

Pappy Jack’s Pumpkin Patch Opening This Saturday



All set for their second fall opening, be sure to get on board for a hayride and enjoy the country setting with plenty of rolling hills, cornstalks and pumpkins in view.

By Leigh C. Merrifield

The first day of the autumn season is less than a week away, but local resident Chad Pill, owner of Pappy Jack’s Pumpkin Patch, is not going to wait for that “official” day to open the gates. Pappy Jack’s will begin greeting visitors this Saturday, September 19th!

The name ‘Pappy Jack’s Pumpkin Patch’ is a tribute to his late maternal grandfather, Jack Cunningham, and it is located on Cunningham Run Road just outside of Shinnston where Jack and his wife Naomi lived all of

their years together. The picturesque country setting there provides the realistic down-to-earth “farm charm” that makes it the perfect site for having some seasonal harvest fun! Pappy Jack’s Pumpkin Patch enjoyed a successful year when it initially opened in September of 2025, but Chad and his partner Jennifer had been brainstorming this idea since 2020. The property offered more than ample acreage for growing pumpkins; however, the couple spent five years exploring possibilities, discussing ideas, gathering information, and learning the ins and outs of producing



Jump in much like you would a pool, but you will not be splashing water! There are 4,000 pounds of corn in Pappy Jack’s corn pit ... another taste of a little “farm charm”!

a bountiful harvest. Finally, in April of 2025, the plows were put to work. “We were hoping that first year would bring 1,500 people to visit throughout the season,” Chad stated, “and when 400 showed up on opening day, we thought we could reasonably achieve that number. As you can imagine, we were overwhelmed and felt so very blessed when our end-of-season count showed that we had welcomed 5,500 people to the Pumpkin Patch!” With last year’s heat and lack of rain, the pumpkin crop unfortunately failed, and after working so hard in

hot weather, they had to purchase pumpkins. This year is a completely different story! An acre of pumpkin seeds were planted, and despite high temperatures again this year, Mother Nature sent plenty of rain – enough that they have harvested 8,000 gorgeous pumpkins! So if you’re looking for pumpkins to festively decorate your patio, porch or doorstep this fall, there will be plenty to choose from. While all of last season’s activities will again be available, Chad has added a few new ones as well. Visitors

See “Pappy Jack” Pg 8

Public Comments taken on proposed rules to implement HB 2014

CHARLESTON – The Public Service Commission of West Virginia has scheduled a public comment hearing later this month on proposed rules governing electric generating capacity requirements established under House Bill 2014 (HB 2014). The hearing is set for 9:30 a.m. September 28 in the PSC’s Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room at 201 Brooks St., Charleston. In April 2025, the Legislature passed the Power Generation and Consumption Act (HB 2014) and asked the Commission to propose rules for legislative approval outlining how the PSC would carry out new duties and responsibilities assigned to it under the law. The bill required the Commission to evaluate capacity auctions conducted by PJM Interconnection, and review each generating unit’s current economic dispatch to ensure the generating units could meet future needs. It also required utilities to maintain their generating units and fuel inventories to allow them to achieve at least a 69 percent capacity factor. PJM is this area’s regional energy grid, which oversees the allocation of electric-power in a 13-state area. In July, the Commission initiated a general investigation to receive comments and recommendations regarding the proposed rules and established a comment period, accepting written comments and recommendations until August 10. In addition to the comment period, the Commission will take public comments at the September hearing. Members of the public who wish to participate in the hearing must notify the Commission by September 18. Participants may submit additional comments, testimony, or written materials for presentation at the hearing by September 23. More information on this case can be found on the PSC website: www.psc.state.wv.us. Click on “Case Information” and access Case No. 26-0633-E-GI. More information on HB 2014 can be found on the West Virginia Legislature’s website.



Clarksburg City Council in 1985 when I served with Roger on city council. From left to right, Al Heck, Charles Thayer, Mildred Zink, Mayor Al Cox, Jim Hunt, Roger Diaz and John “Butch” Burnett.

Roger Diaz and the Quiet Art of Leadership

There are people who teach you about leadership by giving speeches, writing books or standing at the front of the room. And then there are people like Roger Diaz. I met Roger nearly fifty years ago, and when I joined the Clarksburg City Council in 1985, he was already an experienced councilmember. I was the youngest member of council, with plenty of enthusiasm but still a lot to learn about how local government really worked. Roger helped show me the ropes. He answered my questions, counseled me on the ins and outs of city government and, perhaps most importantly, demonstrated how a public official could disagree with someone without becoming disagreeable. Roger was friendly to everyone. He had the respect of his fellow councilmembers and of the employees who worked for the city. I cannot remember him raising his voice or allowing anger or ego to get in the way of accomplishing something. He simply knew how to lead. Roger also introduced me to a larger world of municipal government. I still remember attending my first West Virginia Municipal League Summer Conference and playing golf with him at Lakeview Country Club in Morgantown.



By JIM HUNT

Building Amazing Cities

For the Harrison County Journal

Later, I traveled with him to a National League of Cities conference in Washington, D.C. Once again, Roger was my guide. He answered my questions and introduced me to people he had come to know through years of involvement. We would sometimes have dinner at Cafe Petitto, a Washington restaurant owned by former Clarksburgers. I was learning more than I probably realized at the time. Roger had mastered something that isn’t taught in any government textbook: how to carefully navigate the minefield of local politics while keeping your relationships and your reputation intact. I thought about all of that recently when the North Central West Virginia Airport celebrated the grand opening of its beautiful new terminal.

See “Hunt” Pg 3



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OPINION

Thank You, Mr. Keefer

By Stephen Smoot

David Lee Keefer passed away in 2022, but his legacy was forged long before. This gentleman, Mr. Keefer as my friends and I knew him, taught economics at Ripley High School to generations of students.

I will say that I took economics classes at three different institutions of higher learning as both an undergraduate and a graduate student. No one taught the fundamentals of the “dismal science” quite like him.

An aside, a pro slavery advocate coined the phrase “dismal science” in reference to economists such as Britain’s Adam Smith and France’s Frederic Bastiat who both defined free market economics and also campaigned against slavery wherever it existed in their times.

This teacher instructed classes in basic economics and advanced economics. In the first class, we learned about the relationship between supply and demand. We drew seemingly endless supply and demand charts and were expected to grasp what the chart specifically stated. At Ripley, students learned the difference between elastic and inelastic demand, the differences between supply side and demand side economics, as well as the relationship between money supply and inflation.

We learned precisely how the “invisible hand” of the market operates and why it works better than managed or planned economies.

Advanced economics introduced us to one of the greatest economics works ever composed, “Free to Choose” by Milton and Rose Freeman. It advocated strong enough economic freedoms to reduce as much as possible barriers to market entry and eliminate to the greatest extent possible “rent seeking.” Rent seeking is an economic term referring to large companies advocating for legal or regulatory changes that will help them and create a disadvantage for their competition.

For example, large corporations support raises in the minimum wage because their “mom and pop” competitors cannot afford to pay the same rates of salaries. They can spread the higher wage costs along a larger area without having to lay people off or hike prices enough to notice.

The Friedmans, however, are not economic libertarians. They support a strong enough framework to protect businesses from unfair practice and responsible management of the money supply and how it relates to the availability of products the nation needs to work and function daily. Inflation is, essentially “too many dollars chasing too few goods.” Either the government creates the problem by putting too much money for general circulation or the market cannot produce enough supply to meet demand so prices rise to prevent shortages.

With a declining number of cattle farmers and the rising cost of inputs into beef production, the amount of beef available for market has declined, leading to a rise in prices. If consumers

See “Smoot” Pg 9

Shinnston Harrison County

The News & Journal

• EDITORIAL Sept 17 - Sept 23, 2026

Super Crossword

JUST ADD WATER

ACROSS

1 “May I talk to you briefly?”

8 Placed

12 Motor oil additive

15 TV character whom you “better call”

19 Certain outlet accessory

20 River of Aragon

21 Weeding tool

22 Singer Amos

23 Like a gallery that has five dozen paintings by artist Antoine?

25 Sort of

27 Shar- — (wrinkly dogs)

28 What a hailstorm is doing when composer Jean-Philippe is caught in it?

30 Hawaiian for “appetizer”

32 Little League precursor

33 Calling device in a forest east of Paris?

41 Banquet, e.g.

45 Four eighths

46 Let borrow again

47 Monte —

48 Oil from flower petals

49 Wine enjoyed near a hearth?

53 Aliens, briefly

54 August hrs.

55 Guilty feeling

56 Garage oil

58 Hilo hellos

64 Giving the go-ahead for

68 Atmosphere

69 Raised, flat land that you are visiting today?

72 Rapa — (Easter Island)

73 Bookish sort

75 Giorgio of fashion

76 Apartment policy about animals

78 Island porch

80 Goat’s cry

82 Application file extension

83 Festive antique hat?

91 Slanting

93 “Nay” sayers

94 Shower sponges

95 100-page story, maybe

97 Portend

98 That powerful essayist Henry David?

101 Sea’s edge

102 Have — (lose it)

103 Flat-bottomed vessel sailing across the River Styx from Hades?

111 Notion, in Paris

115 An hour before midnight

116 Teasing tribute held at the Green Bay Packers’ stadium?

119 Sold out, say

120 “Rock and Roll, Hoochie —” (1973 hit)

121 Leg, e.g.

122 Tom Cruise/ Dustin Hoffman film

123 Puts in place

124 Pastor’s talk: Abbr.

125 Legs’ counterparts

126 Iran neighbor

DOWN

1 [I’m in shock!]

2 Comics dog

3 Metered car

4 Bldg. units in complexes

5 Pig’s home

6 “Ick!”

7 Deep-fried crustacean appetizers

8 Riga native, old-style

9 Aid in crime

10 “Dies —” (Latin hymn)

11 Gloomy

12 Tibias

13 Native of Nuku’alofa

14 Eye care chain

15 Fruit discard

16 Top-tier

17 — Major (constellation)

18 In — of

24 Tightly strung

26 Mineo of “Exodus”

29 “— to Be You” (pop standard)

30 Bartlett, e.g.

31 “Friendly skies” carrier, for short

33 Python’s kin

34 — -coated aspirin

35 Large central feature of the Astros’ logo

36 — apso

37 Be mistaken

38 Singer Brenda

39 Chicago Loop trains

40 Luau paste

41 British bud

42 Previous to

43 Taking after

44 Singer Rawls

47 Chevy pony car

50 “Let’s just leave — that”

51 Toy train, when repeated

52 “— Matata” (“The Lion King” song)

54 Part of FDR

56 Car tankful

57 Spreads out, as fingers

59 Meadowland

60 Crew tool

61 Engine noise

62 Org. for cavity fillers

63 It rises daily

65 Kicked out of a country

66 Chocolaty spread brand

67 U.S. soldiers

70 — Sea (salt lake in Asia)

71 “Sands of Iwo —”

74 Basic trick for a skateboarder

77 Actor O’Toole

79 Baseless bit of gossip

81 Ditzzy relative of Samantha on “Bewitched”

83 Sharp punch

84 Singer Yoko

85 “Inc.” relative

86 Orbiter with a tail

87 — polloi

88 Olympic code for Kabul’s country

89 Oom- — band

90 “C— la vie”

91 State firmly

92 Fraternity “T”

96 “Well now!”

98 Flat, hollow sounds

99 Crested bird with black-and-white wings

100 Harvard rival

101 Submission encl.

103 Pleads

104 Balm plant

105 Camp shelter

106 Nights before

107 Stewpot

108 Impartial

109 “I wonder ...”

110 Recedes

111 Actress Skye

112 Accurse

113 Morales of film and TV

114 Volcano in Sicily

117 Egypt and Syr., once

118 Crater’s edge

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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. 16, 1876: The town of Milton in Cabell County was incorporated and named in honor of Milton Rece, a large landowner at the time.

Sept. 16, 1922: Walter Allen became the only person found guilty of treason in charges related to the Battle of Blair Mountain. He soon skipped bail and was never heard from again.

Sept. 16, 1926: Writer John Knowles was born in Fairmont. He attained literary fame in 1959 with his first novel, A Separate Peace.

Sept. 16, 1950: Scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr. was born in Keyser. Gates is one of the leading Black intellectuals in the United States. His books include Colored People: A Memoir, about growing up in Mineral County. He hosts the popular PBS program Finding Your Roots.

Sept. 17, 1848: Artist Lily Irene Jackson was born in Parkersburg. She was best known as a painter of animal portraits and floral arrangements, and as an advocate for the arts.

Sept. 17, 1897: Ruth Ann Musick was born in Missouri. For many decades, she was a professor at Fairmont State College (now University) and West Virginia’s most prolific folklorist. She wrote regular folklore newspaper columns and four major books, including The Telltale Lilac Bush and Other West Virginia Ghost Tales.

Sept. 18, 1947: Historian and journalist Minnie Kendall Lowther died. Born in Ritchie County, she was one of the first women in West Virginia to become a newspaper editor.

Sept. 18, 1989: Playwright Maryat Lee died in Lewisburg. She established Eco Theater in Summers County as an indigenous mountain theater, using local people as actors.

Sept. 19, 1862: The two-day Battle of Shepherdstown opened with an artillery exchange between Union and Confederate troops. Following the Battle of Antietam, it ended Robert E. Lee’s Maryland Campaign and helped convince Abraham Lincoln to issue his Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

Sept. 19, 1892: William “Bill” Blizzard was born along Cabin Creek, Kanawha County. Blizzard became one of West Virginia’s most influential and controversial labor leaders, playing a key role in the Battle of Blair Mountain and later serving as UMWA District 17 president.

Sept. 20, 1910: Dorothy Johnson Vaughan was born in Kansas City but moved at a young age to Morgantown,

where she was valedictorian of Beechurst High School. Like fellow West Virginian Katherine Johnson, Vaughan became a mathematician and computer expert for NASA and made significant contributions to the U.S. space program.

Sept. 20, 1911: Musician Frank De Vol was born in Moundsville. He scored more than 50 movies and earned five Oscar nominations but is best remembered for his theme music to the TV shows My Three Sons, Family Affair and The Brady Bunch.

Sept. 20, 1914: Ken Hechler was born on Long Island, New York. Hechler served 18 years in the U.S. Congress and four terms as West Virginia’s secretary of state.

Sept. 21, 1921: Musician Rex Parker was born in Maplewood, Fayette County. He performed on radio stations WCHS in Charleston and WJLS in Beckley. In 1941, he married Eleanora Niera, and they performed on radio and TV as Rex and Eleanor Parker until his death in 1999.

Sept. 21, 1937: The West Virginia Conservation Commission acquired 6,705 acres in Kanawha County to create Kanawha State Forest. Redevelopment of the land, which had been heavily mined and timbered, began the next year by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Sept. 21, 1970: Filming began in Moundsville on the movie Fools’ Parade, based on the novel by Davis Grubb. The filming concluded one month later when Grubb came to Moundsville for a dinner, accompanied by his dog, making the \$750 round trip from New York City in a taxi.

Sept. 22, 1856: Albert Blakeslee “A. B.” White was born in Cleveland, Ohio. He was West Virginia’s 11th governor, serving from 1901 to 1905. He was the fourth person to serve as governor from Wood County, his adopted home.

Sept. 22, 1893: Elizabeth Simpson Drewry was born in Virginia but soon moved to Elkhorn, McDowell County. In 1950, she became the first Black woman elected to the legislature. In 1956, she introduced a constitutional amendment that allowed women to serve on juries in West Virginia.

Sept. 22, 1948: Musician Buddy Griffin was born in Richwood. He performed on the Grand Ole Opry more than 200 times and contributed to over 150 recordings during a career spanning more than four decades. He also helped establish an accredited bluegrass music program at Glenville State College (now University).

Sept. 22, 1975: Charleston native Sara Jane Moore failed in her attempt to assassinate President Gerald Ford in San Francisco. She later served prison time at the Alderson Federal Prison Camp.

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

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Katherine Jo Copen
August 24, 1967 - September 7, 2026
CLARKSBURG, WV - Katherine Jo Copen, 59, of Clarksburg, passed away Monday, September 7, 2026, at United Hospital Center following a long, courageous fight.

Katherine was born in Clarksburg on August 24, 1967, to Katherine “Kitty” Neil Lantz and Donnie Dea Lantz.

Katherine was a beautiful soul who brought warmth, kindness, and light to everyone she met. She had a deep love for all animals and a gentle spirit that made the world a brighter place. Her greatest joy was found in the quiet, precious moments spent with her grandchildren and her beloved husband, Jack, whom she adored more than life itself.

She was beautifully reunited in heaven with her beloved father, Donnie, stepping into his arms once again. She was also preceded in death by her sister and brother-in-law, Diane and Guy Summers.

She is survived by her mother, Katherine “Kitty” Neil Lantz of Clarksburg; her husband, Jack Copen of Clarksburg; her siblings, Tammy Champ of Elkins, Nova Lantz (Buck Williams) of Clarksburg, and Donnie Lantz (Sherry) of Smithfield, North Carolina; her children, Amber LeAnne Zenisek of Clarksburg, WV, Hailee Marie Zenisek of Fremont, OH, and Wyatt Alan Zenisek of Akron, OH; and her grandchildren, Lilyana Rayne, Azrhiana Aurora, Nevaeh Skye, Lilah Rae Ann, and Eduardo Mauro.

Friends will be received at Harmer Funeral Home, 300 Pike St., Shinnston, WV from 2:00 to 8:00 PM Thursday. A funeral Service will be at the funeral home at 11:00 AM Friday, September 11, 2026 with Pastor Joel Randolph officiating. Interment will follow at Enterprise Cemetery.

Online memories and condolences may be shared at harmerfuneralhome.com

A service of Harmer Funeral Home, Shinnston.



Regina Lou Law Cozad
Regina Lou Law Cozad, 84, passed away peacefully on the morning of September 4, 2026, surrounded by her husband, Richard; her daughter-in-law, Kathy; and her son, Richard Jr.

Regina was born at home on May 2, 1942, in Bristol, West Virginia. Her birth was officially recorded as May 21, 1942, when the doctor arrived to record her birth. She was born into the Law family alongside her brothers Charley Wilford Law, Wayne Carl Law, and Boyd Lawrence Law, and her sisters Geneva Mildred Law and Dorothy Ellen Law. Around the age of nine, Regina was separated from her parents and siblings. Though life took them on separate paths, she never forgot where she came from and continued to speak of her brothers and sisters throughout her life.

Regina’s life changed forever when she met Richard L. Cozad Sr. in West Virginia. Their meeting became the beginning of a love and partnership that would span more than six decades. They were married on December 7, 1963, in Baltimore, Maryland, and together built a life, a home, and a family.

Regina was the mother of six children: Sheila, Tammy, Betty, Becky, Regina, and Richard Jr. Her life as a mother brought tremendous joy, but it also brought heartbreak that few mothers are ever asked to endure.

Her daughter Becky passed away in 1970 at only 2 months and 24 days old. Ten years later, Regina lost her

daughter Tammy in 1980 at only 14 years old. Decades later, she endured the loss of her eldest daughter, Sheila, who was born in October 1963.

Sheila and her husband, Jimmy, chose to marry on December 7, the same date Regina and Richard had married, so that mother and daughter could share their wedding anniversary. Sheila passed away on December 6, 2021, at the age of 58—just one day before the anniversary they shared.

Through the unimaginable loss of three daughters and the many hardships she experienced throughout her lifetime, Regina continued forward, carrying the love and memories of her daughters with her for the rest of her life.

Regina was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother whose love extended far beyond her immediate family. She had a way of making children feel welcome and cared for. Her home and her heart were open not only to her own family, but also to neighborhood children and others who needed a place where they could feel they belonged.

Her family remembers the little things that made her uniquely Regina. Her son and grandchildren still crave her one-of-a-kind silver-dollar pancakes. Her daughter-in-law, Kathy, holds deeply the memories of Regina teaching her how to cook and sew beautiful quilts. Regina could even turn housecleaning into an expression of love and beauty, turning on the radio, dancing, and cleaning her home. She had the remarkable ability to turn ordinary moments into timeless, treasured memories.

Her faith was an important part of her life. Regina loved to sing songs such as “I Saw the Light” and “Amazing Grace.” The

memory of her singing and the sound of her voice are among the pieces of her that her family will carry with them.

Regina is survived by her beloved husband of more than 62 years, Richard L. Cozad Sr.; her daughters, Betty and Regina; and her son, Richard Jr. She also leaves behind her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, extended family, and the many people whose lives were touched by her kindness and love.

She was preceded in death by her daughters Sheila, Tammy, and Becky.

To Richard, she was the woman with whom he shared more than six decades of his life—his Original Mountain Mama. To her children, she was Mom, but they were far from the only ones who called her that. Throughout her life, Regina opened her heart and her home to others, and many came to love and look upon her as a mother of their own. To her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, she was Grandma. And to all those fortunate enough to have known her, she will be remembered for the countless little things she did that made people feel loved.

Her life cannot be measured simply by the 84 years she lived, but by the people she loved, the family she built, the hardships she overcame, and the memories she left behind.

She will be deeply missed, forever loved, and never forgotten.

The family will receive friends at the Perine Funeral Home, 1348 S. Pike St., Shinnston, from 11am until the time of the funeral service at 1pm, Friday, September 11th. Interment will be in the Lumberport Lions Club Cemetery. Condolences may be extended to the family at www.perinefunerals.com. The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Cozad family.

“Hunt” cont. from p. 1

Roger has served on the Airport Authority for many years, working largely behind the scenes as the airport grew and its leaders developed a vision for what it could become.

When the ribbon was cut, Roger was standing among the dignitaries.

I looked at him and could see the pride in his eyes.

He had every reason to be proud. Buildings like that terminal don’t simply appear. They happen because people spend years building relationships, finding funding, assembling good teams and believing in a vision long before everyone else can see it.

That has always been Roger’s kind of leadership. Quiet. Persistent. Effective.

Roger is also not someone who merely accepts a position and becomes a bystander.

Several years ago, I was posting on Facebook about one of my frequent consulting trips and mentioned flying out of the Pittsburgh airport. Roger sent me a message.

Had I considered flying from North Central West Virginia Airport?

I told him that I had, but I worried about delays or cancellations. When you are traveling for business, a missed flight can wreck an entire schedule.

Roger didn’t argue with me. He simply made his point.

But the message stayed in my head. Within a month or two, my wife and I were boarding a flight to Florida from our hometown airport.

Roger had made another sale. That’s Roger.

He knows how to make his case without hitting you over the head with it.

His political career in Harrison County is legendary, including service on both Clarksburg City Council and the Harrison County Commission. But what has always impressed me most has never been the titles he held.

It has been the way he held them. No theatrics. No need to dominate the room. No obsession with who received the credit.

Just steady, thoughtful public service. Throughout my own career, Roger has been a friend, mentor and role model. I have told him many times that some of whatever success I have enjoyed can be traced back to lessons I learned watching him.

Communities need leaders with big ideas and bold visions.

But they also need people who quietly show up year after year, do the work, build trust and leave things better than they found them.

Roger Diaz has done that for a lifetime. Someday soon, I expect to walk into that new airport terminal and board another flight from North Central West Virginia.

When I do, I will think about my old friend Roger.

And I will be reminded that some of the greatest monuments to leadership don’t have anyone’s name written on them.

Capito Celebrates Opening of Fairmont State University’s BEACON Nursing Simulation Center

FAIRMONT, W.Va. – Today, U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), Chairman of the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) Appropriations Subcommittee, visited Fairmont State University’s College of Nursing to celebrate the opening of their BEACON Simulation Center. Senator Capito helped secure a \$3,059,000 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) allocation for Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) to support the relocation and expansion of the College of Nursing’s simulation center.

“It is great to be in Fairmont today, celebrating such a wonderful achievement. This expansion will provide nursing students with state-of-the-art technology to enhance their overall experience and help promote and support a healthier West Virginia.” Senator Capito said. “Thank you to our dedicated leaders at Fairmont State University, who worked with us to make this possible. I am proud to use my role on the Senate Appropriations Committee as Chairman of the Labor-HHS Subcommittee to continue delivering for West
See “Capito” Pg 6

Governor Morrisey Delivers Remarks at FBI 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony in Clarksburg

CLARKSBURG, W.Va. - of remembrance, it is fitting that Governor Patrick Morrisey joined federal law enforcement officials, first responders, and community members today at the FBI’s Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division to mark the 25th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks. The solemn ceremony brought together local leaders, the FBI Police Honor Guard, and regional representatives to honor the victims of the 2001 attacks, pay tribute to first responders, and reflect on a quarter-century of national resilience. The event program included remarks and participation from
See “Morrisey” Pg 6

WVU Is Soaring and So Are the Eagles



The Bottom Line

By Bill Nestor
Sports Editor

The West Virginia Mountaineers picked up a second consecutive win to start the season with an impressive 52 to seven victory over the University of Tennessee at Martin this past Saturday in Morgantown. It's the first time since 2018 that WVU has jumped out to a 2 and 0 beginning.

Sure, the doubters will say that the Mountaineers have not been tested and they are correct. Coastal Carolina and UT Martin aren't world beaters, but they were exactly what the team needed to face early on to put the pieces together. Rich Rodriguez added 88 new pieces to be exact and he needed some time to get his house in order before the big boys come knocking.

What a difference a week makes, especially for this team that looked much more polished. Michael Hawkins Jr was more balanced and explosive this Saturday at Milan Puskar Stadium.

Hawkins was more efficient, going five of seven for 155 yards and a pair of touchdowns. He only needed to play half of the third quarter before taking the rest of the day off. His ability to stretch the Skyhawk defense aided the running game. In the opener, West Virginia garnered 281 yards on the ground, but 72 came on one carry. In their second outing, the Mountaineers finished with 316 yards.

Defensively, WVU bent but didn't break and played an opportunistic ballgame. The stoppers swarmed to the ball all afternoon as eight different players had four tackles or more. With nine tackles for a loss, the Mountaineers did an excellent job

putting UT Martin behind the chains and then keeping future plays in front of them.

Fans looking for a test will get their wish this coming Saturday when WVU locks up with Virginia in Charlotte. The battle with the Cavaliers is the first tilt away from Morgantown and the first prime time game of the campaign. Virginia slides into the Top 25 and has a pair of impressive wins. The opener was a 34 to eight victory over North Carolina State and last weekend they pounded Norfolk 59 to three.

This is a golden opportunity for Rich Rod to elevate the confidence of his players with a win. A 3 and 0 start would give them the juice they need to tackle Oklahoma State. The Cowboys are fresh off their upset of number six Oregon.

Robert C. Byrd is off to an impressive 3 and 0 start after a 42 to 14 win over previously undefeated Keyser. A 21 point second quarter was the difference as it helped the Flying Eagles to a 28 to nothing halftime lead.

The impressive part of this start is the teams that it has come against. The last time RCB defeated keyser and Fairmont Senior in the same year, it was in 2014 under legend Bruce carey. Since then, the Flying Eagles have been a combined three and 18 against the Golden Tornadoes and the Polar Bears combined until this year.

A pair of seniors are leading the way. Quarterback Isaiah Heflin and receiver Junior Smith are taking care of business. Heflin has thrown for 190 yards or more and rushed for 100 or more yards in the last two games. Smith is the first receiver in school history to start a season with three consecutive games with 100-plus receiving yards.

The Flying Eagles are on a collision course with Bridgeport. They go into Indian Territory two Fridays from now.

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

Harrison County EMS



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EMERGENCY SQUAD

Athletes of the Week

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

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

By Bill Nestor

The Harrison County athletes in the spotlight this week are Lincoln's Eryn Ashcraft and Robert C. Byrd's Junior Smith

Cougar soccer standout Eryn Ashcraft had a week to remember a couple weeks ago. The uber talented senior led her squad to wins over Grafton, Elkins, and Berkeley Springs. She had a pair of goals to go with six assists against the Bearcats, five assists in the victory over the Tigers and four goals against the Indians.

Flying Eagle senior Junior Smith set a school record by starting the season with three consecutive 100 yard plus games helping his team to a 3 and 0 start. Smith now has 19 catches for 376 yards and four touchdowns on the season.

Congratulations to Lincoln's Eryn Ashcraft and RCB's Junior Smith for shining bright in the SN and HCJ spotlight!

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Healthy aging is not just for older adults. It starts early. It is about building habits today that protect quality of life tomorrow, and it means more than avoiding disease. It means keeping body, mind, and social life strong at every age. The most useful shift is to see aging as a continuous journey rather than a decline, because small daily choices add up.

WHICH CHANGES SHOULD NOT BE BRUSHED OFF?

Dementia is not a normal part of aging. Minor forgetfulness happens, but sudden or confusing changes in memory signal an underlying condition and deserve a doctor’s attention. What is good for the heart is usually good for the brain. Controlling blood pressure, keeping diabetes in check, and avoiding smoking protect the blood vessels in the brain just as much as the heart.

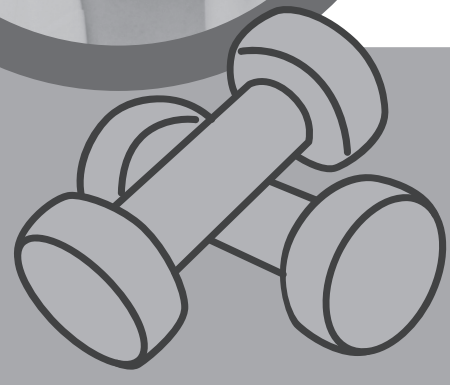
HOW DO YOU STAY STRONG AND INDEPENDENT?

The CDC suggests at least 150 minutes of moderate activity a week, which is a brisk 20 to 30 minute walk most days, plus muscle strengthening a few days a week to protect bone and muscle. Regular movement also builds leg strength and balance, which directly lowers the risk of a serious fall. Round it out with a balanced diet, plenty of water, and seven to nine hours of sleep.



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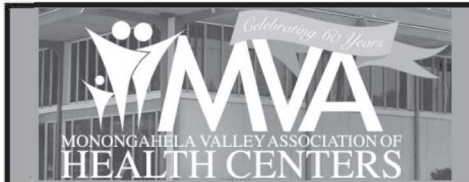


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The Blue Ribbon ‘Echo’

Now here is a story with a good message! One day a father took his son hiking in the mountains. Sadly, the young boy took a fall, but he wasn’t hurt badly. However, it startled him and he cried out. To his surprise, he heard a voice from somewhere in the mountains repeating his cry. Curious, he looked around and yelled “Who are you?” And he received another answer – “Who are you?”

Angered by the response, he screamed, “Coward!” Again, he received yet another answer - “Coward!” He then looked to his father for an explanation, and his father told him to pay close attention; then his father yelled to the mountain “I admire you!”, and the voice answered – “I admire you!” The father yelled again “You are a champion!”, and the voice came back “You are a champion!”

The youngster was surprised but still didn’t quite understand, so his father explained. “People call this an echo, when your words reverberate back to you,” he said, “but really this is life. Nearly everything you say or do returns to you. Our life is simply a reflection of our own actions.”

We who know what an echo is generally think that echoes are only sounds, but here is an example of our actions also being echoes.

A high school teacher decided to honor each of her senior students by telling each one what a difference they had made. Calling each one to the front of the class one at a time, she said something positive about each one while she presented each one with a blue ribbon imprinted with gold letters that read “Who I Am Makes A Difference”.

Later she decided to do a class project to see what impact this kind of positive recognition would have within their community. She gave each student three more blue ribbons and instructed them to go out and give a ribbon to someone and say something “positive” about them. Then they, in turn, should do the same, passing along another encouraging comment to someone else.

One of the senior boys went to an executive in a nearby company and told him how grateful he was for this man’s patience in guiding him with his future career planning and how much it had helped him. He also gave him the remaining two ribbons and asked him to do the same – give a ribbon recognizing someone they admired.

Later that day, the exec visited his boss who was noted for being a grouchy fellow. He told him that he deeply admired him for being so creative and he admired his abilities. The executive pinned the ribbon on his boss’ lapel and asked him to do the same – reach out to someone who might need to hear some positive words, and keep passing it forward.

That night as his boss returned to his home, he went to his son’s room and gave him a blue ribbon, telling him about the school project that had brought all of this about. “I want to honor you, son,” he said, “because my days are really hectic and I know I don’t pay a lot of attention to you; I sometimes yell about your grades and your room being a mess. I just want you to know how very important you are to me; you matter, although I may not show it often enough.”

Stunned, the boy broke down and sobbed and admitted that he had always felt he didn’t ‘measure up’ and had been a disappointment. Needless to say, this dramatically changed the relationship between this father and son!

When the results of this school project made it back to the classroom, everyone seemed to have learned a valuable lesson. The teacher’s innovative idea was a powerful teaching tool in the lessons of life. Passing out those blue ribbons had a great ripple effect! Perhaps we all need to be reminded to hand out blue ribbons a little more often and let others know how important they are to us and why.

The next time you make your voice heard, try to remember to say something positive to that person. Hopefully, it too will echo and be passed on!

***Quote of the Week:** “Life is an echo. What you send out – comes back. What you sow – you reap. What you give – you get. What you see in others – exists in YOU. Your life is an echo – It always gets back to you – so give goodness.” ~ Zig Ziglar*

“Capito”

cont. from p. 3

Virginia’s future healthcare professionals.”

“Fairmont State is profoundly grateful to Senator Shelley Moore Capito for her continued investment in our students through Congressionally Directed Spending,” University President Mike Davis said. “This support has enabled us to open the Rusty and Kimberly Hutson Family BEACON Simulation Center, our College of Nursing’s new state-of-the-art teaching facility. Federal funding also permitted us to begin renovating the Ruth Ann Musick Library into a vibrant and modern learning commons, focused on academic success and student support. We are deeply appreciative of Senator Capito’s commitment to higher education and her support in preparing the next generation of skilled professionals who will strengthen West Virginia’s workforce and communities.”

“Morrisey”

cont. from p. 3

FBI Operations Director Mark B. Dargis, CJIS Division Assistant Director Timothy A. Ferguson, former Assistant Director Thomas A. Bush III, and CJIS Division Chaplain Rev. James Edward “Ed” McDaniels. The ceremony also featured a presentation of colors by the FBI Police Honor Guard, a musical tribute by the Robert C. Byrd High School Choir, and a memorial bell toll by the Clarksburg Fire Department.

Governor Morrisey emphasized the enduring legacy of the first responders and ordinary citizens who displayed extraordinary courage during America’s darkest hour, urging communities to keep the sacred promise to never forget.

“Today, twenty-five years later, our sacred promise is to never forget,” Governor Morrisey said. “Let us carry forward the unity, the resilience, and the deep patriotism that defined the days following 9/11, and honor the memory of those we lost by living lives worthy of their sacrifice.”

The observance concluded with a moment of silence, a wreath-laying ceremony, and the retirement of colors by the FBI Police Honor Guard.

September is National Voter Registration Month: Are you ready to vote?

September is National Voter Registration Month, a time dedicated to one of the most important responsibilities of American citizenship: making sure you are registered and ready to vote.

In West Virginia, our elections belong to the people. Elections are the foundation of representative government and the mechanism through which citizens make their voices heard. That is why the WV Secretary of State’s Office and our 55 County Clerks are encouraging every eligible citizen to take a few minutes this month to verify their voter registration status, update their information if necessary, or register to vote for the very first time.

Today, West Virginia has approximately 1.2 million registered voters. That number reflects the strength of civic participation across the Mountain State. However, voter registration is not a one-time event. People move, change their last name, or update their mailing addresses. If your registration information is outdated, it could cause unnecessary delays or confusion when it is time to cast a ballot. The best time to make sure everything is correct is now, long before Election Day arrives.

Being prepared is part of being an informed and engaged citizen.

West Virginia has a proud history of expanding and protecting voting rights. Few states can claim a stronger connection to youth voting than ours. Senator Jennings Randolph of Harrison County spent nearly three decades fighting to lower the voting age from 21 to 18, helping secure ratification of the 26th Amendment to the United States Constitution. His belief was simple: if young Americans are old enough to serve their country, they are old enough to vote for their leaders.

That legacy continues today through the Secretary of State’s Jennings Randolph Award for Civic Engagement. This nationally recognized program honors West Virginia high schools that conduct student-led voter registration drives and register at least 85 percent of their eligible seniors to vote. Every year, thousands of new voters join the electoral process through the efforts of dedicated students, teachers, principals, county clerks, and election officials.

National Voter Registration Month is about *See “Voter” Pg 9*

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William Crystal, MD
Clarksburg Family Medicine

UHC welcomes William Crystal, MD to Clarksburg Family Medicine

William Crystal, MD, has joined Clarksburg Family Medicine, where he practices Family Medicine alongside William G. Bowles, DO; Jo A. Longenecker, MD; and Lea Singzon, MD.

His medical journey began with a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from the University of Santo Tomas, Espana, Manila, Philippines, followed with his Doctor of Medicine, also from the University of Santo Tomas.

He then completed his Family Medicine residency at WVU Medicine-United Hospital Center. Prior to his residency, he had professional experience at several locations in Hawaii providing pediatric and primary care.

Dr. Crystal focuses on caring for patients of all ages, from infants to seniors, offering preventive care, routine health maintenance, and treatment for common medical conditions. His clinical expertise includes managing urge incontinence, helping both male and female patients address bladder control concerns. He works closely with patients to develop treatment plans for these common but often undertreated conditions.

Dr. Crystal’s office is located at Clarksburg Family Medicine, 2673 Davisson Run Road, Suite 101, Clarksburg, WV. To schedule an appointment or learn more, call 681-342-3470.

Governor Morrisey Announces Major Declines in Crime, Overdose Deaths Across West Virginia

Violent crime down 5.6 percent, property crime down 13.5 percent as law enforcement steps up operations statewide

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Governor Patrick Morrisey today announced significant declines in violent crime, property crime, and drug overdose deaths across West Virginia as his administration continues an aggressive approach to public safety and the drug crisis.

“Nothing matters more to me than you and your family’s safety,” said Governor Morrisey. “In West Virginia, we’re taking an aggressive approach to protect your loved ones: crime down, enforcement up. We’re fighting the drug crisis on every front, and we’re seeing real results.”

In 2025, reported violent crime fell 5.6 percent statewide, from 4,310 offenses to 4,070, putting West Virginia’s rate 31 percent below the national average. Reported property crime fell 13.5 percent, from 19,289 offenses to 16,685. Drug overdose deaths dropped 12 percent, representing 99 fewer deaths.

Governor Morrisey has paired prevention and recovery efforts with stronger laws and aggressive enforcement aimed at taking deadly drugs and violent criminals off West Virginia streets. In April 2025, Governor Morrisey signed Lauren’s Law, establishing mandatory minimum sentences for transporting fentanyl, heroin, methamphetamine, and cocaine into West Virginia, creating new drug kingpin and delivery-resulting-in-death offenses, and increasing penalties for serious drug crimes.

The West Virginia First Foundation, created following the historic opioid settlement secured during Governor Morrisey’s tenure as Attorney General, has committed

WVDE Adds Hedrick to Team Addressing Harrison County Schools Issues



In 2024, then-Pendleton County Superintendent Charles Hedrick awards the County Attendance Cup to Franklin Elementary School. Awards and incentives used there helped to improve daily attendance and to bring down chronic absence numbers. Hedrick will work as a consultant with Harrison County Schools this year. Photograph courtesy of the Pendleton Times.

By Stephen Smoot

The West Virginia Department of Education has added to the team brought to Harrison County Schools to address ongoing issues. Last month, State Superintendent Michelle Blatt hired Hardy County Schools Superintendent Sheena Van Meter.

Last week, it was announced that former Pendleton County Schools Superintendent Charles F. Hedrick would be offered a contract to take a consultant’s role. Hedrick signed a contract to pay \$575 per day for 100 days of service. WDTV news reports that his role will include developing action plans to correct issues and concerns cited by the West Virginia Department of Education as reasons for partial intervention.

Hedrick brings four decades of public education experience to the role. He first worked in school administration at the age of 30.

He served as principal at Circleville High School, later headed up transportation, then attendance in the Pendleton County Schools central office. Hedrick served nine years as Pendleton County Schools Superintendent until his retirement in 2025. Since then, Hedrick has remained active as a mentor for school administrators and as a resource of information for other superintendents, members of the West Virginia State Legislature, and others.

“He’s always had a forward focus. He’s always thinking through things,” shared Nicole Hevener, current Pendleton County Schools Superintendent. Under Hedrick, she served as Pendleton County Middle/High School principal and assistant superintendent. She added “he’s calmly methodical, logical. He will be an asset to Sheena (Van Meter).”

Van Meter and Hedrick both navigated the COVID pandemic years as superintendents. Hevener remembered “it put us in such a unique situation where we didn’t know what we were doing.”

She stated that Hedrick’s strength then, and now, lies in his careful cultivation of a network of contacts and officials throughout the state. Hevener stated that he had no reluctance to reach out for information and advice while “sharing information openly” with his colleagues.

Both superintendents followed sound accounting principles during COVID when it came to American Rescue Plan Act funds from the federal government. Both Pendleton and Hardy counties avoided using ARPA funds to hire personnel because “one time only” funding should never go to pay for ongoing expenses.

While other counties, some with far more

financial resources than Pendleton and Hardy, ran into trouble, both of those county systems remained fiscally in good condition.

Mowery, also an accounting professor at James Madison University, added that “it’s hard to find a better person who understands from the bottom up the issues facing public schools.” He added that Hedrick always “stays one step ahead of any potential issues that may arise.”

In 2023, Pendleton County Schools showed some aftereffects from COVID in both attendance and academic performance. Hedrick reached out to Barbara Whitecotton, who had served as Superintendent of Hardy County Schools until her retirement. She was hired as School Improvement Coordinator and has helped in a very hands-on fashion in the successful effort to bring up academic metrics.

Both Hevener and Mowery talked of Hedrick’s calm demeanor. Hevener explained that he makes any problem, no matter how complex, appear solvable. Mowery stated “he rarely gets flustered, which is an amazing trait for someone in his position” and “does not rush through things,” but also is not “afraid to act when it is time to act.”

Working with both officials closely has given Hevener perspective on how they can help Harrison County. She said that Van Meter has grown into her role well in Hardy County and, like Hedrick, has crafted a large network statewide. Both of them are active with the leadership of the West Virginia Association of School Administrators. “Making strong relationships is one thing that is wonderful about that organization,” added Hevener.

Hevener stated that Van Meter and Hedrick will work well together because “they are like-minded” in that their focus is student-centered, community-centered, and public schools centered. Their mission is to give students every opportunity possible for growth.

nearly \$40 million to 171 community projects across the state through the end of 2025.

State, federal, and local law enforcement agencies have also carried out major operations targeting drug trafficking and violent crime across West Virginia:

- **Mercer County Fentanyl Seizure:** West Virginia State Police, the Southern Regional Drug Task Force, and Appalachia HIDTA seized 54 pounds of suspected fentanyl, 70 pounds of crystal methamphetamine, 15 firearms, and three brick presses in one of the largest fentanyl seizures in state history.
- **Operation Down The Road:** State Police and the McDowell County prosecutor executed eight search warrants across Mercer, McDowell, and Cabell counties, seizing 12 pounds of fentanyl, crystal methamphetamine, brick presses, firearms, and approximately \$300,000 in narcotics.
- **Charleston-Area Drug Trafficking Takedown:** A federal investigation targeting a major drug trafficking organization resulted in 16 indictments for fentanyl

and methamphetamine distribution, with 11 guilty pleas secured to date.

- **Operation Monarch:** State, county, and local law enforcement conducted a month-long violent-crime warrant roundup in the Eastern Panhandle, arresting 34 individuals wanted for offenses including armed robbery and malicious wounding and recovering illegal firearms.
- **Operation Spring Sweep:** State Police and the U.S. Marshals CUFFED Task Force arrested 72 violent fugitives and noncompliant sex offenders across Kanawha, Putnam, and surrounding counties, conducted more than 200 compliance checks, and recovered two missing children.

“Our troopers, deputies, and officers are making it clear that crime has no safe haven in our state,” said Governor Morrisey. “We will never stop giving them the backing they need to enforce our laws and protect our families. We are saving lives, securing our future, and building a stronger West Virginia every single day.”

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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
026	2023170025	S317-79-111.91 00	STBG-0079(102)D	STRUCTURE RENOVATION BROWNS CREEK BIRDGE NB & SB 2.17 MILES NORTH OF WV 270 COUNTY: HARRISON

BRIDGE: 2438.2

SPAN(S): 4

CONCRETE SLAB ON FABRICATED STEEL GIRDER

STRUCTURE STEEL:

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.

LEGAL

(2024-C-000984 - HARRISON COUNTY - ARMSTRONG LAND MANAGEMENT)
To: ROBERT LEE WILLIAMS, MAYNO BLANDING, 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 0663 0032 0000
You will take notice that ARMSTRONG LAND MANAGEMENT, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No. 2024-C-000984** , located in TENMILE OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, 52.37 AS O&G INDIAN RUN CNG (WELLS #2895 & 2897) 1, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of WILLIAMS ROBERT LEE & MAYNO W BLAND, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of HARRISON County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 15, 2025. ARMSTRONG LAND MANAGEMENT requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate on or after November 1, 2026, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before October 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 2023 - 65832.	\$	105.11
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 2024 - 66817.	\$	48.26
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	111.31
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	623.10
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$	745.91
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	1,633.69

You may redeem at any time before October 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 26, 2026
Christal G. Perry
Christal G. Perry
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of HARRISON County, State of West Virginia
Please return this letter and payment to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East Building 1, Room W-114 Charleston, West Virginia 25305. Questions, please call 1-888-509-6568

LEGAL

(Cert. No. 179156 Jeremy and Christie Wentz)
To: SUE E RAY ESTATE - PERSONAL SERVICE, SUE E RAY ESTATE - PERSONAL SERVICE, 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 CLARK-CLARKSBURG CORP MAP 18 PARCEL 0575 00000000
You will take notice that Jeremy and Christie Wentz, the purchaser of the following real estate, Certification No. 179156, located in CLARK-CLARKSBURG CORP District, 1 LOT 7 M R GOFF ADD, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of RAY SUE E % JAMES RAY RAY SUE E ESTATE (2021), and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of Harrison County at the sale for the delinquent taxes made on 10/27/2025, Jeremy and Christie Wentz requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after 10/23/2026, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before 10/23/2026 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to 10/23/2026	\$	3070.77
Amount of taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to 10/23/2026	\$	0.00
Amount paid for the Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest to 10/23/2026	\$	1268.89
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest to 10/23/2026	\$	0.00
Total Amount Payable to Sheriff - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check must be made payable to The Honorable Sheriff of Harrison County.	\$	4339.66

You may redeem any time before 10/23/2026 by paying the above total less any unearned interest.
Given under my hand 8/18/2026
Christal G. Perry
Christal G. Perry
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of HARRISON County, State of West Virginia
Please return this letter and payment to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collection Division 1900 Kanawha Blvd East, Building 1, Room W-114 Charleston, West Virginia 25305 Questions please call 1-888-509-6568

LEGAL

(2025-C-000833 - HARRISON COUNTY - EASTERN HOLDINGS LLC)
To: LORETTA D. RIEBE c/o DARLA SMITH, LORETTA D. RIEBE c/o DONNA POPOVICH, LORETTA D. RIEBE c/o DOREEN SAHLI, LORETTA D. RIEBE c/o JOHN PETERSON, LORETTA D. RIEBE c/o DOTTIE EARWOOD, LORETTA D. RIEBE, 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 0686 5485 0000
You will take notice that EASTERN HOLDINGS LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No. 2025-C-000833**, located in TENMILE OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, .0356 INT 144 AC O&G INDIAN RUN CONSOL-API#3515-352, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of WILLIAMS ROBERT LEE & MAYNO W BLAND, 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. EASTERN HOLDINGS 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 - 65523.	\$	203.57
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 - 66661.	\$	52.00
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.	\$	1,013.21
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	1,479.28

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 26, 2026
Christal G. Perry
Christal G. Perry
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of HARRISON County, State of West Virginia
Please return this letter and payment to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections Division 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East Building 1, Room W-114 Charleston, West Virginia 25305. Questions, please call 1-888-509-6568

LEGAL

(Cert. No. 178138 Brandon Coleman)
To: BRYAN R WEST OR HIS HEIRS ASSIGNS AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST, LORI M WEST, GEORGE C BEEZEL, 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 1119 PARCEL 0138 0000
You will take notice that Brandon Coleman, the purchaser of the following real estate, Certification No. 178138, located in COAL-OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, 1 LOT PT #1 MCINTYRE 2ND ADDN, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of WEST BRYAN R & LORI M, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of Harrison County at the sale for the delinquent taxes made on 10/27/2025, Brandon Coleman requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after 11/02/2026, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before 11/02/2026 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to 11/02/2026	\$	523.16
Amount of taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to 11/02/2026	\$	0.00
Amount paid for the Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest to 11/02/2026	\$	1407.15
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest to 11/02/2026	\$	0.00
Total Amount Payable to Sheriff - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check must be made payable to The Honorable Sheriff of Harrison County.	\$	1930.31

You may redeem any time before 11/02/2026 by paying the above total less any unearned interest.
Given under my hand 8/27/2026
Christal G. Perry
Christal G. Perry
Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of HARRISON County, State of West Virginia
Please return this letter and payment to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collection Division 1900 Kanawha Blvd East, Building 1, Room W-114 Charleston, West Virginia 25305 Questions please call 1-888-509-6568

LEGAL

(2025-C-000833 - HARRISON COUNTY - EASTERN HOLDINGS LLC)
To: LORETTA D. RIEBE c/o DARLA SMITH, LORETTA D. RIEBE c/o DONNA POPOVICH, LORETTA D. RIEBE c/o DOREEN SAHLI, LORETTA D. RIEBE c/o JOHN PETERSON, LORETTA D. RIEBE c/o DOTTIE EARWOOD, LORETTA D. RIEBE, 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 0686 5485 0000
You will take notice that EASTERN HOLDINGS LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No. 2025-C-000833**, located in TENMILE OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, .0356 INT 144 AC O&G INDIAN RUN CONSOL-API#3515-352, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of WILLIAMS ROBERT LEE & MAYNO W BLAND, 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. EASTERN HOLDINGS 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 - 65523.	\$	203.57
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 - 66661.	\$	52.00
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.	\$	1,013.21
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	1,479.28

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 26, 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

“Pappy Jack”

can enjoy hayrides, stables with miniature donkeys and sometimes other various ‘guest’ animals, a playground area with swings and slides, pumpkin painting, a corn pit, various food as well as arts & crafts vendors, a fire pit for roasting s’mores, and this year an added climbing wall.

Although Chad and his team of helpers have been working until dark for weeks, his wheels are still turning, and he has ideas for more future improvements. “Several people have suggested having a corn maze so that may be offered next season,” Chad added. “While music is always playing during our open hours, I’m giving some thought to at least occasionally having some live music on site too. The climbing walls are a new feature this year, and we have also erected a Welcome Center (under roof) for those who need to escape the heat and sit and relax for a while. Vendors with varying concession items (sandwiches, desserts, cotton candy, etc.) will be housed there each week. We have also built a pavilion where children can go to paint smaller pumpkins and these will be available to purchase at a reasonable price. The painting stations will be

supervised and all painting supplies will be furnished free of charge.”

Pill noted that his main goal has always been to bring something unique to the area ... something that would offer a family-friendly atmosphere ... something with a choice of diverse fun-filled activities ... and somewhere that adults and well as children could enjoy a day together.

Chad concluded by offering his sincere appreciation to the many folks who visited Pappy Jack’s last year and who expressed a desire to make it an annual family day.

“So many of my family members have pitched in and helped out in so many ways; I couldn’t have managed without them,” he stated. “Jennifer has suffered the heat and worked by my side until dark so many evenings. And then there are my parents ... My mom Alice is at the farm a lot working, and at times when I get frustrated and have little patience, she never fails to speak encouraging words and lift me up; and my dad Roger can build just about anything and has offered so much of his time and talents with construction improvement projects here. I want to say publicly that I am



This is why growing pumpkins requires an acre of space. Planted in the Spring, Pappy Jack’s harvested 8,000 pumpkins this season.

so fortunate to have such a wonderful family support group and I thank them all!”

Pappy Jack’s will be open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday throughout the season. Hours on Saturday and Sunday will be from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. On Fridays, the Pumpkin Patch will open later in the afternoon (exact time not yet determined) but also closing at 7 p.m. Admission fee is \$10 per person. Parking is free

and plentiful so don’t miss this opportunity to enjoy a special autumn day at Pappy Jack’s! The Pumpkin Patch will officially close on October 31st.

In addition to regular weekend visits, the Pumpkin Patch has accommodated special events on weekdays (Monday-Thursday) for hosting birthday parties, school field trips, and scouting outings. Please make arrangements in advance.

cont. from p. 1



Dear Recycle Lady,
I just heard that topping off the gas tank when putting in gas is bad for the environment. How can that be true? I thought added gas meant added mileage. *Doubting Thomas*

Dear Doubting Thomas,
Topping off the gas tank is bad not only for the environment, it is also bad for your car and you. According to John Ibbotson, Consumer Reports’ chief mechanic, “Fuel systems have become more sophisticated over time to keep up with increasingly stricter emission laws.” That extra bit of fuel could damage the Onboard Refueling Vapor Recovery (ORVR) system that helps reduce hydrocarbon emissions by about 95 percent during refueling” and could ruin the engine that would be expensive to repair. Not only is topping off harmful to the fuel system, it is also harmful to humans as gasoline fumes are toxic. They can cause both respiratory and neurological problems. According to <https://www.healthline.com/>, gasoline exposure can cause problems with your lungs, mouth, and stomach. It can get gasoline on your hands or clothing and burn your skin depending on the length of time and amount of exposure. Gasoline fumes are also toxic to the ozone layer as they release air pollutants that are toxic, flammable, and carcinogenic. Additionally, when you hear the gas pump click indicating the tank is full, some of the gas you pump after that is going into the hose for the next customer, not in your gas tank. Thus, topping off actually costs you money! For additional information check out: <https://www.consumerreports.org/cars/car-maintenance/should-you-top-off-your-cars-gas-tank-a1176503026/>.

Dear Recycle Lady,
Today I washed a container and its top to prepare it for recycling. The bottom of the container had a “1” inside the recycle triangle, so I knew it was recyclable. However, I could not find any number or recycle symbol for the top part. If the bottom of a container is recyclable, does that mean that the top of the container is also recyclable? *Puzzled*

Dear Puzzled,
Plastics with a recycle triangle that have a “1” or a “2” inside the

recycle symbol may or may not be recyclable at your recycling center. Our local Greenbrier Recycling Center only accepts #1 and #2 plastic bottles and jugs. Other #1 and #2 containers may be recyclable at larger facilities. Before adding any container to a recycling bin, be sure to check both the top and bottom as they may be made of different types of plastic. Thanks for washing out your container. It is extremely important that all recycled items are clean and dry. Unclean items put in a recycle bin can contaminate an entire load of recycle items resulting in a load of recyclables that must be discarded.

Dear Recycle Lady,
Last week you said that tree-corridors exist in fragmented forests. My understanding is that there can also be corridors that connect any isolated green spaces. *Also Loves Trees*

Dear Also Loves Trees,
Thanks for writing. You are correct in saying that corridors can connect any isolated spaces. However, these corridors are more commonly called green corridors. Green corridors are strategically planned networks that connect any green spaces or perhaps are links in landscaping. They may also be called biodiversity or ecological corridors which are corridors designed to protect the biological diversity of large portions of land. Pathways may be found in cities, roads, crops or logging activities as they help mitigate urban development’s impact on the environment. Corridors of all kinds serve as pathways for wildlife and allow the free movement of animals, facilitate seed dispersal and expand vegetation cover.

Interesting Info: Turtles have existed for about 230 million years. Today there are about 330 different species of turtles ranging from those that will fit in the palm of your hand to ones that weigh up to 1,800 pounds!

Have questions about recycling, or interesting information about recycling? Send questions or requests recycleladywv@gmail.com. Dear Recycle Lady is sponsored jointly by the Greenbrier Recycling Center and Greenworks Recycling.

West Virginia Squirrel Season Opens Sept. 12

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. - West Virginia’s regular squirrel season will open statewide Sept. 12, offering new and experienced hunters an opportunity to refine their hunting skills. The season runs through Feb. 28, 2027.

“Squirrel hunting is a long-standing tradition in West Virginia and is how many hunters are introduced to the

sport,” said Brett McMillion, director of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. “We encourage folks to give squirrel hunting a try or use it as practice for an upcoming season. It’s a great time to be outdoors in West Virginia.”

Beyond recreational benefits, squirrel hunting plays a role in wildlife management. By managing squirrel populations, hunters help maintain

“Smoot”

cont. from p. 2

purchase less beef at a higher price, the “invisible hand” concept states that surpluses of beef will rise and prices fall as a result. Or, the lure of higher profits will pull more into cattle production and expand supply enough to pull down prices.

That is how the invisible hand operates unless something interferes.

More regulations and interference from the government make it difficult to maintain an operation or to break in as a new entrepreneur.

Those were some simple lessons on a complicated topic from my high school economics teacher, helping his students grasp how the world really works.

Experience the experience of the PSC



The Public Service Commission has solved one of the age-old dilemmas facing newcomers in applying for jobs. You have a degree, but how do you get a job without experience? I’m glad you asked. The Public Service Commission wants you, and we are happy to provide you with the opportunity to gain the experience. Are you a newly graduated lawyer jittery about entering the courtroom? We want you. Are you a newly graduated accountant who is afraid of being shunted aside to count beans? We want you too, and you won’t be counting beans. Are you a new engineer without field experience? The Public Service Commission is just the ticket. Ours is the place

where professionals can pick up valuable work experience to add to their resumes. And we guarantee you meaningful, practical experience in a good atmosphere. Young lawyers sit at the table, prepare their cases and argue before the Commission. You won’t be in the second seat if you join our staff. And you won’t be chained to menial tasks in an office. Accountants will be totting up numbers that will make a difference to thousands of ratepayers across the state. And you will not only be making the calculations, but you will be gaining valuable courtroom experience, testifying to back up your calculations. As an engineer, you will find yourself visiting numerous water, sewer, and other utility projects across the state as you practice your craft with your hiking boots on. Rarely are new college graduates given the opportunities you will find at the Public Service Commission. Here you go to the front of the class immediately. Here, you make real decisions that affect thousands of West Virginians. We offer competitive wages, a good health care plan, and reasonable work hours that will not keep you at the grindstone 16 hours a day, seven days a week. We want you to work, but we want you to enjoy your off time, too.

Think about it. Give us some time. If you don’t like it, try something else. But few other offices will give you as much practical experience as quickly as the Public Service Commission. We’re always looking for professionals. Just give us a call. 304-340-0300. Experience the experience.

“Voter”

cont. from p. 6

more than paperwork. It is about citizenship. It is about taking ownership of our future and ensuring that every eligible West Virginian has the opportunity to participate in the decisions that affect our families, communities, and state.

Whether you’re an 18-year-old preparing to vote for the first time, a longtime voter who recently moved, a current voter who wants to change their political party affiliation, or someone who simply wants to double-check their information, now is the time to act. All of this can be done in person by visiting

your local county clerk or online at GoVoteWV.com.

Registering takes only a few minutes, but it ensures that your voice can be heard when it matters most. The message is simple: be registered and be ready.

This September, I encourage every eligible West Virginian to make sure they are prepared for the November General Election. True representative leadership relies on citizen participation, and that participation begins with registering to vote.

Every voice matters, and every election begins with being ready.

ecosystem balance to ensure adequate resources remain available for other wildlife.

Hunters should review current hunting regulations and safety guidelines before heading out. Regulations are available for download at WVdnr.gov/hunting-regulations.

Key season rules include:

- Daily bag limit: 6 squirrels
- Possession limit: 24 squirrels
- Season limit: None

All general state hunting regulations and licensing requirements apply.

The WVDNR offers durable physical license cards, which hunters can purchase as an upgrade to an existing license or add during renewal. Hunting licenses can be purchased online at WVhunt.com.

Treasurer Pack Announces 98% Parent Satisfaction with Hope Scholarship Program

Survey Finds Families Value Educational Choice, Customer Service, Ease of Application Process

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – State Treasurer Larry Pack, who serves as Chairman of the Hope Scholarship Board, today announced the results of the Hope Scholarship Parent Satisfaction Survey for the 2025-2026 school year, which found 98 percent of participating families are satisfied with the program. Nearly 900 parents responded to the survey, which was designed to better understand families’ experiences with the program and to identify the educational opportunities and services they value most. The survey was conducted from May 26 to June 30 and sent to over 10,000 Hope participants, including one survey to be completed per household.

“The results of this survey reinforce what we hear every day from our Hope Scholarship families across West Virginia – parents value having the freedom to choose an education that best meets the individual needs of their children,” Treasurer Pack said. “A 98 percent satisfaction rate is an incredible reflection of the positive impact the Hope Scholarship is having on families, and it also speaks to the outstanding work of our team as they continue to provide exceptional service to participants. We would love to see another government program that is as beloved as the Hope Scholarship.”

See “Hope” on Page 10

SHINNSTON

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FRY FREE**

Expires September 23, 2026

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Congressman Riley M. Moore Presents \$5 Million Check for Reconstruction of Bridges in the City of Clarksburg

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Riley M. Moore today presented a \$5 million federal funding check to City of Clarksburg officials to support the reconstruction and rehabilitation of five city-owned bridges.

Congressman Riley M. Moore released the following statement:

“Clarksburg’s bridges are critical pieces of infrastructure that connect families, workers, and businesses throughout the community. I’m proud to have secured this \$5 million in federal funding through my work on the House Appropriations Committee. Rehabilitating these bridges are essential to improving safety and reliability and ensuring Clarksburg has the infrastructure it needs to continue growing.”

The funding, secured through Congressman Moore’s work on the House Appropriations Committee, will support improvements to the Dublin Bridge, Sixth Street Bridge, Wiant Hollow Bridge, PFC Hotty Herrick Bridge, and Fourth Street Bridge.

The award was made to the West Virginia Division of Highways, which will oversee and complete the project. The bridges are located within Clarksburg and are owned by the City of Clarksburg.



Congressman Moore remains committed to delivering federal resources to West Virginia communities and investing in critical infrastructure across the Second Congressional District.

Introducing Your 2026 Lincoln High School Homecoming Court



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WVU Medicine

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120 Medical Park Dr, Ste 101

Bridgeport, WV 26330

681-342-2475

“Hope”

cont. from p. 9

The Hope Scholarship Parent Satisfaction Survey, which is required by state law, found 95 percent of parents who sought assistance were satisfied with customer service provided through the program. Four out of five parents also reported no difficulty with the application process.

When asked to identify the primary reason families chose to participate in the Hope Scholarship Program, the top response was the ability to provide a religious-based education, followed by concerns about the public school curriculum and a desire for greater flexibility in their child’s education.

“The Hope Scholarship was created to put parents in the driver’s seat when it comes to their child’s education, and these responses show families are using that freedom in many different ways,” Treasurer Pack said. “When you have such an open marketplace unique to the rest of the country, it is vital that we know whether it is working well. Clearly, our TheoPay system, which provides an additional layer of flexibility, is a big hit with families based on their feedback.”

Among additional findings:

- Parents identified curriculum as the most important Hope Scholarship qualifying expense, followed by nonpublic school tuition, technology and digital courses or subscriptions. Curriculum was selected 694 times among parents’ top three expenses, while nonpublic school tuition was selected 560 times and technology was selected 483 times.
- More than 95 percent of respondents said they were satisfied or very satisfied with communications from the Hope Scholarship Program regarding Board updates, important deadlines and general reminders.
- Among parents whose children attended a nonpublic school or microschool, the overwhelming majority described the process of selecting a school and paying tuition through the Hope online portal as easy.
- Parents cited smaller classes sizes, access to additional services or support, bullying concerns and school safety concerns, among other reasons for choosing the program.

The survey included 12 multiple-choice questions and one open-ended question. Data from the survey will be included in the 2025-2026 Hope Scholarship Annual Report, which will be completed by the end of the calendar year.