

Food Pantry and Bank Volunteers With Bridge to Nutrition are Citizens of the Month



The Bridge to Nutrition program helps to keep organizations such as The Lord’s Pantry in Shinnston stocked with food. Picture is from a wintertime project from The Lord’s Pantry.

The Shinnston News & Harrison County Journal has named Food Pantry and Bank Volunteers as Citizens of the Month, a recognition sponsored by Dorsey Funeral Home in Shinnston - locally owned and operated.

By Stephen Smoot

Through the month of September, every bank serving Harrison County has teamed up with every food pantry to build the “Bridge to Nutrition.” That “bridge” takes the form of regular food donation drives with that for September called “Fall Into Giving.”

As Dolores Yoke, President of the Mustard Seed food pantry explained, “the need is crazy and it is growing” as more households struggle to obtain healthy food.

She discussed how the pantries used to partner with the United States Postal Service employee union, but their budget for such efforts was cut back. Harrison County Bank stepped forward first, asking “how can we help?” They agreed to take non perishable food donations at its branches. When asked to join, every other bank in Harrison County followed suit.

Donations will be accepted through this coming Saturday September 26.

“There’s not a collaboration like this in Harrison County,” she noted. Yoke explained that the donations received at the bank branches will be gathered together and then equally distributed amongst the 19 food pantries in Harrison County, including the Lord’s Pantry in Shinnston.

She stated that at least one bank asked if “we can do it longer (because) no one’s ever done anything like this before.” Donors need not have an account

See “Community Banks” Pg 5

Public Hearings Precede Regular City Council Meeting

By Leigh C. Merrifield

In the absence of Mayor Patrick Kovalck, Shinnston’s City Council meeting was conducted by Vice-Mayor Rodney Strait.

The first order of business was to address two Public Hearings. The first was an Ordinance Implementing The City’s Municipal Home Rule Authority To Authorize Intergovernmental Agreements by Resolution. City Manager Tori Drainer stated, “This would allow Council to use Home Rule authority by a resolution and this could be handled in one meeting as opposed to an ordinance which would require three meetings, so it would be a time-saver.” No public comments were offered. This was later voted on under old business and passed.

The second Public Hearing involved the City of Shinnston’s Source Water Protection Plan, which is required to ensure safe water supply if the Tygart River would ever be contaminated. Kris Warner, a representative from ARCAP, was present to explain this, noting it had to be redone every three years, and also requires approval by the state. This matter was also voted upon and passed.

The Public Hearing closed and Council moved forward to Petition of Citizens. Local resident Tammy Carpenter spoke, asking if Council would be willing to issue a Proclamation supporting FTD Awareness, which is a form of dementia but differs from Alzheimer’s. It is a brain disorder caused by degeneration of the frontal and/or temporal lobes of the brain and brings about gradual decline in behavior, language, movement, and speech, and causes changes in behavior, personality and decision making. Ms. Carpenter, who serves as an ambassador for FTD in West Virginia, is one of 60,000 people whose lives are dealing with this hardship. She noted that it is often misdiagnosed and can take more than three years for an accurate diagnosis. It can affect even those in their early

20s and it currently has no cure! After hearing her speak, Council agreed to issue a Proclamation supporting FTD Awareness at its next meeting on September 28th.

The City Manager offered her executive report next, commenting on the difficulties tackled during the recent main water line break that required full work crews to work five solid days getting service restored to normal. She said it had also forced the delay of their Smoke Testing project, which will now begin in October. “Property owners who will be affected by this testing will receive notice beforehand,” Mrs. Drainer explained, adding that two to three streets per ward will be checked. She also made it clear that residents might see signs of smoke during the testing, but it is not harmful.

Mrs. Drainer also informed Council that a required archeological dig has been done in the creek beneath the South Shinnston bridge (which was built in the early 1900s), and artifacts of all kinds were delivered to her – from pennies to glass, nails, aluminum, ceramic items, bone fragments, etc. She said some things dated back to the 1600s, so she would check with the museum to see if they might be interested in any of it. The state has allocated funding for this bridge replacement, which is scheduled for 2027. There is a deadline nearing on September 30th to make a decision on the design of the bridge.

Since the minutes of the August 31st meeting have been approved, the City is now able to proceed with legal suits regarding the three dilapidated properties that will be the first on their list to be addressed.

Mrs. Drainer also announced that the new water line for the Scudere property in Enterprise has been completed and will be able to adequately supply water to that property.

Stantec representative Richard Gaines was present and reported that he has revised the change



West Virginia State Treasurer and Chairman of the HOPE Scholarship Board Larry Pack, explained the need to robustly support both public and alternative education models. Pictured here at the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Summit.

State Treasurer Touts HOPE Scholarship Impact While Also Calling for Better Support of Public Schools

By Stephen Smoot

Many on both sides of the debate over traditional public education versus alternative forms of private schooling tend to frame the issue as either or. West Virginia Treasurer Larry Pack does not see public education on one hand as either traditional schools or homeschooling, microschooling, or private schooling, but argued that the State should robustly support both.

“We need to do both,” stated State Treasurer Pack, “we need to give people the chance to get the best education possible.” He then related “if you are a statewide official, you have to be supportive of public schools.” Then, he laid out ideas on how to bring needed support and improvement to them.

“We do public schools in West Virginia in a unique way,” he explained, discussing four poles of authority at the county level, the West Virginia Board of Education, the executive branch, and the legislative branch. “Those four groups have to get together” to successfully address issues faced. He stated that a sense of urgency is needed because “our public schools are in somewhat of a crisis.”

He explained that school administrators

See “Treasurer” Pg 6



McDonald's

of

Harrison County

Harmony Valley

Carefree, Comfortable & Independent Living for Seniors 55+

(304) 622-6711 or (304) 677-6800

Located on Sun Valley Rd. (Off Rt. 50 W. of Clarksburg)

order on the Stage 3 Water Project three times now and that it should be ready by Council’s next meeting.

See “Hearings” Pg 5

Sept. 30, 1832: Community leader Ann Reeves
See “History” Pg 3

OBITUARIES

Dorsey

Funeral Home

LOUIE MALE, Owner/Licensee-In Charge

701 South Pike Street, Shinnston, WV 26431

Office: 304-592-2500 ~ Fax: 304-592-2571

www.dorseyfuneralhomewv.com



Harmer Funeral Home

Shinnston, WV · 592-2500

www.harmerfuneralhome.com

Jay D. Harmer, LLC,

Jacob A. Harmer, Licensed Funeral Director



Perine Funeral Home

Call 592-5925 • 1348 S. Pike St. Shinnston

Timothy E. Perine - L.I.C./Owner

Adam T. Perine - Funeral Director/General Manager

Patrick A. Kovalck - Licensed Director



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.

Gloria “Faye” Grounds Hodge



Gloria “Faye” Grounds Hodge, 85 years old, departed this world in the early morning hours of September 13, 2026 to be reunited with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and all of her loved ones who had gone before.

Faye was born the fifth of ten children of Ira Herndon Grounds and Florie Bethel Stover Grounds on March 14, 1941 in Coal River WV, although she primarily was raised on Cabin Creek. She was pre deceased by her parents and brothers: Earl, Den, Terry and Kent; and sisters: Judy, Betty, Bethel and Sharon.

Shemarriedthe love of her life, Larry Houston Hodge, at Decota Methodist Church on her eighteenth birthday, and they were married

65 years before he was called home on September 8, 2024.

She was also met in heaven by her grandson, Jordan Lucas Keesecker, and great granddaughter Jaelyn Hodge.

Left to cherish her memories are her sister, Danese Mabbitt of Staunton, Virginia, her sisters in law, Thelma Hodge of Renick, WV, Judy Grounds of Kanawha City, WV, Louise Grounds of Cross Lanes, WV, brother in law EJ Walker of Bidwell, OH, and honorary sister in law Patty Grounds of Cabin Creek, WV.

Those left to carry on her legacy include her children, Greg (Debbie) Hodge of Calvin, WV, Gary (Madilyn) Hodge of Ladera Ranch, CA, Jeff (Debbie) Hodge of Johnson City, TN, Scott (Susan) Hodge of Camden, SC, and Mindy (Johnny) Layne of Fairmont WV, her grandchildren: Katherine, Chrissy, Kim, Michael, Tina, Jeffrey, Kayla, Ryan, Isaac, Julian, Bethany, Cole, Zoe, Heather, Kate and Emma, great grandchildren Josh, Elijah, Ashtyn, Annabelle, Kynlee, Pete, Callie, Jordan, Emerson, Easton, Daisy, Jonah, Oliver, Ella, Emilia and Mollie, and too many nieces and nephews to count.

Faye’s walk with Christ began in October 1977 when in a small country church, Henning Church of God, in Frankford, West Virginia, the call of Christ spoke to Faye, her husband, Larry, and all five of their children as they knelt at an altar as “The King is Coming”was ringing throughout the church building. At that moment the trajectory of her life along with those of her immediate family changed her outward and inward in person, and she began a life of service to her Lord, setting an outstanding example for generations to come through her service at First Church of God in Princeton, WV, Maranatha Tabernacle in Unicoi, TN, and Landmark First Church

of God in Princeton, WV.

Outside her faith, Faye’s role as a grandmother (she was lovingly referred to as “Mommaw”) set the bar extremely high for anyone to follow in her footsteps. She was nothing less than a short-order cook for breakfast as no grandchild’s request for their preferred breakfast food would go unheeded.

Faye was the epitome of the perfect housewife. She took care of her home with pride and everyone enjoyed her cooking immensely. While residing in Erwin, Tennessee, Faye became an LPN at the age of 48 and worked alongside her husband in nursing homes in East Tennessee caring for the elderly and those with Alzheimer’s at what was then known as Life Care Center of Erwin. Accordingly it was bittersweet when at the age of 82 she had a stroke that catapulted her into late stage Alzheimer’s which forced her to need caregivers that could give her the love and respect that she so graciously gave to those that she cared for when she was in her prime.

Special thanks to Harmony at White Oaks in Bridgeport for the care and love they showed Faye, and specifically Sasha, who she loved immensely. Also, special appreciation to Amedisys Hospice Care (Brenna, Rachael and Alyssa) from Anmoore that showered her with care and love over the past few months.

A celebration of Faye’s life will be held at Landmark First Church of God in Princeton, WV on Friday, September 18, 2026, with visitation at 1:00 pm, and a memorial service at 2:00 pm. Condolences may be extended to the family at www.perinefunerals.com. The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Hodge family

Doris “Joann” Fleming

Doris “Joann” Fleming, 90, of Burgettstown, PA,



formerly of Wallace, passed away peacefully on Saturday, September 12, 2026 at her caretakers’ residence in Burgettstown, PA. She was born July 12, 1936 in Wallace, daughter of the late Ira and Vallie Marie (Hurst) Goldsmith. Joann was also preceded in death by her husband, Roy “Loudin” Fleming; brother, Wayne Edward Goldsmith; sisters: Virginia Jenny Crislip and Helen Marie Anderson.

Upon graduation from Wallace HS in 1955, Joann worked for many years at the Standard Supply Company Store in Dola, WV. She then began a career as a glass decorator at Eagle Convex Glass Specialty Company in Clarksburg, and retired after 20 years of service. Joann married Roy Loudin Fleming at Woodsfield, OH on August 16, 1991, and they shared 28 years of marriage before his passing.

Joann loved flowers, cooking, listening to country music, and sitting on her porch swing and chatting with passersby, especially children, at her home in Wallace. She was a baptized member of the former Smith Baptist Church in Wallace. Joann was loved by many and always made you feel at home.

Joann is survived by stepson, Fritz Benker and wife, Erika; two granddaughters: Jasmine and Tina, all of Germany; brother-in-law, James “Jim” Anderson of Burgettstown, PA; sisters-in-law; Ruth Fleming Chase of Huntingtown, MD and Florence Golden Fleming of Mt. Claire, WV; numerous nieces and nephews, cousins, many friends and special caretaker, Cathy Studebaker.

Family and friends will be received at Dorsey Funeral Home, 701 S. Pike St., Shinnston, on Friday, September 18, 2026 for visitation from 4:00PM until 8:00PM. Funeral service will be held on Saturday, September 19, 2026 at 11:00AM with Pastor Keith Swiger officiating. Interment at Wallace Lions Cemetery.

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

Samuel “Scott” Sargent



Samuel “Scott” Sargent, 54, of Enterprise, passed away on September 17, 2026 at his residence. He was born in Fairmont to Judith Ann (Satterfield) Swiger and the late Ronald Sargent.

Samuel enjoyed bowling and riding motorcycles.

He is survived by his parents, Judith and Paul Swiger of Enterprise; two brothers: Todd Swiger of Enterprise and Thomas Swiger of Enterprise; two sisters: Tammy Delovio and husband Makana of HI and Tara Riffle and husband Willie of Meadowbrook; two aunts: Linda Hinerman and Donna Knight, both of Bingamon as well as several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his father, Samuel is preceded in death by one brother, Timothy Swiger and maternal grandparents, Howard and Dorothea Satterfield.

In honoring his wishes, cremation services will be provided.

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

“History” cont. from p. 2

Jarvis was born in Virginia. She organized Mother’s Day Work Clubs in Taylor County to improve health conditions and is credited with pulling together a divided community after the Civil War. She was the inspiration for Mother’s Day, first celebrated in Grafton in 1908.

Sept. 30, 1872: Educator Fannie Cobb Carter was born in Charleston. She organized the teacher-training department at what is now West Virginia State University, led the State Industrial Home for Colored Girls in Huntington and was director of adult education in Kanawha County.

Sept. 30, 2010: Facing an economic downturn and foreign competition, Wheeling-La Belle Nail Company closed. The company was founded in 1852 as La Belle Ironworks. By 1875, Wheeling was known as the Nail City, and La Belle was the city’s leading nail producer.

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.

Read Local

Keep up with your community!



Big Wins For Football Teams in Week Four



The Bottom Line

By Bill Nestor
Sports Editor

The Cougars evened up their record at two and two with an impressive, come from behind victory over Nicholas County last Friday, 32 to 14. It was a second home game of the campaign for Lincoln in their first home win.

The Grizzlies held a 14 to 7 lead after the first period of play, but that is when veteran mentor Rob Hawkins and his team slammed the door on the visitors. Cougar quarterback Bear Saab played well throughout the affair, getting his team on the board in the 1st quarter with a 39 yard scoring strike to Jacob Bart.

Saab would go 11 for 19 on the evening for 183 yards and two more scores. Trent Moore hauled in three passes, two of which found the end zone on plays of 29 and 54 yards, respectively. Connor Rice paced the ground game for Lincoln, earning 198 yards on 32 attempts. Rice also ripped off a 56 yard scoring run as the Cougars would score the last four touchdowns of the affair.

The defensive unit played well with five takeaways in the lockup. Brody Barnes came up big with a pair of interceptions. The Cougars had four total interceptions to go with a fumble recovery in the win. Lincoln will take a week off before a big clash with unbeaten North Marion.

Robert C. Byrd remained undefeated with a 35 to 28 win over Preston at One Eagle Way. It was the third of a three game home stand for the Flying Eagles. The Knights held a 14 to nothing halftime lead after forcing a pair of

RCB turnovers. However, Junior Smith would provide the home team with a spark. On the opening kickoff of the second half, Smith returned at 77 yards for a score.

Minutes later, on their next try, Flying Eagle signal caller, Isaiah Heflin. would scoop up a fumble and go 64 yards for a score. The teams would trade scores until Heflin would score on a 12 yard run, giving RCB its first lead with just over a minute left in regulation. Heflin ran for 142 yards on 12 carries with three scores.

Smith added a nine yard scoring run in the victory. It’s the first time since 2007, the Flying Eagles have started 4-0. That year they finished a regular season, 10 and 0 new paragraph, Bridgeport upended Philip Barber, 52 to three in Colt country. It was the first game for The Indians away from Wayne Jameson Field this season. They showed no ill effects from playing on the road.

The Tribe went out for a 14 to nothing lead at the end of the first quarter and grew their lead to 35 to nothing at the break. More of the same took place in the second half, and Bridgeport rode to the victory.

Indian quarterback Graham Vincent accounted for 167 all purpose yards and a pair of rushing touchdowns. Gabe Martin had 153 yards on the ground in 17 rushes, on 17 rushes with a pair of scores, new paragraph. Bridgeport’s defense was impressive, allowing just six Colt first downs in the affair. This week, RCB will travel to Bridgeport in a key confrontation.

Last week, the Flying Eagles were tied with South Charleston for top spot in class AAA. It marked the first time in school history, they held a piece of the top ranking.

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

Harrison County athletes in the spotlight this week are Bridgeport’s Lindsay, Callahan, and Lincoln’s Bear Saab.

Indian soccer player Lindsay Callahan had a career game recently. Callahan netted a career best six goals in a win over Preston.

Cougar quarterback, Bear Saab, helped his team to win over Nicholas County last week. Saab was 11 of 19 passing for 183 yards and three touchdowns.

Congratulations to Bridgeport’s Lindsay Callahan and Lincoln’s Bear Saab for shining bright in the SN, and HCJ Athlete Spotlight.

Fairmont Chamber Music Society Welcomes Internationally Renowned Artists on Sept 27

By Stephen Smoot

This coming Sunday, September 27 at three o’ clock, the Fairmont Chamber Music Society welcomes the Tekalli Duo. This will kick off a series of performances going into 2027. Saint Peter the Fisherman Catholic Church will host the event.

Suliman Tekalli and his sister Dr. Jamila Tekalli Hanner make up the performing duo. Tekalli studied at the famous Juilliard School in New York City, as well as the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Yale School of Music. Dr. Hanner earned a

doctorate from the University of Miami and serves on the faculty at Levine Music.

Their ethnic background in the culture of Libya and Japan bring added color to their performances of Western classical standards as well as contemporary compositions by Japanese and North African artists and their own original works and interpretations.

Mr. Tekalli as a soloist and recitalist earned top prize in the Seoul International Music Competition in South Korea, first prize in the Blount National String Competition, and other laurels from Japan, Mexico, and

elsewhere.

Dr. Hanner earned a spot as a finalist in the Stravinsky Awards International Piano Competition, first place in the MTNA Steinway Collegiate International Piano Competition and a number of other accolades.

The duo commenced creating music together and children and have performed as a pair ever since.

Next up, Frisson Trio d’ Anches will perform on November 8 at three o’ clock in the afternoon. The second half of the season will commence on February 21 with the Summit Piano Trio.

THANK YOU FOR READING





Protection your loved ones deserve ...

GUARANTEED Life Insurance up to \$30,000.00

Modified Whole Life Insurance from Physicians Life Insurance Company

- Guaranteed acceptance for ages 45 to 85*
- No medical exam, no health questions
- Lock in your rate for life

Call for your FREE Information Kit

1-888-217-5559

Life55plus.info/WV

► Plus – you'll also get a FREE Final Wishes Planner just for calling!

*Ages may vary by state. Guaranteed for one of these life insurance policies. Benefits reduced first two years. Insurance Policy L770 (ID: L770ID; OK: L770OK; TN: L770TN), 6236-0625

Super Crossword

Answers

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

West Virginia Statewide Classified Network

Featured in WVPA Newspapers Across West Virginia

HEALTH/MEDICAL

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

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

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

INTERNET/TV

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

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

MISCELLANEOUS

DONATE YOUR CAR, TRUCK, BOAT, RV AND MORE TO SUPPORT OUR VETERANS! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-888-964-4167 today

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

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

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

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

UP TO \$15,000.00 OF GUARANTEED

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

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

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

TRAVEL

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

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





“Community Banks”

cont. from p. 1

at the bank to stop in and donate. Community banks operate differently than financial entities that operate on a national or even a global scale, such as Wells Fargo, J. P. Morgan, or Bank of America. Smaller in scale and scope, community banks only invest in the communities from which they take deposits. Yoke explained that “they are the businesses that have the pulse of the community, often before the community knows it.” She added that community banks usually step up first to help address

community needs or support projects of need. “We are trying to make better nutrition possible,” said Yoke. Most needed items include canned vegetables, fruits, and meats, cans of soup, stew, or chili, Peanut butter, jelly, boxed pasta, jars of pasta sauce, rice, instant potatoes, dry beans and lentils, breakfast cereal and oatmeal, shelf-stable and powdered milk, crackers and granola bars. Special requests include can openers, gluten-free foods, and

baby food and formula. Banks participating include: Chase Bank, City National Bank, Clear Mountain Bank, First Guaranty Bank, Freedom Bank, Harrison County Bank, Home Federal Credit Union, Huntington Bank, Justice Federal Credit Union, MVB, West Union Bank. Most participating financial institutions are community banks, but some are either larger scale banks or credit unions. All deserve commendation for stepping forward and helping out.

“Hearings”

cont. from p. 1

New Business included consideration of the durability and longevity of the Rail Trail fencing. Councilman Andy Kisamore suggested getting quotes on new fencing in the area of the trailhead. “I notice that there are frequently split rails knocked down and it seems to create a chain reaction,” he stated. “I think we should check into replacing it with something more sustainable that would also be more presentable.” He also mentioned updating the lighting there since power is already available. Another item of new business was to consider raising the police fee; it was mentioned that this fee had remained at \$5 for over 20 years. An increase from \$5 to \$10 may be further revisited. Council also discussed that there are several drainage issues in the downtown

area and that mold remediation is needed at 43 Bridge Street where mold has been detected. It has been looked at and a thorough estimate has been presented. The City Manager noted that the City has a budgeted item for cases such as this, and what funding is there should cover the work that needs to be done. Council voted to authorize the City Manager to work on a contract with Rapid Disaster Solutions to handle this remediation. One item of new business – discussion of the corrective deed from LR Builds or its affiliates to the City of Shinnston related to the Harrison County/Shinnston Rail Trail Corridor – was moved to discuss in executive session. Before adjournment, a reminder was given about the upcoming Lincoln High School Homecoming parade and the

Homecoming football game. In addition, on October 3rd the 6th annual Jr. Nuzum Cross Country Meet will be held at Ferguson Memorial Park and will involve both high school and middle school teams from all over the state. Lincoln Coach Kevin Nuzum stated that 15 teams will be participating and medals will be awarded to the top 25. This event begins at 9 a.m. (Concessions will be available) Then on Saturday, October 10th at 11 a.m. a ribbon cutting will celebrate the Reopening of the Rail Trail. Don’t forget that Fall Fest, a one-day City event, will be held on the Greenspace that same day with food trucks and live music. Be sure to cast your vote for the best decorated hay bale! With no further business to address, Council adjourned for an Executive Session.

Governor Morrisey Announces Historic \$15 Million Federal Grant Awarded to West Virginia Community and Technical College System Largest Educational Opportunity Centers Grant in the Nation Will Fuel Statewide Workforce Readiness and Higher Education Access

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Governor Patrick Morrisey announced today that the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (WVCCTCE) has secured a landmark \$15 million federal Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) grant to expand educational access and career training opportunities for adult learners across the Mountain State. Providing \$3 million annually over five years, the award represents the largest EOC grant in the nation. “This historic \$15 million investment marks a transformative milestone for West Virginia’s workforce and economy,” said Governor Patrick Morrisey. “By connecting our residents directly to career training, industry-recognized credentials, and higher education, we are removing barriers to employment and strengthening our state’s talent pipeline. West Virginia is leading the nation in delivering real opportunities to our people, and this grant ensures that every adult seeking to build a better life has the tools and support to succeed.” The grant funds the statewide WV READY Educational Opportunity Centers (WV READY EOC) initiative, a collaborative project spanning all 55 counties and uniting all nine of West

Virginia’s community and technical colleges including Blue Ridge Community and Technical College, BridgeValley Community and Technical College, Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College, Mountwest Community and Technical College, New River Community and Technical College, Pierpont Community and Technical College, Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College, West Virginia Northern Community College, and West Virginia University at Parkersburg. Designed to serve adults ages 19 and older, out-of-school youth, veterans, low-income residents, and first-generation students, WV READY EOC delivers tailored guidance to streamline postsecondary enrollment, pre-apprenticeships, and Registered Apprenticeship Programs. The initiative delivers critical individual support, including admissions coaching, high school diploma/equivalency completion assistance, financial literacy programs, and FAFSA completion aid. Key project benchmarks include targeting a 65% FAFSA completion rate and a 55% postsecondary or apprenticeship enrollment rate among participants.



Photo Courtesy of wvnews.com.

“At the end of the day, this is an investment in our people and our communities,” said Dr. Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Chancellor of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and Community and Technical College System. “We’re honored to receive the largest EOC award in the nation, and we’re ready to work creating life-changing opportunities across our state. Through this grant, thousands of West Virginians will have access to the support and guidance they need to overcome obstacles and reach their goals.”

Perine Funeral Home
304-592-5925
1348 S. Pike Street, Shinnston, WV
Adam T. Perine - L.I.C.
Patrick A. Kovalck - Licensed Director
“Family Owned & Operated”



Dorsey
Funeral Home

LOUIE MALE
Owner/Licensee - In Charge
Locally owned and operated.
701 South Pike Street, Shinnston, WV 26431
Office: 304-592-1358
Fax: 304-592-2571

The City of Shinnston

Council meets at 7:00pm on the second and last Mondays.
Join Us On Facebook!



SDA
A WV ONTRAC COMMUNITY
Promoting the business prosperity & economic welfare of Shinnston



Almost Heaven

There is so much beauty to behold if you live in the state of West Virginia, where residents have the privilege to enjoy ALL the seasons – each displaying varying color palettes along with many year-round recreation opportunities!

This coming week brings the first day of Autumn, and personally speaking, this season is a favorite of mine. While I try not to think ahead to facing the winter chill that will follow, I do look forward to less humidity and watching nature’s color palette change to rich reds, burnt oranges, and deep golden tones on our rolling hills. Capturing our vibrant fall foliage must be a photographer’s dream come true!

Spring, too, is equally uplifting, bringing a welcome change after trees have been barren and flowers have vanished through the winter months. Greenery once again becomes predominant and colorful blooms return. I guess it’s pretty obvious that I prefer the moderate seasons; however, throughout our four seasons in West Virginia, there are always outdoor adventures available – fishing, hunting, hiking, biking, kayaking, skiing, snowshoeing, etc. – a sport for each season, with many fairs, festivals, and community events that draw visitors.

Being able to enjoy our state’s seasonal changes DOES make this ‘Almost Heaven’, despite the burden of distasteful jokes being thrown our way. You’ve heard them, I’m sure – like YOU KNOW YOU’RE FROM WEST VIRGINIA IF: 1) somebody tells you that you have something between your teeth and you take them out to see what it is; 2) you stare at a can of orange juice because it says “concentrate”; or 3) you think a quarter horse is the ride in front of Kmart! Those are just a few of the many mockeries we encounter.

I saved this old post I ran across several years ago, and I’ll share it because I loved the punchline! Radio announcer (the late) Warren Swain was the voice of Nebraska football and basketball for several years. One weekend he was in Oklahoma broadcasting a football game and noticed a special telephone near the Sooner’s bench; he asked someone what it was and was told it was the hotline to God. When he asked if he could use it, he was told it would cost him \$100. After scratching his head, he thought it would be worth it to help him call this game so he paid the \$100 and his broadcast went perfectly!

The following week, he was in Florida doing a game between Nebraska and FSU. Again he noticed the same kind of phone lying on the FSU bench and asked if he could use it. They said, “Sure, but it will cost you \$100.” Again he paid the price ... and again, had a flawless broadcast. The next week he traveled to West Virginia for a game at Mountaineer Field ... and yes, he once again noticed that same ‘Hotline to God’ phone on their bench too! When he asked to use it, he was told it would cost him 35 cents. Warren was puzzled and told them he had paid \$100 at both an Oklahoma game and an FSU game to use that phone. “Why does WV only charge 35 cents?” he asked. Here was the reply ... “In West Virginia, it’s a local call!”

Finally, a joke worth repeating about “Almost Heaven” – West Virginia! Read the explanation below about why people resort to mockery.

Quote of the Week: “It is insecure people who stoop to putting others down, which merely validates their own inferiority.” ~ Author Unknown

“Treasurer cont. from p. 1

and local school systems encounter rules and regulations that hamstringing their flexibility to address problems. “It’s not an ‘either or.’ We have to remember our public school system is under strain. We have to help them.”

The structure of funding schools was set decades ago, but State Treasurer Pack pointed out that the state has lost 200,000 students over that period of time. “Students are different too, now. There are a lot more behavioral issues.” Much of that comes from the social impacts of the decline of the traditional family and the opioid crisis. The problem of students bringing trauma and neglect from their homes “falls on the school system to take care of. They have to do a lot more that they didn’t have to do.”

It was not mentioned by the State Treasurer, but another issue in school funding needs lies in the significant expansion of equipment seen as a basic need for school function. In the 1980s going into the 90s, most schools lacked air conditioning and had relatively rudimentary technology needs. Teachers used decades-old film projectors and record players where they now need regular costly upgrades in technology. Most schools also lacked central air conditioning until the last decade of the 20th century. Now HVAC represents one of the largest equipment expenditures for many systems.

The State Treasurer praised the work of Communities In Schools, a program initiated by former Governor, now United States Senator, Jim Justice and championed by First Lady Cathy Justice. “That is definitely something we need to fund more,” he stated. Under current law, the funding for CIS for each county will dwindle to zero in the next few years unless the State Legislature revisits the issue. “We’re big believers in it,” he added, going on to say that “you can’t put a dollar amount to” the services provided and impact created by CIS. “They can catch a child having trouble and get them turned around,” he went on to say.

State Treasurer Pack then noted another way he felt the State must show support for public education. “We are woefully underpaying our teachers,” added the State Treasurer., calling them “our most valuable players.”

“Every one of us can remember two or three teachers who helped them get where they are in life,” said State Treasurer Pack, who stated that

SERVICES

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

he could name many more in his own life. He shared that discussion of a \$50,000 per year floor for teacher salaries will return next legislative session.

State Treasurer Pack has also shared the success of the HOPE Scholarship program in supporting alternative educational paths and parental choice among them. He currently serves as Chairman of the HOPE Scholarship Board as well. Last week, he released the results of a survey of 900 participants that reflected 96 percent satisfaction with the program that allows for parental choice in use of education funds. “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,” said State Treasurer Pack in the release.

“There are so many good stories about what’s happening,” he added, going on to explain that parents had a number of options for alternative education than they had prior to the HOPE Scholarship. That included selections from different types of schools, such as those offering education in the Classical tradition, Catholic and other Christian schools, microschools, and more. Additionally, he shared that one half of home-schooled students in West Virginia decline to apply for HOPE support.

Parents have a number of reasons for selecting alternative models, including a desire for religious instruction, difficulty of traumatized students in adapting to a traditional public school setting, a preference for a model, such as Classical, unavailable in the school system, or myriad other motivations.

About 26,000 students rely on HOPE funding to access their mode of education apart from the public school system.

He reiterated his belief that West Virginia needs the traditional and the alternative models of education. “We have to fight for both.”

PSC joins national effort to recognize truck drivers

CHARLESTON -The Public Service Commission of West Virginia (PSC) participated in National Truck Driver Appreciation Week by recognizing and thanking commercial truck drivers for their contributions to West Virginia and the nation.

PSC staff, transportation officers, and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) staff greeted drivers at the I-64 Eastbound weigh station. The group distributed informational packets while personally thanking drivers for their dedication to keeping the nation’s economy moving.

The packets included resources for the commercial motor vehicle community, information about the FMCSA’s Drug and

Alcohol Clearinghouse, and tips for managing fatigue and staying alert behind the wheel, among other items.

National Truck Driver Appreciation Week, observed September 13–19 this year, is an annual event organized by the FMCSA that recognizes the hard work and dedication of truck drivers and highlights the importance of safety on the roadways.

“Truck drivers make an important contribution to our communities and our economy,” PSC Chairman Charlotte R. Lane said. “We appreciate the long hours, dedication, and commitment they bring to their work, and we are proud to join our transportation partners in recognizing them and supporting their efforts to stay safe on the road.

EASY FINANCING
OPTIONS AVAILABLE!

CALL 833-974-2676

WE CAN HELP WITH

BASEMENT WATERPROOFING

HOME INSPECTIONS

FOUNDATION REPAIR

CRAWL SPACE ENCAPSULATION

SUMP PUMP INSTALLATION

CONCRETE LEVELING

BEFOREAFTER

CRACKS
IN THE
BASEMENT?

Donate Your Vehicle

Call (888) 964-4167 to donate your car, truck, boat, RV, and more today!

How it Works:

1. Contact Us
Call (888) 964-4167

2. Schedule Pickup
We'll pick up your vehicle for FREE - at a time and place convenient for you.

3. Receive Top Tax Deduction
You may qualify for a tax deduction.

- Support Veteran Nonprofits.
- Free Pickup & Towing.
- Top Tax Deduction.

Donate Your Vehicle Today
888-964-4167
www.veterancardonations.org/dnt36

Veteran Car Donations

While we appreciate every donation, in some cases, we find that we are unable to accept certain vehicles, watercraft, and/or recreational vehicles due to the prohibitive costs of acquisition. If you have any questions, please give us a call at (888) 964-4167.

Audien Hearing

The World’s First
Hearing Aids With
Touchscreen Controls.

No tiny buttons. No apps. No prescriptions.

Call 866-327-9323 to get your 45-day risk free trial.

- ✓ Revolutionary technology with touchscreen control.
- ✓ Hearing modes for any environment.
- ✓ Multiple models to choose from.
- ✓ Portable charging case.
- ✓ 48-hour battery life.
- ✓ UV cleaning.
- ✓ Background noise cancellation.
- ✓ 45-day risk free trial.
- ✓ Proudly located in the U.S.A.
- ✓ Free shipping direct to your door.
- ✓ 1.5 million+ happy customers.
- ✓ Lifetime support.

Atom X

Examining facts of the local novel, Daughter of the Elm

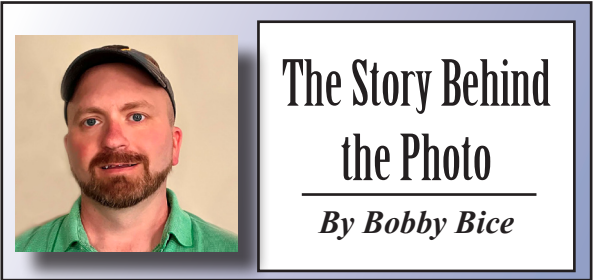
When penning the pages of the book, “Daughter of the Elm”, I doubt that Granville Davisson Hall ever thought it would be a book highly regarded as a local favorite for well over 100 years. It is, however, just that!

“Daughter of the Elm” came off the press in December 1899 and has intrigued readers for over a century.

A podcast series created through the Clarksburg History Museum has an episode detailing the big elm tree, farm, book, and author. Martha Jett first sat down with me in December 2024 and interviewed me for the episode. A technology glitch forced us to do it a second time, which we did in April 2025. The episode was finally released earlier this year. Martha has done an outstanding job with the series and several interesting topics have been covered during her interviews. It is available through Spotify, Apple, Amazon, and Youtube.

With an interest in local history, the ‘Big Elm Tree’ and the farm on which it grew have always been an interest to me. I have several photos and postcards of the farm as well as a few paintings of structures on the farm, which were painted by the late artist, Deloris Minor.

When driving north out of Shinnston on Route 19, there is nothing left of “Big Elm Farm”. However, the history contained within the community and under the branches of the once famous tree is well-preserved in newspaper articles, photographs, historical publications, and the book, Daughter of the Elm. The book highlights the best and the worst of its characters. I thought an interesting article for this month would be to help highlight the facts contained within the book. I consider the book to be a witty combination of mostly fact with some fiction. Over the years, when the book has become a topic of discussion, I’ve had people tell me many things, ranging from, “there’s not one word of the book that’s true” to “I believe every word of it.” It is my opinion that the book details true actions of real people and that Granville Davisson Hall disguised names to protect himself from suffering the same fate as some of the characters in his book. To state the obvious: the large elm tree mentioned in the book did exist. In fact, it won a prize in 1876 for the largest tree of its kind in the United States. The characters depicted in the book were actual people in real life. Almost all of their names were cleverly disguised by the author. To give a few examples, Enoch May



was actually Enoch Nay; Lot Dyson was actually Walter “Walt” Dye; and Loraine Esmond was actually Susannah Everson. The latter is the first character introduced in the book and is also the subject of this month’s submitted photo. The image was given to me by the late Jack Sandy Anderson and was originally taken by Muta Swiger, an early Shinnston photographer who wanted to help identify history’s mystery from the book. In addition to people, the author also disguised places: Worthlesston was actually Worthington and Riverside was actually Shinnston. Many early editions have hand-written notes from people who provided the names of the local residents who were defined as each character in the book.

While there are still people who insist that not a word of the book is true, let’s examine some things that absolutely are true.

The Book: The Esmond family lives in an old log house on a farm with a large elm tree.

The Fact: The Everson family lived in an old log house on a farm with the ‘Big Elm’ tree.

The Book: The character Joe Deidrich was a neighbor to the family that owned Big Elm Farm.

The Fact: Joe Tetrick was a neighbor to the family that owned Big Elm Farm.

The Book: George Holmes was a character whose father, Jacob, was a wagon maker in town.

The Fact: George Helms’s father, Jacob, really was a wagon maker in town.

The Book: Across the river from the large elm tree is a stream that comes down and empties into the West Fork River.

The Fact: Across from the location of the former elm tree is Mudlick Run, which really does empty into the West Fork River.

The Book: One of the characters has a girlfriend with the last name of Byers. Her father is a blacksmith and they live in the old stone house.

The Fact: George Siers was a blacksmith who lived in the old stone house with his family.

The Book: The Blue Boar Tavern was a hotel and bar in town. It had a sign out front with a black boar that, over time, the black paint faded to blue.



While reading the local novel, “Daughter of the Elm”, this image can help satisfy any curiosity for fact versus fiction.

The Fact: The Red Lion Tavern was a hotel and bar in town. It had a sign out front with a red lion painted on it.

The Book: Joe Deidrich bought property at Laurel Run off of Pete Righter.

The Fact: Joe Tetrick really did buy property at Laurel Run off of Pete Righter.

The Book: Mr. Fontrey operated a ferry for river transportation.

The Fact: Mr. Fortney operated a ferry for river transportation.

The Book: There was a hotel named the Busy Bee, not far from the ferry.

The Fact: There really was a hotel named the Busy Bee, not far from the ferry.

The Book: One of the characters stays at Walker’s Hotel in Clarksburg.

The Fact: Clarksburg really had a hotel named The Walker House.

Several more ‘truths’ come from the book than the ones I’ve listed here, but my point is that Granville Davisson Hall went far beyond disguising character’s names; he took their disguises off. With adding so much factual detail into his character’s creation, I’ve always

found it hard to believe that Granville Davisson Hall would make up the outlaw activities within the book. For anyone who may not have read the book, some of those outlaw activities involved robbing a bank, stealing horses (often times taking them to sell off in Pennsylvania), robbing a general store, burning of an insured Clarksburg saloon, murder of a PA cattle buyer, robbery in the Maulsby Bridge at present day Gypsy, and murder of a friend’s friend.

Regardless of whether or not people believe the events within the book to be true, Granville Davisson Hall should be considered a writing genius! The book has been printed at least seven times over the last 127 years and was considered by Hall to be his most famous writing. Few books, in particular local novels, have held such interest.

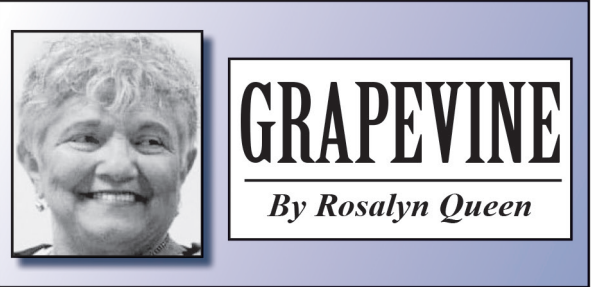
To quote the late James V. Morris of Enterprise, he told me one time, “The only people who say “Daughter of the Elm” is not a true story are the ones who descend from the bad guys.”

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

Classic Times Remembered When Driving a Classic Car

During the Italian Festival we had the opportunity to enjoy our 1957 Ford convertible which has been in our family for almost 70 years. Most car enthusiasts know this vehicle well and will always inquire about it.

Just a little history about this car. In 1957 I was a senior at Roosevelt Wilson, High School and at the time I was working evenings at the Clarksburg Cable Company. I had received a home economics scholarship to West Virginia University. but since I had a job I decided to forgo going to college. At the time, my father had found this beautiful vehicle and said to me, I will make the down payment on this car if you wanna buy it and since you have a job, you can make the payments which were about \$52 a month on it and it will be your graduation gift. I jumped at the idea. What girl graduating from high school did not want to travel around in a beautiful Ford convertible. so in 1950 We purchased the vehicle



and it was titled in my name. Did I have a great time traveling around in that vehicle? My dad kept it at home And dusted it every day. Dad was as proud as I was to have this vehicle in our family.

Last week I was attending my RW 1957 class luncheon and Garnet, Gillespie Garrett, and I had a great time talking about the 57. She was my classmate who lived very close to me and we were always doing things together. She reminded me of the time I took the vehicle to Weston to attend a funeral of a classmate, and she accompanied me and several other girls who at the time we just couldn’t think of their names.

As the story goes, I got married and I was interested in building a home and not riding around in a convertible. So dad had some



Pictured from left to right are Joan Burnett Smith, Bill Burnett and Rosalyn Burnett Queen standing in front of the 1957 Ford Fairlaine Convertible which has been in the family since 1957.

property and we agreed we would exchange the property for the convertible. But I did not want to do that until I took the convertible on my honeymoon to Washington DC.

That was in October of 1958. Trina Byard, a teacher in our system, is working on getting

a group of student actors to a national competition. These are students from Bridgeport High School. I urge you to support this project and help these students earn this honor.

Two very popular events were held this past week: the Clarksburg

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
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	CONCRETE SLAB ON FABRICATED STEEL GIRDER
SPAN(S):	4	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-000703 - HARRISON COUNTY - EASTERN HOLDINGS LLC)

To: ROBERT ALLEN HAMBRICK, AGNES HAMBRICK, 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 SARDIS OUTSIDE DISTRICT MAP 9999 PARCEL 0670 0661 0000

You will take notice that EASTERN HOLDINGS LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No.** 2025-C-000703, located in SARDIS OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, .0041 INT 42.7 AC O&G GREGORY RUN (CNX#1435/ANTERO, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of HAMBRICK RUSSELL R, 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 May 7, 2027, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before February 28, 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 - 0.	\$	0.00
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number.	\$	123.93
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2024 - 46719.	\$	0.00
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	136.05
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	1,092.01
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	1,351.99

You may redeem at any time before February 28, 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 September 14, 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

Grapevine

cont. from p. 7

Lions Club and the Sòns and Daughters Of Italy, Marconi Lodge. The Lions club picnic was held at the Clarksburg City Park and we invited the Nutter Fort Lions club to be part of our party. The Marconi Lodge picnic was held at the Our Lady church picnic shelter in Stonewood. Both events were well attended, and there was so much delicious food. It’s always great to attend these events and have the opportunity to mix with my many friends.,

The Progressive Womens Association continues to supply food baskets to cancer patients at the United Hospital Center. Once a month five baskets are taken there and given to those patients who need help at the time. The PWA is always looking for donations for this project if you are interested in donating food or money for this project, please contact the PWA at 304-624-6226.

2027 West Virginia Wildlife Calendar

now available for purchase

WVDNR’s annual calendar combines wildlife artwork, hunting and fishing dates and conservation support

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) today announced that the 2027 West Virginia Wildlife Calendar is now available to purchase online and at select retail locations across the state.

The award-winning calendar is a celebration of West Virginia’s rich natural heritage and a practical planning tool for hunters, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts. Each calendar features original, hand-painted artwork of native wildlife, key hunting and fishing dates, moon phases and educational articles that highlight the people and programs behind West Virginia’s conservation success stories.

“The Wildlife Calendar is not only a showcase for West Virginia’s natural beauty but also a valuable tool for anyone who hunts, fishes or just enjoys the outdoors,” said WVDNR Director Brett McMillion. “In addition, buying the calendar directly supports the agency’s conservation work to protect and conserve West Virginia’s natural resources.”

The 2027 calendar includes paintings of the following species:

- January: Red Fox by Ed Frantz
- February: A Fisher in a Log by Barbie Hillenbrand

- March: Foggy Morning Breakdown by Timothy Gump
 - April: Glorious West Virginia Spring by Lauri Waterfield Callison
 - May: Black Bears by Misty Murray-Walkup
 - June: Concert in the Clearing by Matt Tomko
 - July: Brown Bats at Hosaflook Cave by Roger Marsh
 - August: Opossum Family with PawPaws by Dinah McCloud
 - September: Resting Ravens by David Kiehm
 - October: Copperhead by Misty Murray-Walkup
 - November: Crappie by Ed

- Frantz
 - December: Flying Squirrels by Dinah McCloud

Calendars are \$15 each and usually sell out before Christmas, so those who want a copy are encouraged to buy one soon. The easiest way to purchase a calendar is to order online at WVstateparks.com, clicking “Merchandise” and following the onscreen prompts.

Calendars are also available at West Virginia State Park gift shops and select stores statewide. Bulk orders can be placed by calling 304-637-0245 or emailing Sanya.D.George@wv.gov. For more information, visit WVdnr.gov/wildlife-calendar.

LEGAL

PS Form 3526

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation
(All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title MICHAEL SHOWELL/SHINNSTON NEWS AND THE HARRISON COUNTY JOURNAL (THE)	2. Publication Number 494420	3. Filing Date 09/14/2026
4. Issue Frequency WEEKLY EXCEPT JULY 4TH AND CHRISTMAS	5. Number of Issues Published Annually 50	6. Annual Subscription Price \$ 49.00
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication PO BOX 157 SHINNSTON, HARRISO, WV 26431-0187		Contact Person MICHAEL SHOWELL Telephone (304) 592-1030
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher PO Box 429 Lewisburg, WV 24901-0429		
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor		
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) Michael Showell PO Box 429 Lewisburg, WV 24901-0429		
Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Stephen Smoot PO Box 429 Lewisburg, WV 24901-0429		
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)		
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as the names of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)		
Full Name Mountain Media, LLC	Complete Mailing Address PO Box 428, Lewisburg, WV 24901-0429	
Michael Showell	PO Box 428, Lewisburg, WV 24901-0429	
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box ☒ None		
Full Name	Complete Mailing Address	
13. Publication Title MICHAEL SHOWELL/SHINNSTON NEWS AND THE HARRISON COUNTY JOURNAL (THE)		
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 09/10/2026		15. Extent and Nature of Circulation
Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months		No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Numbers of Copies (Not press run)		1075
(1) Mailed Outside County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (exclude paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		52
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		80
(3) Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS		897
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)		0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), (4))		1029
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside County Copies included on PS Form 3541		6
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541		0
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)		0
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)		0
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), (4))		6
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		1036
g. Copies not Distributed		40
h. Total (Sum of 15f and 15g)		1075
i. Percent Paid ((15c / 15f) times 100)		99.42 %
16. If total circulation includes electronic copies, report that circulation on lines below.		
a. Paid Electronic Copies	43	40
b. Total Paid Print Copies(Line 15C) + Paid Electronic Copies	1072	1059
c. Total Print Distribution(Line 15F) + Paid Electronic Copies	1078	1059
d. Percent Paid(Both Print and Electronic Copies)	99.00 %	99.00 %
☒ I certify that 90% of all my distributed copies (Electronic and Print) are paid above a nominal price.		
17. Publication of Statement of Ownership		
☒ If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 09/24/2026 issue of this publication. ☐ Publication not required.		
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner Title		Date
Michael Showell Publisher		09/14/2026 10:30:41 AM
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).		
PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 1)		PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com



Dear Recycle Lady,
I have a large collection of workbooks. They have a soft-cover and the pages appear to be made of paper similar to newspaper. Are these workbooks recyclable? *Dedicated Recycler*

Dear Dedicated Recycler,
Since workbooks are made of paper, and paper is the most commonly recycled material worldwide, chances are your notebooks will be recyclable with a few checkups. Most workbooks are made of sheets of paper bound with a magazine-type cover, a cardboard cover, or a plastic cover. This cover must be removed before recycling the pages. The magazine cover (your soft cover) recycles with magazines, the cardboard cover recycles with cardboard, and the plastic cover goes in the trash. Before recycling the pages, check for heavily marked pages or pages with stickers. These pages should be torn out and trashed. The remaining pages with their soft cover can be recycled with magazines. After removing the cardboard cover or the plastic cover, the pages also recycle with magazines. Recycling these notebooks instead of sending them to the landfill is good for the environment. Every piece paper of paper recycled saves forests and minimizes energy usage. It means less rubbish sent to landfills, which produce methane that creates climate change. Have you considered donating your workbooks to a school or a group that works with children? Used notebooks can often be reused, particularly if they have empty pages.

Dear Recycle Lady,
Has the number of people using plastic bottles decreased after all the information that has been published about the hazards of drinking bottled water? *User of Steel Water Bottle*

Dear User of Steel Water Bottle,
It appears that information about microplastics in plastic water bottles is finally having an effect. According to worldmetrics.org, 83% of U. S. households used plastic bottles regularly in 2023, whereas in 2026, this number decreased to 70%. However, the 40 billion plastic water bottles produced in the US indicates that the use of plastic bottles remains robust. Besides harmful

microplastics found in bottled water, another concern is that BPA can leach from the plastics bottles during high temperatures leading to potential hormonal effects and hot water in plastic water bottles leach acetaldehyde molecules, a carcinogenic. Nano plastics that are smaller than micro plastics that leach from plastic water bottles can penetrate the blood-brain barrier causing inflammation in 93% of samples. Only 23% of plastic bottles in the U.S. are recycled and a single plastic water bottle takes 450 to 1,000 years to decompose in a landfill, releasing microplastics over time. The estimated 500 billion plastic water bottles used globally each year are a major contributor to the 60 million tons of plastic waste created globally every year. The cost to produce these plastic water bottles on the global market is projected to reach \$78 billion dollars by 2028.

Dear Recycle Lady,
What are boxes like cereal boxes made of when it comes to recycling? I know that they aren't considered to be made of cardboard. *Need to Know*

Dear Need to Know,
Cereal boxes actually are made of cardboard. Check the inside of your cereal box. If it looks like cardboard, it recycles with cardboard. Some boxes are made of white board, rather than cardboard, but they still recycle with cardboard.

Good News! Hawaii is testing a clever way to give ocean plastic a second life. They have found a way to turn discarded fishing nets and other recycled plastic into pellets that can be mixed into asphalt for roads. Researchers are studying whether these plastic-enhanced roads are durable and environmentally safe. The idea could help tackle two problems at once—marine debris and limited landfill space. Talk about making the road less wasteful! (fto.com)

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.

“Smoot” cont. from p. 2

the masses. He proposed a public system of education, but the east and west of the Old Dominion disagreed. Eastern counties favored a system of public higher education while those west of the Allegheny Front advocated for early childhood and elementary education. Harrison County hosted a meeting on the topic in 1841, with Judge Edwin Duncan explaining that the public Literary Fund paid for “a splendid university . . . accessible only to the sons of the wealthy planters of the eastern part of the state and to the southern states.” He aergued that only two “from the northwest” attended.

“The men of small farms are left to their own means for the education of their children,” shared the Judge. Books came at a premium price in the days before industrialized printing techniques.

Some areas did develop their own schools quite early on. Old Fields serves as the first location for a community school in modern West Virginia. Washington’s 1748 surveying trip into the area noted that at one point he commenced work near “the School House.”

Interestingly, this school was established on the Van Meter family’s property near the fort. The current Hardy County Superintendent and future Harrison County Superintendent is Dr. Sheena Van Meter.

Impetus for more investment in expanding the school system prior to the Civil War came from continual reports that literacy in Virginia was in steep decline. By 1846, the General Assembly passed an act allowing county school commissioners to use local taxes to supplement efforts. Those funds were seen, as historian Charles Ambler wrote “as doles to

the poor” and “fettered by much red tape in the forms of petitions and referenda and thus made impracticable.”

Ambler added “instruction was, as a rule, poor and limited.” Teachers were hired first for the ability to keep order in class.

After West Virginia achieved statehood, the first priority of the Republican Party “statemakers” lay in establishing a system of free public schools. Families had the option of sending children to them. Lawmakers advocated for them on the basis of the needs of the State. Early on, the focus lay on preparing students for patriotic citizenship, acquiring knowledge and skills to succeed in the workforce, and also military arts.

The State also constructed the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind in the former Romney Academy.

Free public schools became compulsory in 1897 when the Prussian system was adopted. After military defeat by Napoleon, the Kingdom of Prussia abolished serfdom and made childhood education mandatory. Prussia rose from secondary status in Central Europe to a dominant position by the 1860s. In 1872, it formed the leadership core of the industrial and military titan, the German Empire.

Prussian and later German success likely helped to recommend the model. State Superintendent of Schools and West Virginia historian Virgil Lewis also noted while promoting the legislation that only 15 percent of students attended and they came to class irregularly. Chronic absences bedeviled schools then as well as now.

Many of the same issues facing school systems in West Virginia today were seen then. The “good roads” movement did not start seeing benefits until after World War I. Some areas, such as Calhoun County, saw students boarding with families in town because they could not get from their homes to the schools.

Distance between home and school becomes an issue today when considering the cost of vehicles and fuel, as well as the dwindling number of school bus drivers.

School superintendents and other education administrators cite the fact that schools are continually asked to expand their roles. They are expected to provide support and assistance for students from homes facing significant challenges, stepping in where parents should

all too often to provide for basic physical and emotional needs.

Historically, schools took care of education and almost nothing else. Their legal role as “in loco parentis” referred mainly to reactions to students, such as discipline, not in depth service and support.

School systems cannot undertake all of these roles and still have sufficient resources of time and money to educate. Yet until the traditional family returns as a predominant building block of society, large percentages of children will remain in need.

One option could be to build Communities in Schools into a mandatory part of every public school in West Virginia. They could operate within, but not as part of the county school system, or paid for by it. CIS would be the focal point of bringing together support and services to students, leaving school teachers and administrators with their focus on education.

CIS would then connect with other social service and mental health organizations to help the students in need while keeping educators’ focus on education.

The past teaches lessons about education much as it does anything else. One lesson is that children can accept more intellectual challenges than they currently face. Washington mapped out northeastern West Virginia at the age of 16. Marshall was better versed in poetry and history as a teenager than many college professors.

Also, Alexander Hamilton learned mostly from books his father sold as a peddler and was fluent in Hebrew by his teen years. Harry Truman’s favorite high school teacher in Missouri farm country was his Latin instructor.

These men worked broadly and thought deeply because they read books of true substance and/or artistry. They challenged themselves to become great, but understood the work and time needed to hit that mark. Washington taught himself surveying and also was one of the great experimental farmers of his day. These early skills and the time took learning them trained his mind for even greater achievements in life.

West Virginia’s alternative systems of education are well-placed to educate children on the margins of public education, whether one means geographic margins, developmental

See “Smoot” on Page 10

SHINNSTON

MCDONALD'S

BOGO*

FILET OF FISH

SANDWICH

(Not to be used with a combo meal purchase)
Expires September 30, 2026

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

Black bear and waterfowl youth hunting seasons set to open in September

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The Natural Resources Commission in 2025 removed the minimum age restriction for youth seasons. Youth hunters under the age of 15 must still be accompanied by a licensed adult who is 18 years of age or older and must remain close enough to provide guidance and assistance. In addition, legislators approved a change to make it clear an adult assisting a youth hunter during any special youth season may handle the hunter’s firearm to provide safe handling advice and help. When assisting a youth hunter during a special youth season, the accompanying adult is still prohibited from carrying a firearm for the purpose of taking wildlife.

Youth hunters aged 15-17 must comply with all applicable state and federal licensing requirements and all youth hunters must check big game harvests using their own WVDNR account. Hunting licenses can be purchased, and game checks can be completed online at WVhunt.com.

For complete details about youth hunting in West Virginia, see pages 27, 34 and 40 of the Hunting Regulations Summary, available to download at WVdnr.gov/huntingregulations.

September marks the start of youth hunting seasons in West Virginia. The first split of youth black bear season is Sept. 12-13 and the first split of youth waterfowl season is Sept. 19. The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) reminds hunters that the minimum age restriction for youth seasons has been removed.

“Hunting in West Virginia is a time-honored tradition passed down for generations. We encourage parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles to share their love for hunting and the outdoors with family members,” said WVDNR Director Brett McMillion. “West Virginia has youth seasons for squirrels, bears, deer and turkey to give our younger hunters a chance to experience hunting firsthand. The more opportunities they get, the more likely they’ll make it a life-long experience.

A second youth black bear season will run concurrently with a youth season for white-tailed deer on Oct. 17-18. The second youth waterfowl season date is scheduled for Oct. 31. The youth spring turkey season will be April 17-18, 2027.

Youth Season Minimum Age Restriction Removed

Bice-Fergusson Museum Art Show Winners Announced



Winners for People’s Choice in the Museum’s August Art Show were: first place - LeeAnn Romeo with Mountain Waterfall, second place Janet Roger’s with Reflecting Pond, and third place Betsy Price with The Old and the New. There were 58 works submitted.

 Like us on

facebook

Blackberry Dumplings

INGREDIENTS

For the blackberry syrup

- 4 Cups fresh or frozen blackberries
- 1 Cup sugar
- 2 Cups water
- 1 Tablespoon fresh lemon juice

For the dumplings

- 2 Cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 Cup sugar
- 1 1/2 Teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 Teaspoon salt
- 1/4 Teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 3/4 Cup milk
- 1 Large egg
- 1 Teaspoon vanilla extract

On The Menu

Sponsored by SHINNSTON

PRICE CUTTER

SHOP. FRESH. SAVE

ingredients into the dry ingredients. Mix with a spoon until a soft dough forms.

- Increase the heat under the blackberries to medium. Drop the dumpling batter by heaping tablespoons into the simmering blackberry mixture. Leave some space between each one.
- Cover the pot with a lid and let the dumplings simmer for 15 minutes without lifting the lid. The dumplings will puff up and cook through.
- After 15 minutes, remove the lid. If desired, gently flip the dumplings over with a spoon to coat the other side in the syrup. Let simmer uncovered for 5 more minutes to help reduce the syrup.
- Serve the blackberry dumplings warm in bowls with plenty of the syrup over the top.

“Smoot”

cont. from p. 9

and bahavioral margins, or parental preference margins. Homeschooling or the smaller classrooms of microschools have the flexibility to meet students at those margins because they are more free of regulatory and legal constraints.

Public school systems, however, will always be the workhorse educating most kids in state. We will always require them to carry the majority of the weight of the system. One has to keep the “workhorse” well maintained and supported as well because the families who choose these models deserve an effective education as well. Starving the workhorse keeps the work from getting done. Fortunately, the economic development coming to West Virginia in the form of energy production and data center establishment will go a long way towards solving these fundamental funding issues. While state and local government should avoid simply using the excess monies coming down the pike to expand government, the hierarchy of state needs, including roads, health care, fire, EMS, law enforcement, and also public education, can be met at their level of need and provide a more effective level of service.

West Virginia Squirrel Season Opened Sept. 12

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. - West Virginia’s regular squirrel season opened 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 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.

THANK YOU FOR

READING

THE SHINNSTON

NEWS & HARRISON

COUNTY JOURNAL