families to purchase qualifying educational items through approved external websites,” Hope Scholarship Executive Director Michelle Penaloza said. “The addition of the TheoPay Self-Serve option provides parents an opportunity to work directly with the designed artificial intelligence technology to identify Hope Scholarship eligible expenses. The use of this technology has increased the program’s overall efficiency and provides more direct access to educational resources than any other Educational Savings Account program in the nation.”

The technology improvements come as the Hope Scholarship Program experiences significant growth following expanded eligibility for the 2026-2027 school year. More than 25,000 approved Hope Scholarship students received their first quarterly funding this month.

For more information about the Hope Scholarship or to apply to the program, visit www.HopeScholarshipWV.gov.

Secretary of State Kris Warner announces mobile office hours for National Voter Registration Day

The WV Secretary of State’s Office will host Mobile Office Hours in Cabell, Harrison, and Nicholas Counties on National Voter Registration Day, Tuesday, September 15th, from 11:00am to 1:00pm.

Secretary Warner encourages citizens to verify their voter registration status, update their information if needed, or register to vote for the first time.

WVSOS Field Representatives will be at the following locations:

- **Cabell County**
Mountwest Community & Technical College
Main Entrance
1 Mountwest Way
Huntington WV

WVSOS Field Representative Traci McComas

- **Harrison County**
Harrison County Courthouse
General Services Building
229 South 3rd Street, Clarksburg WV
WVSOS Field Representative Sarah Smith
- **Nicholas County**
Nicholas County Courthouse
Commission Room
700 Main Street
Summersville, WV
WVSOS Field Representative Stephen Snyder

The WVSOS Field Representatives will also be available to assist citizens with new business registration, and other services provided by the WV Secretary of State’s Office.



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(2025-C-000295 - HARRISON COUNTY - ARMSTRONG LAND MANAGEMENT COMPANY)

To: DONNA EDEN SOUTHERN, RICKY A SOUTHERN, THE HUGH R SOUTHERN TRUST, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT CLAY OUTSIDE DISTRICT MAP 9999 PARCEL 0620 9024 0000

You will take notice that ARMSTRONG LAND MANAGEMENT COMPANY, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No.** 2025-C-000295, located in CLAY OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, INT 25.75 AC O&G COON RUN (INTERSTATE/SOUTHERN #1A, which was returned delinquent or non-entered in the name of SOUTHERN HUGH R TRUST, 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. ARMSTRONG LAND MANAGEMENT COMPANY 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 - 16904.	\$	82.56
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 - 17056.	\$	22.32
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	179.95
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	966.51
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	1,251.34

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 30, 2026

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

Please return this letter and payment to the
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305.
Questions, please call 1-888-509-6568

LEGAL

(2025-C-000556 - HARRISON COUNTY - H3 LLC)

To: LORIN LELAND WILLIAMS C/O KIMBERLY JO REED, POA, KIMBERLY JO REED, KIMBERLY JO REED, POA FOR LORIN LELAND WILLIAMS, JASON P TOMARO, TRACY L ALFRED, MIKE CLARK AKA MICHAEL SHAWN CLARK, HOPE R ONESTI, TREVOR L MATTHEWS, TREY P MATTHEWS, HOLLY K CASTO, TRAVIS A CASTO, TRENT M CASTO, BOBBI J TIDD, SUELLA J TAYLOR, REBEKAH M BAKER, KEVIN W TAYLOR, DONNA C MATTHEWS, VERNIE MATTHEWS ESTATE, VERNA MARTIN, VERNA MATTHEWS, VERNE MATHEWS, VERNA E CUNNINGHAM, PAUL MATHEWS, PAUL LESLIE MATHEWS, NINA RAE MATHEWS, LESLIE DIANE TOMARO, LESLIE D WILLIAMS, LORIN LELAND WILLIAMS, KIMBERLY JO REED, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS POA FOR LORIN LELAND WILLIAMS, KIMBERLY TOMARO, JASON TOMARO, MARVIN LYNCH MATHEWS, VIRGINIA LUCILLE MATHEWS, TRACY ALFRED, MIKE CLARK, HOPE ONESTI, TREVOR MATTHEWS, TREY MATTHEWS, RUBY E CASTO, ROBERT LEE CASTO, GARY WAYNE TAYLOR, KEVIN TAYLOR, REBEKAH BAKER, HOLLY KAY CASTO, TRAVIS CASTO, BOBBI JEAN TDD, TRENT CASTO, SUELLA TAYLOR, THOMAS J MATHEWS SR, GATHA M MATHEWS, THOMAS J MATTHEWS JR, THOMAS J MATTHEWS JR, TRUSTEE FOR ERNEST MATTHEWS, DISABLED, ERNEST MATTHEWS, DONNA C MATTHEWS, SUSAN DRAIN, SUSAN MARTIN, SUSAN CRITES, SUSIE CRITES, FLOYD CRITES, JOSEPH FLOYD CRITES, VIRGINIA DRAIN, JENNIE DRAIN, JAMES M DRAIN, JIM M DRAIN, SYLVESTER DRAIN, SYLVESTOR DRAIN, SIL DRAIN, CIL DRAIN, MARY L DRAIN, 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 9024 0000

You will take notice that H3 LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No.** 2025-C-000556, located in EAGLE OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, 2.29 AS O&G LAMBERTS RUN INT (EAGLE GAS - DRAIN WL, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of MATTHEWS VERNIE ES-TATE, 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. H3 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 - 33100.	\$	85.43
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 - 33505.	\$	22.32
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	194.95
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	1,167.46
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	1,470.16

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 30, 2026

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

Please return this letter and payment to the
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305.
Questions, please call 1-888-509-6568

LEGAL

(2025-C-000334 - HARRISON COUNTY - WVTP LLC)

To: WENDY ROULEAU, WENDY ROULEAU, WENDY ROULEAU, WENDY ROULEAU, DEEAN C RAMSEY, TRUSTEE, WESBANCO BANK, INC. OCCUPANT, OCCUPANT, WENDY ROULEAU, IRS, ATTN: ADVISORY CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS, WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT CLAY SHINNSTON CORP MAP 1008 PARCEL 0007 0000 0000

You will take notice that WVTP LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No.** 2023-C-000334, located in CLAY SHINNSTON CORP District, 1 LOT #8 SALERNO-CATTANEO DEV CO, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of ROULEAU WENDY K, 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. WVTP LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate on or after February 1, 2027, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before January 31, 2027, 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 - 19135.	\$	1,125.64
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 - 19326.	\$	1,012.75
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	210.50
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	1,113.76
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	3,462.65

You may redeem at any time before January 31, 2027 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 August 11, 2026

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

Please return this letter and payment to the
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305.
Questions, please call 1-888-509-6568

LEGAL

(2025-C-000339 - HARRISON COUNTY - COCHRAN LAND AND MINERALS, LLC)

To: RAYMOND W. WINEBRENNER, RAYMOND W. WINEBRENNER, RAYMOND W. BRENNER, JAMES P. WINEBRENNER, JAMES P. WINEBRENNER, JAMES P. WINEBRENNER, JAMES P. WINEBRENNER, JAMES P. WINEBRENNER, STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, JAMES & RAYMOND WINEBRENNER,, 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 265 PARCEL 0101 0000 0000

You will take notice that COCHRAN LAND AND MINERALS, LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No.** 2025-C-000339, located in COAL OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, 23 AS CROOKED RUN, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of WINEBRENNER JAMES & RAYMOND, 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. COCHRAN LAND AND MINERALS, 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 - 25083.	\$	396.90
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 - 25414.	\$	323.02
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.	\$	572.25
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	1,502.12

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 August 3, 2026

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

Please return this letter and payment to the
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305.
Questions, please call 1-888-509-6568

LEGAL

(2025-C-000425 - HARRISON COUNTY - COCHRAN LAND AND MINERALS, LLC)

To: RAYMOND W. WINEBRENNER, RAYMOND W. WINEBRENNER, RAYMOND W. BRENNER, JAMES P. WINEBRENNER, JAMES P. WINEBRENNER, JAMES P. WINEBRENNER, JAMES P. WINEBRENNER, JAMES P. WINEBRENNER, STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, OWS ACQUISITIONS CO. LLC, ANTERO RESOURCES CORPORATION, JAMES WINEBRENNER, RAYMOND WINEBRENNER, 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 9999 PARCEL 0654 1012 0000

You will take notice that COCHRAN LAND AND MINERALS, LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No.** 2025-C-000425, located in COAL OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, 23 AS CROOKED RUN (EVST#1203/ANTERO#5, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of WINEBRENNER JAMES & RAYMOND WINEBRENNER, 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. COCHRAN LAND AND MINERALS, 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 - 25084.	\$	893.11
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 - 25415.	\$	312.32
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.	\$	604.86
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	2,020.24

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 August 3, 2026

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

Please return this letter and payment to the
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305.
Questions, please call 1-888-509-6568

LEGAL

(2025-C-000425 - HARRISON COUNTY - COCHRAN LAND AND MINERALS, LLC)

To: RAYMOND W. WINEBRENNER, RAYMOND W. WINEBRENNER, RAYMOND W. BRENNER, JAMES P. WINEBRENNER, JAMES P. WINEBRENNER, JAMES P. WINEBRENNER, JAMES P. WINEBRENNER, JAMES P. WINEBRENNER, STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, OWS ACQUISITIONS CO. LLC, ANTERO RESOURCES CORPORATION, JAMES WINEBRENNER, RAYMOND WINEBRENNER, 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 9999 PARCEL 0654 1012 0000

You will take notice that COCHRAN LAND AND MINERALS, LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No.** 2025-C-000425, located in COAL OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, 23 AS CROOKED RUN (EVST#1203/ANTERO#5, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of WINEBRENNER JAMES & RAYMOND WINEBRENNER, 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. COCHRAN LAND AND MINERALS, 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 - 25084.	\$	893.11
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 - 25415.	\$	312.32
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.	\$	604.86
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	2,020.24

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 August 3, 2026

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

Please return this letter and payment to the
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections
Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305.
Questions, please call 1-888-509-6568

THANK YOU
FOR READING



Don't forget to follow
us on Facebook to get
the latest in updates

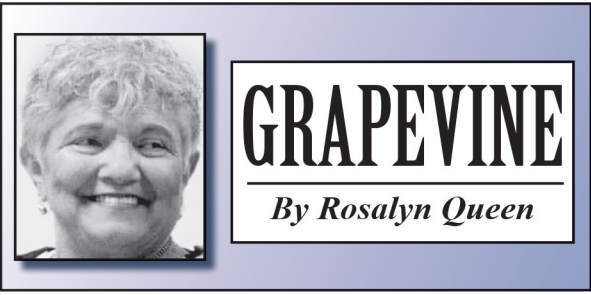
LEGAL

(2025-C-000815 - HARRISON COUNTY - ARMSTRONG LAND MANAGEMENT COMPANY)
To: JOHN G MITCHELL, DEBORAH WILMOTH, P.T. DENNISON, 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 TENMILE OUTSIDE DISTRICT MAP 9999 PARCEL 0636 3776 0000
You will take notice that ARMSTRONG LAND MANAGEMENT COMPANY, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No. 2025-C-000815**, located in TENMILE OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, 172 AS O&G RUSH RUN 1/9 INT, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of DENNISON P T EST, 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. ARMSTRONG LAND MANAGEMENT COMPANY 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 - 62616.	\$ 108.77
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 - 63650.	\$ 43.96
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.	\$ 966.51
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$ 0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$ 1,329.19

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 30, 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**

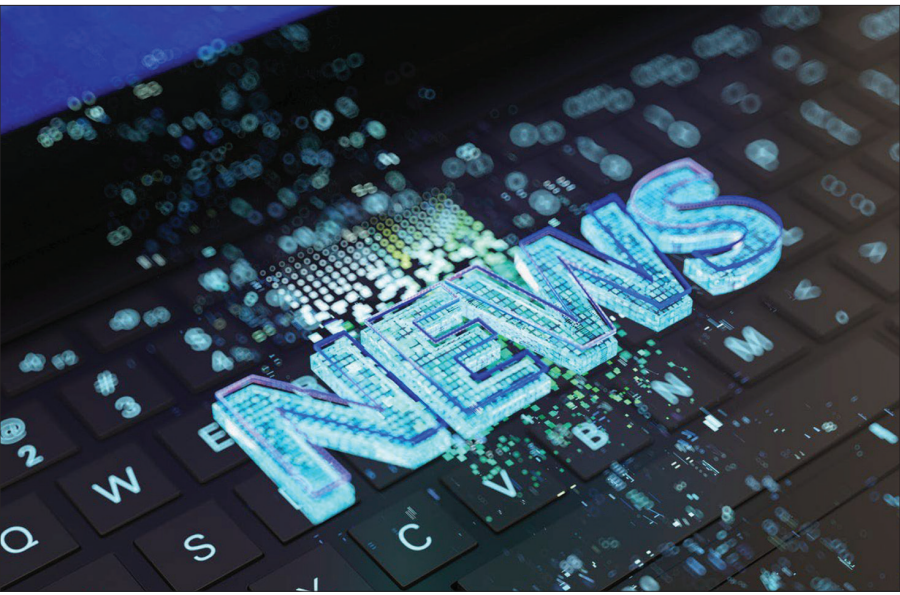
Remembering a True Friend of the West Virginia Italian-American Community



It is with much sadness that I say goodbye to my friend , Pietro Mazza. He was a link for so many West Virginians to their Italian Heritage in Calabria. His museum was visited by many Americans and they were always astounded by the history it contained. and its collection of artifacts from Clarksburg. In my two week visit to San Giovanni he walked me through the grave yards, we visited all the churches and he spent hours with me at the Municipal building searching for my family. He found the home my father was born in. He and Pasqualina introduced me to many of my cousins who we were honored to dine with. He was my interpreter and never left my side. He was the link to the WestVirginia Italian Heritage Festival and San Giovanni. His attendance at the Festival for many years was always

welcomed by his many friends here. He and Pasqualina were always welcome in my home and I cherished their visits. He was welcomed by our Governors, our Senators, our Mayors and the thousands of attendees who watched him as he participated in the parade.He helped many Americans from West Virginia search for their San Giovanni family and he welcomed with open arms those visiting San Giovanni. I will always remember his loving care of Pasqualina, his beautiful smile and his soft spoken , kind words to everyone.Rest in peace my friend. Ciao until we meet again.

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES OUTLINES STEPS FOR MEDICAID MEMBERS AHEAD OF 2027 ELIGIBILITY CHANGES



The West Virginia Department of Human Services (DoHS) is reminding Medicaid members to take steps now to prepare for new federal eligibility requirements that will take effect in 2027.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2027, certain adults ages 19 through 64 enrolled in the Medicaid Adult Expansion Group will be required to complete 80 hours per month of qualifying activities to maintain Medicaid

coverage. Qualifying activities may include employment, participation in a work program, education, or volunteering. Members may combine activities to meet the

LEGAL

(2025-C-000356 - HARRISON COUNTY - JOHN AND MARY WRIGHT)
To: VERONICA ARNETT, ELIZABETH SMITH, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, 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 1103 PARCEL 0123 0000 0000
You will take notice that JOHN AND MARY WRIGHT, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No. 2025-C-000356**, located in COAL OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, 1 LOT #130 LONGMONT (NA), which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of ARNETT JED EUGENE, 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. JOHN AND MARY WRIGHT 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 - 19752.	\$ 152.35
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 - 19959.	\$ 85.96
Additional taxes with interest.	\$ 0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$ 119.95
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$ 976.55
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$ 0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$ 1,334.81

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 30, 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

**WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Division of Highways
NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS**

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia, until October 20, 2026 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project(s):

Call	Contract	State Project	Federal Project	Description
009	2023170076	S317-58-0.04 00	STBG-0058(012)D	RESURFACING Cost Ave. Cost Ave. COST AVE. COUNTY: HARRISON

Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractors' license is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin. Registration is required with the Department of Administration, Division of Purchasing, in accordance with Chapter 5A, Article 3, Section 12 of the West Virginia Code. All contractors submitting bids on project(s) must include one of the following forms properly executed with each proposal: Proposal Guaranty Bond, Cashier's Check, or Certified Check for \$500.00 or 5% of the total bid, whichever is greater. The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways reserves the right to defer, delay or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement. The deferment, delay, postponement, and the date that proposals will be received and publicly opened will be available on www.bidx.com. The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award.

\$23 Million Aviation Training Facility Moves Forward

BRIDGEPORT, W.Va. — West Virginia is expanding the workforce pipeline supporting its growing aerospace and aviation industry with final approval of a new \$23 million aviation training facility at North Central West Virginia Airport. The planned 65,000-square-foot facility will significantly expand Pierpont Community and Technical College's aviation maintenance training capabilities, adding modern laboratories, testing areas, hangar space and specialized training environments. The expansion is expected to allow Pierpont to increase the capacity of its aviation program from 130 to 230 students and provide additional training aligned with Federal Aviation Administration standards. The investment comes as aerospace and aviation employers continue to grow around the North

Central West Virginia Airport. Pierpont's aviation programs regularly have waiting lists, while major employers located near the training facility continue to create demand for skilled aviation and advanced manufacturing workers. The airport and surrounding aerospace sector generate more than \$1 billion in annual economic impact for the region. The new facility will help connect more West Virginians with career opportunities in aviation maintenance while providing employers with a larger pipeline of highly trained workers. Plans call for expanded Airframe and Powerplant certification training as well as additional instruction in areas including welding, fabrication and large-aircraft maintenance. Groundbreaking on the project could take place as early as Oct. 1.

80-hour monthly requirement. Members may also meet the requirement by earning at least \$580 per month. Seasonal workers may qualify based on their six-month average income. WHAT MEDICAID MEMBERS SHOULD DO NOW Medicaid members are encouraged to: Keep information up to date. Review and update contact, household, and eligibility information with DoHS. Report changes. Report changes in employment, income, or household circumstances through WV PATH. Complete required reviews. Complete Medicaid eligibility

reviews and provide requested information by the stated deadlines. Learn about the new requirements. Visit wvmedicaidhelp.org to learn more about qualifying activities, exemptions, reporting requirements and important timelines. Members can report changes, apply for benefits and complete eligibility reviews through WV PATH at www.wvpath.wv.gov. For more information about the 2027 Medicaid eligibility changes, including who may be affected, qualifying activities, exemptions and what members need to do, visit wvmedicaidhelp.org or call the DoHS Customer Service Reporting Center at 1-877-716-1212.

“Smoot”

cont. from p. 2

cut off the Confederates at Vicksburg. That city-turned-citadel represented the last Confederate States stronghold on the Mississippi River. Loss of it would give the Union full control of the river and cut the South in two.

Newspaper reporters and editors typically understand neither diplomacy nor war and write and publish accordingly. Just as many in the media today cannot grasp the different levers of pressure used to grind Iran into submission, they could not comprehend back then what General Grant was working to accomplish. In both cases, a siege required careful and precise moves to completely surround the enemy, cut them off, and wait for their resources to run out and compel submission.

A boa constrictor snake similarly seems to move slowly, lazily, and ineffectively as it gradually coils around its prey, squeezing them until resistance is no longer possible. Then the snake crushes, kills, and consumes its target.

Grant stated in a letter to his father what President Trump is thinking, that “I have no idea of being driven to do a desperate or foolish act by the howlings of the press.” That press, spurred on by jealous rivals of Grant within the Army, accused him of drunkenness, incompetence, and repeated failures. Newspapermen could not grasp why the Union general severed his own supply line to maneuver independently in Mississippi to come up on Vicksburg from the relatively unprotected east side, rather than take on the defenses at the front.

They also did not see the wisdom in Grant’s decision in late spring of 1863, once his siege was set, to “out-camp the enemy,” as he explained in his memoirs.

Similarly, the press does not understand how President Trump has painstakingly used his Secretary of State and Secretary of the Treasury to diplomatically and economically isolate Iran after blowing apart most of its military capabilities. Eyeing the long term, President Trump has successfully pushed area partners to cut off trade and support for Iran while opening up multiple options for oil exports.

Nikita Khrushchev, in his earthy language style, once compared of the NATO outpost in East Berlin in the Cold War to human testicles. “Squeeze it and America will scream,” he noted. Iran treated the neighboring Straits of Hormuz the same, threatening to send the global economy into shock by shutting off the convenient water route for area nations to export oil.

President Trump has worked feverishly through much of the year to render the Straits of Hormuz permanently irrelevant, forever removing Iran’s pressure point on the global economy.

At US urging, Saudi Arabia and other Sunni Arab states, no friends or admirers of Shi’ite Iran, have expanded pipeline construction. The US Navy is also shepherding ships through routes in the Straits made safe by the American destruction of Iran’s ability to effectively attack. Currently, their attacks on shipping are imprecise and cause minor to moderate damage to ships instead of sinking them.

Baird Maritime, which reports on global shipping, stated that shipping traffic on official counts has continues to tick higher through the Straits. Other media sources report that the counted traffic has risen to 20 percent of prewar levels. “Dark” traffic, which includes both US warships and civilian tankers that turn off identifying broadcasts, has likely pushed that percentage much higher.

Meanwhile, inside Iran, the currency has entered hyperinflation as the economy has crashed. The government will soon run out of money to pay its military and police forces. Also, President Trump has isolated Iran almost completely from its allies China and Russia. Iran will run out of resources by fall, which will force whoever runs their government to make a decision or give way to those who will make peace. Meanwhile, President Trump’s diplomats work to elevate the secular civilian side of the government over the fanatical religious parties which have since 1979 held the nation in their grip.

President Trump’s strategy, to “out-camp the enemy,” is quickly degrading Iran’s ability to function, much less fight, without putting American assets in added risk.

Iranians outside of Iran largely support the war, seeing the mullah-led Islamic Republic as an alien occupying system, not a true reflection of their tradition, culture, and will. Islamic fundamentalists overthrew the monarchy when they took control and shredded thousands of years of Iranian and Persian culture and tradition as they established a totalitarian Islamic regime. Since 1979, their mullah-dominated government subjugates women, murders gays, and allows no action outside of what is religiously acceptable under their interpretation of Islam and its founding text, the Koran..

The Trump Administration clearly seeks to preserve the civilian government to prevent chaos and the need for a full reconstruction. Negotiations work to boost the power of those the US would prefer to see in charge postwar. This would resemble Eastern Europe when the Communists lost power. Nations freed from Soviet Communist grip simply outlawed the Communist Party structures of authority and added democratic processes to the civilian governments restored to authority.

Ever since, those governments have operated well.

One must cut newspaper reporters and editors a bit of slack because most truly do not understand how war or diplomacy work in depth. Too many have been trained to seize the emotional angles of any story first, stoking fear and anger rather than inspiring understanding. They talk of “forever war” only a few months into the conflict.

They also do not understand at all how President Trump’s tariffs have brought nations into line with America’s isolation of Iran.

President Trump seeing this through to a conclusion where Iran is subjugated is vital. Without military capabilities, without the Sword of Damocles of an Iranian nuclear bomb hanging over the region, without a permanent threat to cut off oil through the Straits of Hormuz, without Iranian money subsidizing dangerous and divisive terrorism, and without their military support of Russia (US destruction of Iran’s drone manufacturing facility helped to turn the tide in favor of Ukraine in that conflict), Iran has little choice but to conform to the region’s slow move toward permanent peace.

Coming into 2026, Iran, Venezuela, and Cuba were building blocks in the foundation for China and their junior partner Russia to take America’s place as the dominant military and economic powers on earth. President Trump has personally dismantled that system without firing a shot at the two main protagonists and allowing no opening for them to hit the United States back.

Is it fun or comfortable to pay a lot for \$4.00 a gallon of gas? Absolutely not. This has been the price, however, that today’s Americans have been asked to pay for the decades-long dream of a permanent peace and understanding in the Middle East, which Iran has prevented almost by itself since 1979. It’s a cost worth paying, especially since Iran has been irrevocably ground down to a shadow of its former power and can no longer threaten its neighbors, Israel, or the United States with impunity.

Many have died, including hundreds of Americans, as they pursued their ambitions. Now their bills have come due and their ambitions are making their death rattles. The world is a better place without a threatening Iran and President Trump is making that happen.

When Vicksburg fell on July 4th, 1863 (and Confederate commanders begged Grant to make the surrender any other day), the newspapers suddenly held Grant up as a hero. President Abraham Lincoln, whom they had savaged for standing firm beside his favorite fighting commander, now looked in their eyes for a time wise and patient instead of foolish and ignorant.

To get to that victory, both President Lincoln and General Grant had to ignore the noise and keep their eyes on the prize of victory. President Trump must do the same because the benefits of winning are peace and prosperity without the continual threats coming from Islamicized Iran.

President Trump has gotten no media accolades or credit when his policies and actions bear fruit and will get none for this, either.

Governor Morrisey Calls on West Virginians to Shape the West Virginia Military Hall of Fame

CHARLESTON, WV – West Virginia’s service members have answered the call of duty with extraordinary valor, and now Governor Patrick Morrisey is calling on veterans, service members, and military families across the Mountain State to help establish a home for their legacy. Governor Morrisey announced today that the updated draft rules for the West Virginia Military Hall of Fame are now open for public comment, marking the final stretch to officially honoring the state’s military legends.

“I want to hear from people about veterans in their family and the stories of the gifts they have provided their communities, their state, and the nation,” said Governor Morrisey. “We should always be on the lookout to honor veterans and this comment period provides us with that opportunity.”

Members of the military community, veterans’ advocacy groups, and patriotic citizens across the state are urged to make their voices heard by reviewing and submitting feedback on the proposed regulations through September 11, 2026.

Spearheaded by Governor Morrisey, First Lady Denise Morrisey, and State Senator Brian Helton, the administration published the revised draft rules on August 12, 2026, creating a clear pathway to celebrate military service and continued community impact.

The newly published regulations are seeking comments so that we may establish the best standards for the nomination, selection, and induction processes, ensuring the program upholds the highest standards of honor while remaining open and fair to all who have served.

“Our mission is simple: recognize those whose service was not only exemplary, but incomparable,” said Ryan Kennedy, Cabinet Secretary for the West Virginia Department of Veterans Assistance, which administers the Hall of Fame. “We give special thanks to Governor Morrisey, First Lady Denise Morrisey, and Sen. Brian Helton for their bold leadership in establishing this honor. Now, we need the public’s insight. This is your chance to shape how West Virginia recognizes its greatest protectors for generations to come.”

Public Comment Submission Details

Public input is vital to finalizing these operational rules. Submit your feedback before 11:59 PM EST on September 11, 2026 via email or mail:

Email: jill.e.connolly@wv.gov

Mail:

Attn: Military Hall of Fame Rules

West Virginia Department of Veterans Assistance

1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East

Building 5, Room 205

Charleston, WV 25305

UHC surgeon celebrates 3,000 robotic surgeries

Bridgeport, WV—WVU Medicine United Hospital Center (UHC) proudly recognizes Sugam B. Vasani, MD, general surgeon with UHC General Surgery, for achieving a major milestone: 3,000 robotic-assisted surgeries.

“Reaching 3,000 robotic-assisted surgeries is a milestone that reflects years of dedication to advancing minimally invasive care for our patients,” said Sugam B. Vasani, MD, general surgeon with UHC General Surgery. “Robotic-assisted surgery has allowed us to perform complex procedures with greater precision, smaller incisions, and faster recovery times. I am grateful for the trust our patients place in us and for the exceptional team at UHC that makes this level of care possible.”

Since 2013, Dr. Vasani has incorporated the da Vinci Xi system—one of the world’s most advanced platforms for minimally invasive surgery—into his practice. His expertise spans a wide range of robotic-assisted procedures, including cholecystectomy, hernia repair, and colon surgery.

Dr. Vasani is widely regarded for his skill in robotic surgery and his commitment to advancing surgical innovation. In 2023, he surpassed 2,000 robotic-assisted procedures, further solidifying his standing among the nation’s top robotic surgeons.

Beyond his clinical achievements, Dr. Vasani contributes significantly to the surgical field through research, mentorship, and education. He has published in medical journals, proctored robotic surgery training, and presented nationally. His dedication to teaching earned him the Outstanding Preceptor Award from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, where he serves as an Assistant Professor of Surgery. He is also an active member of the American College of Surgeons.

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“Recognized”

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mentorship, and encouragement needed to stay in business and continue growing.

In recent years, West Virginia has made entrepreneurship a priority. From business coaching and mentoring programs to startup accelerators, small business development services, access to capital initiatives, and expanded entrepreneurial education, the ecosystem that supports business creation has steadily strengthened.

The Secretary of State’s WV Office of Entrepreneurship was another important step

forward. Established with a simple but powerful mission to connect entrepreneurs with the resources they need and ensure state government is working to remove obstacles rather than create them, its creation could not have come at a better time. By aligning efforts across agencies and organizations, West Virginia is making it easier for entrepreneurs to navigate the path from idea to enterprise, scaling, and eventually long-term success.

As Secretary of State, I have the privilege of witnessing new business formations every day.

Behind every registration filing is a person with a dream, a plan, and the courage to take a risk. Those entrepreneurs deserve credit, but so do the many organizations and individuals who help them succeed after the doors open.

This recognition belongs to all of them.

While we should celebrate this accomplishment, we must also continue the work. Our goal should not simply be to rank among the nation’s leaders in business longevity. Our goal should be to become the best state in America to start, grow, and sustain a business.

Local organizations donate produce boxes to outpatient cancer patients at United Hospital Center

Progressive Women’s Association of Clarksburg, West Virginia Italian Heritage Festival, and Green Acres Farm join together for August 14 donation event

Bridgeport, WV— The Progressive Women’s Association of Clarksburg, the West Virginia Italian Heritage Festival, and Green Acres Farm will donate produce boxes to outpatient cancer patients at United Hospital Center on August 14 at 1:00 p.m.

The donation is intended to provide fresh, nutritious produce to patients receiving outpatient cancer care while demonstrating community support for individuals and families navigating treatment.

Representatives from the participating organizations will gather at United Hospital Center for the donation, highlighting a shared commitment to helping meet practical needs in the local community.

“We are grateful for the opportunity to support outpatient cancer patients with fresh produce and a visible reminder that their community is behind them,” said Betty Waddy of The Progressive Women’s Association of Clarksburg. “This donation reflects what can happen when local groups work together to care for their neighbors.”



Representatives from the Progressive Women’s Association of Clarksburg, West Virginia Italian Heritage Festival, and Green Acres Farm present produce donations WVU Medicine United Hospital Center Oncology. Pictured (from left) are Lisa Sutton, Sophia McMillion, Patricia Espinosa, Franchesca Aloï, Betty Waddy, Weege Vargo, Rosalyn Queen, and Iris Canfield.

“UHC”

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“Dr. Vasani’s achievement places him among the nation’s most accomplished robotic surgeons, and we are proud to have his expertise at UHC. His commitment to innovation, education, and exceptional patient care exemplifies the standard of excellence we strive for every day,” said David F. Hess, MD, CEO United Hospital Center, Regional President of the Central Region for West Virginia University Health System “This milestone not only reflects his skill, but also the strength of UHC’s surgical program and our dedication to providing world-class care to the communities we serve.”



David F. Hess, MD
Regional President of the Central Region for WVU Health System and CEO of WVU Medicine United Hospital Center



Sugam B. Vasani, MD
UHC General Surgery

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