

Shinnston Lions Already Promoting Annual Celebration Honoring Local Veterans

By Leigh C. Merrifield

While Veterans Day is still seven weeks away, when the goal is to host something very special, it requires making plans well in advance. The Shinnston Lions Club’s objective is to make this year’s local Veterans Day celebration better than ever, and in order to do that, a great deal of forethought and preplanning is essential.

Shinnston Lions Club president David Minor noted that this will be the club’s 20th consecutive year to host the community’s Veterans Day Parade, which will be followed by a luncheon at Shinnston’s American Legion Post #31.

“When this first started, we honored just one local veteran, but we have so many former veterans in our area, that has expanded and we’re now in the process of choosing three or four veterans to honor this year,” he stated. “Given decent weather, this parade usually brings a very sizeable attendance, and last year, the Legion was packed with a full house to hear honored veterans’ stories. I need to add that we are so very appreciative that Post #31 allows us to use their facility, and we are grateful that the Ladies Auxiliary will continue to provide food for the luncheon which EVERYONE is welcome to attend! We are very hopeful that this year’s celebration will bring not only a huge crowd of spectators, but also greater participation in the parade itself,” Minor added.

Parades are quite powerful when it comes to showing community spirit. The Lincoln High School Marching Band as well as Lincoln’s JR ROTC have already committed to being in the parade. However, scouting groups, school groups, sports teams, civic organizations, fire departments, churches, and area businesses are urged to take part as well. With several new businesses in the Shinnston area, this is an opportune time to be seen, to advertise your business, and to show your gratitude to our area’s veterans. Having such advance notice gives you plenty of time to mark your calendars and make plans to participate!

Former President Harry S. Truman once stated, “Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women who have served our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude, and America will never forget their sacrifices.” Let us all remember that veterans have consistently stepped forward through the years in times of crisis and were driven by a selfless desire to protect their country and their fellow citizens. That being said, honoring veterans should be done every day of the year, not just on this particular holiday. Don’t think of it as merely a

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The entire length of Pike Street in Shinnston will boast its display of American flags waving a welcome to those attending the Veterans Day Parade on November 11th. This striking patriotic spectacle is a ritual always carried out by members of the Shinnston Lions Club.

Detecting that leak

Safety is a top priority at the Public Service Commission, and that includes helping West Virginians protect their homes from dangerous natural gas leaks. The Commission regulates in-state transmission of gas and hazardous liquids and gas distribution lines. Our team of gas pipeline safety experts enforces federal and state pipeline safety regulations. But you, too, can, and should, be aware of safety issues that involve these important sources of heating and cooling in your home. Natural gas can be deadly if it escapes from pipes or appliances. Knowing the warning signs of a gas leak and how to respond can save your life. Natural gas has a distinctive rotten-egg odor, which is added by your utility to make leaks easier to detect. If you smell this odor inside or near your home, take it seriously and act immediately. But there are other things to look for that you might not be aware



Guest Column

By Charlotte Lane

Chair, WV Public Service Commission

of. There are also visual signs to watch for outdoors. Dead or discolored vegetation above buried gas lines, dust blowing from the ground, or bubbles forming in standing water may indicate a gas leak. Inside your home, a hissing or whistling sound near a gas appliance, or even an unexplained increase in your gas bill, can also signal a problem. If you suspect a gas leak, leave your home immediately. Do not use light switches, appliances, or electronics. Once you are safely outside, call 911 and your natural gas utility, and steer clear of the area until emergency responders say it is safe to return. Installing carbon monoxide detectors in your home adds another important

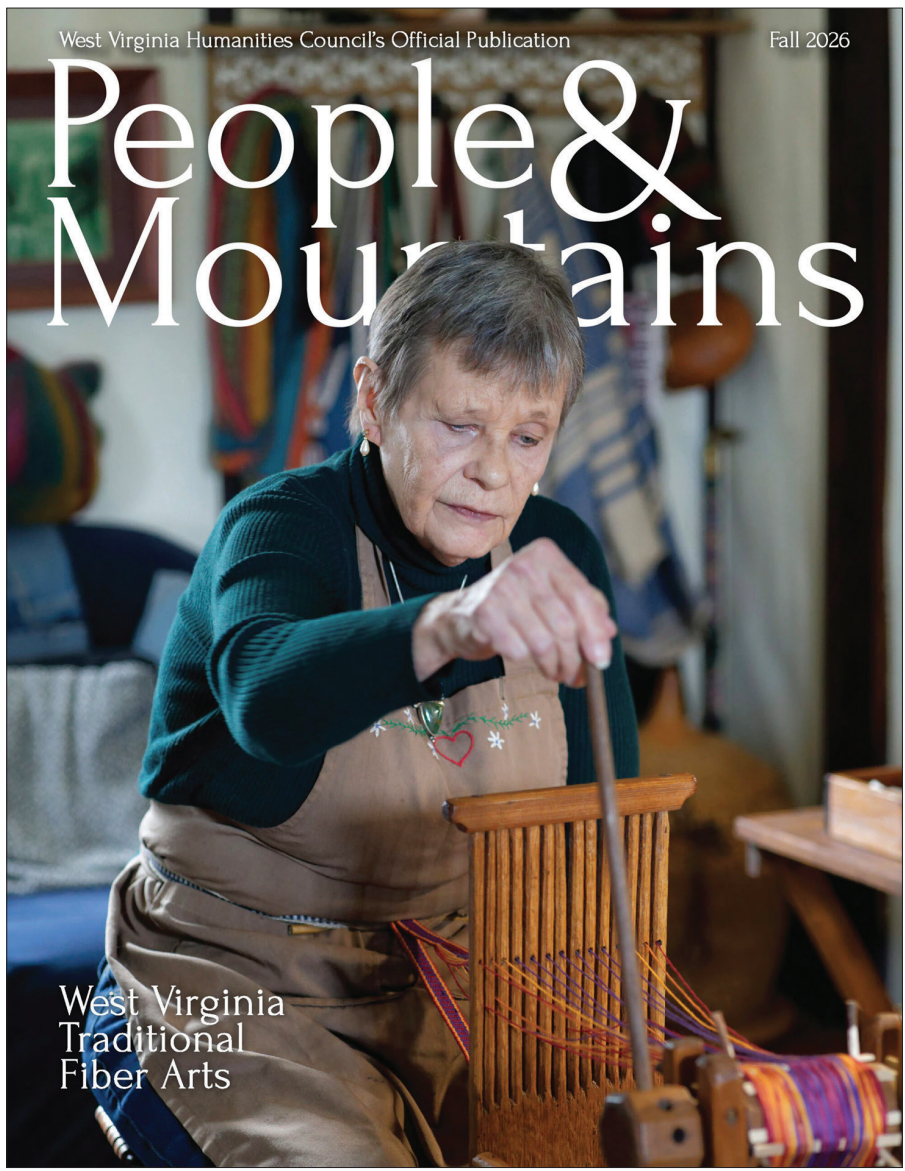
layer of protection. While carbon monoxide is odorless, these detectors can alert you to dangerous conditions before symptoms appear. Prevention is just as important as quick action. One simple but critical step is to call 811 before you dig anywhere on your property. This free service sends a utility locator to mark underground lines so you can avoid damaging gas, electric, or other utility infrastructure. At the Public Service Commission, we are committed to ensuring your natural gas service is safe, reliable, and responsibly managed by your utility. At home, you can help protect yourself and your family by staying alert, maintaining your appliances, and knowing what to do if something doesn’t seem right. A few moments of caution can make all the difference.



West Virginia Humanities Council's Official Publication

Fall 2026

People & Mountains



West Virginia Traditional Fiber Arts

Humanities Council Releases Fall Issue Of People & Mountains

Charleston—The West Virginia Humanities Council has released the Fall 2026 edition of its digital magazine, *People & Mountains*. It can be accessed from the Council’s website: wvhumanities.org.

Atkinson, a three-time Pulitzer Prize winner and former Washington Post journalist, is the author of the *New York Times* best-selling *The British Are Coming*. The first volume of his widely hailed *Revolution*

than four decades, the Council’s annual McCreight Lecture has connected West Virginia audiences to some of the nation’s premier public intellectuals.

See “People & Mountains” Pg 7

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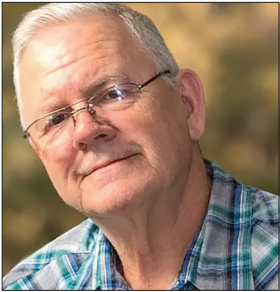
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Charles Everett Beverly, Sr.



Charles Everett Beverly, Sr., 76, of Lumberport, went to be with the Lord, on Saturday, September 26, 2026 at his residence. He was born in Clarksburg, May 17, 1950, a son of the late Charles Franklin and Betty Marie Murphy Beverly.

Charles is survived by his wife, Mary Ellen Exline Beverly, whom he married February 14, 1987; three children, Missy Bailey and her husband Kevin, Lumberport, Brian Scott Beverly and his wife Cristal, Shinnston, and Charles E. Beverly, Jr. and wife Angie, Clarksburg; his daughter-in-law, Tabitha Beverly, Lumberport; grandchildren: December Bailey and her companion Roger Hamrick, William Bailey and his companion Richie, Jesse Bailey, Drew Bates Beverly and his companion Miranda, Danny Summers, Ashton Fleming, Landon Beverly and his fiancé Sophie Lantz, Lilly Beverly, Chase Knicely, Caylee Beverly, and Augusta “Gus” Beverly; two great grandchildren, Sebastion Purkey and Leland Bates Beverly; brothers-in-law, Steve Barker, Tom Exline and his wife Linda, and sister-in-law, Carolyn Exline; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Charles is preceded in death by one son, Joseph Beverly; his sister, Carolyn Sue Barker; a brothers-in-law, Mike Exline, and Ronnie McIntyre; sisters-in-law, Imajean McIntyre and Sherry Exline; nieces, Nancy Exline and Veronica Webb; and a nephew, Tracy Exline.

Charles retired from Anchor Hocking Glass Factory. He was also previously employed by Jan Care and 7-11 in Lumberport. He was a member of the Harrison County Senior Citizens and Higher Rock Church in Haywood. Charles loved crafting, playing piano and singing, and attending church.

The family will receive friends at the Perine Funeral Home 1348 S. Pike St., Shinnston, from 10am until the time of the funeral service at 1pm, Friday, October 2, with Pastor Tim Sandy officiating. Interment will be in the Lumberport Lions Club Cemetery. Condolences may be extended to the family at www.perinefunerals.com. The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Beverly family.

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 predeceased by her parents and brothers: Earl, Den, Terry and Kent; and sisters: Judy, Betty, Bethel and Sharon.

She married the 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.

Lisa was fond of her extended family and is survived by her Aunt Sharon Stout, cousin Monica (Dave) Schonover and family, and cousin Billy Stout and cousin Roger Cunningham and family and cousin Angela Huff. She is also survived by her Aunt Pat (Ken), cousin Debbie Gordon, Aunt Nancy (Tom) Minney, cousins Traci DeWall, Tony and Todd Minney, and Aunt Mary (Larry) Greenlief, cousins Chad and Travis Greenlief. Other surviving cousins include Donnie Minney, Willard Wright and Leon Starkey. Next, Lisa is survived by Suzie Lambert, (Richard) nephew Damien Rutter, and niece Cadence (Sam) Lambert and family, Mary Louise (John) Mackey, Char Brown (Larry), nephew Sean Brown (Mandi) and family and Eric Jefferies, nieces Taylor (Evan) Helmick, Madison (AK) Snyder, Alli Jefferies, and nephew Grayson Jefferies. Lisa was preceded in death by several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Finally, Lisa is survived by brother-in-law Gary A. Kerns (Gwen), niece Alyssa (Justin) Tanner & Family and nephew Jared (Sydney) Kerns. and Mother in law Nancy Kerns. Lisa is also survived by her best friend Becky Jones (Ronnie) and family.

Friends will be received at Harmer Funeral Home, 300 Pike St., Shinnston, WV from 2:00 to 8:00 PM on Tuesday, September 29, 2026. A funeral Service will be at the funeral home at 12:00 PM on Wednesday, September 30, 2026 with Pastor Kevin Nuzum officiating. Interment will follow at Shinnston Memorial Cemetery.

Online memories and condolences may be shared at harmerfuneralhome.com.

Lisa D. Kerns



Lisa D. Kerns of Fairmont, WV passed away unexpectedly on September 24, 2026. She had fought a long and difficult battle against diabetes and its complications. She is survived by her husband of 25 years, Jeffrey L. Kerns and her sons Mark P. Jefferies, his wife Bre and children Ellie and Owen, and sons Mason L. Kerns and Mathew J. Kerns. Lisa was the daughter of the late Fred and Marilyn Greenlief. Lisa was also preceded in death by her first husband Mark K. Jefferies.

Lisa grew up in Glenville and Shinnston, WV and enjoyed sharing her many memories from that time in her life. Lisa was a middle school teacher for nearly forty years. She was National Board Certified and held a Master’s degree plus 40 hours. She taught Computer Skills and Family and Consumer Science and was loved by her students and peers. Lisa took particular pride in her classroom making it conducive to learning with her warm and inviting decor. Away from school, Lisa loved crafts, tending her flowers, and cooking, especially big meals. Her favorite time of year was Christmas time and she relished converting her home into a Christmas Wonderland with her many decorations. Most importantly, Lisa loved being Mimi to her grandchildren Ellie and Owen.

Verizon Responds to Fears Over Potential Copper Line Customer Cutoff

By Stephen Smoot

About two weeks ago WETM, a television news outlet in New York State, reported that Verizon released a statement concerning copper wire-based landline telephone service. It linked to a Verizon website that stated “across the country, Verizon is modernizing our networks and transitioning customers from legacy copper infrastructure to modern communications technologies built for how people live, work, and stay safe today.”

WETM noted that the announcement was recent. Additionally, customers in West Virginia and elsewhere have received letters from Verizon alerting them to the possibility of disconnection.

In the Mountain State, the Pendleton County Office of Emergency Management also called attention to concerns over this statement. It shared that Verizon will not leave current copper line customers without service as part of modernization efforts.

Frontier acquired Verizon’s West Virginia infrastructure in July 2010. Its tenure of ownership until the 2024 reacquisition of the network by Verizon has put it at the losing end of major lawsuits and ongoing lack of customer faith in Frontier’s ability to deliver consistent service.

A Verizon release on the merger stated that “over approximately four years, Frontier has invested \$41 billion upgrading and expanding its fiber

network” nationwide. Nick Jeffrey, President and Chief Executive officer, noted that “it’s also a vote of confidence in the future of fiber.”

According to PC Magazine, Verizon has applications to discontinue copper line-based service in 18 states “saying that only just over two percent of the networks are in use across the affected locations

In a recent 17-page letter, Verizon shared that they “will confirm whether a Commission-approved replacement service is available at the customer’s address prior to transitioning that customer off of POTS [Plain Old Telephone Service] over copper network facilities.” The Federal Communications

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Midway Mark of the High School Football Season



The Bottom Line

By Bill Nestor
Sports Editor

Lincoln suffered a heartbreaking road loss to rival North Marion. The Huskies tied the game on a 10 yard pass play with 10 seconds remaining, and added the game winning extra point to pull out a 41 to 40 win.

The Cougars came out smoking with red hot quarterback, Bear Saab, tossing a pair of 1st half touchdowns. The first, a 36 yarder to Jacob, Bart, to start off this epic battle's scoring, and the second, an 18 yards strike to Colton Edwards, concluded the 1st half scoring. Between those TDs, Cade Mooney blocked a North Marion punt, and Edwards went 69 yards for a score.

Lincoln held a 19 to 14 halftime lead. It would grow after another big special teams play. Braden Layfield blocked a Husky punch that put his team in prime position. Connor Rice would cash in on a three yard scoring run. After a North Marion score. Rice would find his pay dirt again this time on a 67 yard dash. After a Husky touchdown, Brody Anderson would provide the last Cougar touchdown on a 49 yard kickoff return.

North Marion would score the game's final 14 points to secure the come from behind win. Lincoln was led by Rice's 158 yard on a 29 carries. Saab was eight of 13 passing for 148 yards. Edwards caught four passes for 70 yards, and Bart hauled in three balls for 72.yards. The Cougars are back in town this Friday as they play host to winless Lewis County. The Minutemen come to Shinnston with a 0 and 4 record.

South Harrison has now won three in a row

after a 52 to 20 win over Clay County last Friday in Lost Creek. The Hawks have been putting up staggering numbers during The streak. Averaging 54 points per game. South Harrison is four and one and now face the meat of their schedule with Philip Barbour, Doddridge County, and Williamstown, looming. The Colts will visit the Creek, but the Hawks hit the road for the clashes with the Bulldogs and the Yellow Jackets. South Harrison, relay, relies heavily on running back Shepherd Paugh a recent focus of the SN and HCJ Athlete Spotlight earned 208 yards and five touchdowns against Clay. Zane Harlow also crossed the century mark, rushing with 116 yards on 17 attempts.

Bridgeport defeated Robert C. Byrd 49 to seven in a game that was closer than the score indicated. The Flying Eagles were trailing 21 to seven late in the 2nd quarter, but couldn't correct on a fourth and five from the Bridgeport eight yard line.. The Tribe would soon with seconds on the clock complete a 14 point swing. Bridgeport's Graham Vincent, was impressive going three of four passes for the touchdowns.

Gabe Martin gained 143 yards on the ground with their three rushing touchdowns. The Indian defense forced three RCB turnovers all coming in the first half of play.

The Flying Eagles were led by receiver Junior, Smith, and signal caller, Isaiah Heflin. Smith caught 9 passes for 137 yards. Smith scored on an 18 yards run in the first quarter. Heflin was 15 of 17 for 160 yards. He also gained 21 yards on the ground. Both teams are now four and one on the campaign. The tribe has a lengthy road trip across the border to play Fort Hill, Maryland, RCB makes the short trip up I 79 to play East Fairmont.

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

Harrison County EMS



HARRISON COUNTY
EMERGENCY SQUAD

Athletes of the Week

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

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



Eryn Ashcraft's hat trick against the Petersburg Vikings helped to seal both a big win and a place in Cougar sports history.

By Bill Nestor

The Harrison County athletes in the spotlight this week are Lincoln's Emery Riley and Eryn Ashcraft.

The Cougars had a pair of soccer players three-peat this week. On Monday in a six to one win over Williamstown, Emory Riley recorded a hat trick. Riley would net half of the team's goals in the victory.

On Saturday, Lincoln would blank Petersburg, 9 to 0 in the affair. Eryn Ashcraft, would net three goals pushing her career total to 105. Ashcroft's total is now the new school record for goals scored.

Congratulations to Emory Riley, and Eryn Ashcraft, for shining bright in the SN and HCJ athlete spotlight !!!

Cougars to Compete in Cornhole



Lincoln High School announced the formation of a Unified Cornhole Team. Coach Megan Amos and members of the Athletic Council will be holding practices during lunch with our students.



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BUSINESS MATTERS

West Virginia Tourism Continues to Outpace Other States: Organization of the Month



West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrisey welcomes The Honorable Kayla Kessinger into her new role as Secretary of Tourism.

By Stephen Smoot

West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrisey punctuated his State conference on tourism last week with an exclamation mark as he revealed record setting numbers from the state tourism industry. The Governor noted that “This tourism boom is a direct reflection of the hard work happening in every corner of our state, proving that when we cut red tape and move at the speed of business, travelers and companies alike are ready to experience everything West Virginia has to offer.”

The numbers revealed that the Mountain State tourism economy grew by 1.6 percent in 2025 over the previous year, with over 78.4 million visitors. The release from the Governor’s Office added that “overnight travelers grew by nearly two percent, injecting \$6.8 billion directly into local communities, averaging \$18.7 million spent every single day to support small businesses, lodging, and outdoor recreation.” Accolades came from outside the state as well, as “Travel + Leisure recently ranked West Virginia as the second most naturally beautiful state in America, noting it as the only state in the top ten to perform consistently well across every category measured.”

Since 2021, efforts to develop and build the tourism economy in West Virginia have been led by a Cabinet level West Virginia Department of Tourism. In March, the West Virginia State Legislature created the entity at the request of then-Governor Jim Justice. Chelsea Ruby, who had led the former office as Commissioner, took over as

Secretary.

As the Department, commonly called West Virginia Tourism at the time, opened its work, it established a mission to “unify and promote the State’s ‘Almost Heaven’ brand, advance tourism development, and promote the Mountain State to a broader audience, featuring West Virginia as a year round travel destination to both national and international travelers.

Impact was felt immediately. A report by Oxford Tourism Economics showed that tourism spending rocketed by 17 percent between 2017 and 2022. The pandemic encouraged more travelers to experience remote and outdoor recreation. Inflationary pressures have also resulted in Americans looking at shorter trips by car, as opposed to longer drives or airline flights to tourist destinations.

By 2024, the total tourism spending expanded to \$6.3 billion, 5.6 percent more than the year prior and welcomed more visitors to the state than in any year prior. At the time, seven percent of West Virginia jobs had some reliance on the tourism economy.

Branding by West Virginia Tourism helped to elevate the Mountain State as a preferred destination. Between January and June this year, a record number of West Virginia Vacation Guides were sent out. Requests increased by 92 percent over 2025. Said Secretary Chelsea Ruby last spring in West Virginia Explorer, “each year we aim to inspire more travelers to experience the beauty of Almost Heaven firsthand



West Virginia Tourism has succeeded through collaborating with local businesses and organizations to promote attractions such as the Rail Trail

and the global response to this year’s guide has been absolutely incredible.”

Branding converged with tourism trends, putting the state ahead of the national pace in growing a tourism economy.

Thatsaid, West Virginia Tourism also took a proactive and hands-on approach in encouraging county and municipal convention and visitors bureaus, as well as different types of partnerships to encourage development.

Secretary Ruby resigned over the summer, her role filled by former delegate Kayla Kessinger. She noted in a release from Governor Patrick Morrisey that “over the last several years, the Department of Tourism has changed the way people see our state and, in a lot of ways, has put West Virginia on the map.”

The Governor noted that “tourism is about more than bringing people to West Virginia. It’s about telling the story of who we are.” He added that Kessinger excels at the business of connecting people and organizations, stating that “she’s a coalition builder. A lot of people don’t realize the importance of that in tourism, because you’re coordinating a lot of the local chambers, the convention bureaus, all the different people who make West Virginia special.”

West Virginia Tourism’s numbers by visitor spending place Jefferson as the top travel and tourism economy in the state with a little more than \$900 million in economic impact. Kanawha County, fueled by State government and multiple colleges and universities, came in second with \$565 million. Important to remember, visitor

travel includes not only tourism, but also pass through travelers as well as those coming to an area for work instead of pleasure. Visits by parents and others to college students also impacts the tourism numbers.

Jefferson County comes in second to Pocahontas, however, when spending is examined per capita. In a recent year, it saw \$19,240 per person spent. Jefferson had \$14,670 per person. Ohio came in third with \$13,030, and Tucker fourth with \$12,880 per person. Monongalia and Kanawha placed at 10th and 11th respectively.

Harrison placed 15th at \$3,450, Hardy 16th with \$3,265, Randolph 19th at \$2,880, and Pendleton at 20th, with tourism and travel spending at \$2,690 per person.

A per capita ranking illustrates the statistics better in terms of how well a county performs despite being urban or rural, also sparsely or heavily populated. It reflects the impact of the effort undertaken at the local level more than advantages underlying certain county numbers, such as Kanawha.

The impact of hosting a residential college or university also makes a difference. Gilmer County, home of Glenville State University, holds a ranking of 38 with \$1,070 spent per person by visitors. Neighboring Calhoun County, despite the presence of popular tourist sites, ranks 51 with \$650 spent per resident. Preston County has a number of strikingly beautiful, accessible, and popular scenic spots, but has about one third the per capita spending (\$1,100) as Monongalia (\$3,660).

“Local Veterans”

cont. from p. 1

day when we don’t have to go to work or to school. This is a ‘thank you’ day dedicated strictly to veterans!

Those who have never served in the military or had a family member who served may not realize what these men and women have endured ... what experiences they’ve had ... what they’ve witnessed ... how they’ve lived. Just a suggestion to ponder - Put yourself in their shoes; would it not mean the world to you to know that those around you value what you’ve done for them???

Recall the popular song by Lee Greenwood called “God Bless the USA”; part of the lyrics were “I’m proud to be an American”! Are you one of those people? Do you stand during the playing of the Star Spangled Banner? Do you place your hand over your heart when reciting the Pledge of Allegiance? If so, remember that it was these service men and women who made it possible for you to stand up and say you are “Proud to be an American”!

The Shinnston Lions would like to see

throng of supportive spectators along the flag-lined streets of Shinnston on Wednesday, November 11th at 11 a.m. demonstrating their pride and indebtedness to Veterans’ contributions that have given us the countless freedoms we enjoy. **Be present, or better yet, be a participant** in this tribute to those who chose service over self.

If you are interested in participating in the parade, please call David Minor at 304-844-6078.





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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

HARRISON COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

The Harrison County Assessor's Office is seeking a dependable, organized, and professional Executive Assistant. This position will provide administrative support, assist with daily office operations, coordinate schedules, prepare correspondence and reports, and work with the public in a courteous and professional manner.

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide administrative and clerical support to the Assessor's Office.
- Managing calendars, appointments, and scheduling for the Assessor.
- Preparing correspondence, reports, agendas, and other office documents.
- Receiving and directing office communications in a professional and timely manner.
- Assisting with public inquiries, taxpayer questions, and office customer service.
- Maintaining organized files, records, and confidential information.
- Coordinating meetings, travel arrangements, and office logistics.
- Assisting with special projects, reports, and office operations as assigned.
- Supporting public relations, community outreach, and informational materials as needed.
- Maintaining professionalism, confidentiality, and discretion in all office matters.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's Degree in Communications, Public Relations, Business Administration, or related field.
- Strong computer, organizational, and communication skills.
- Ability to manage multiple priorities and meet deadlines.
- Experience in office administration, clerical support, or executive assistance preferred.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality and exercise sound judgment.
- Ability to work professionally with employees, elected officials, taxpayers, and the public.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office applications preferred.
- Valid West Virginia driver's license preferred.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience working in a government office, county office, or administrative setting.
- Knowledge of office procedures, records management, and customer service.
- Familiarity with Microsoft Word, Excel, and general office software.
- Ability to prepare professional correspondence and presentations.
- Experience supporting executive-level staff or managing calendars and appointments.

The successful applicant must be able to work independently, handle multiple tasks, and maintain a professional and courteous attitude while supporting the Assessor and the office. **Salary and benefits will be commensurate with county pay scales and experience.**

Applications and resumes should be submitted to:
HARRISON COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE
229 South Third Street · Clarksburg, WV 26301

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West Virginia Department of Natural Resources Urges Reporting of Wildlife Disease on New App

By Stephen Smoot

As fall hunting seasons ramp up and thousands of West Virginians take to the woods, the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources has a field work assignment. They have asked anyone who notices signs of wildlife disease or disease-related mortality, to report findings to the DNR.

Said Paul Johansen, chief of the Wildlife Resources Division, in a release last summer “The Wildlife Resources Section relies on timely reports of wildlife health events from the public across the state to help monitor population health. We encourage the public to report sightings of possibly sick animals.” The State has provided an easy and online manner of reporting, through the ArcGIS Survey 123 app. This downloads on a mobile phone device and allows for detailed reporting and mapping of reports. One can also scan a QR code provided on the West Virginia DNR website.

“Users can upload pictures and report locations and other information of wildlife that appear to be sick, diseased or that have died. Information collected will allow the appropriate Wildlife Resources Section staff to determine if additional investigation is necessary,” stated the release.

The DNR tracks a number of diseases and conditions, both in game and general wildlife. Just as in human populations, if diseases are left unmanaged and unaddressed, outbreaks could kill or injure large numbers of wildlife. In some cases, such as rabies and avian flu, these diseases could also threaten domestic livestock, pets, and even transmit to human beings.

One condition in white-tailed deer is in its emergence among affected animals now. Hemorrhagic disease, according to the WV DNR, “is a natural virus in white-tailed deer that appears seasonally in late summer or early fall and ends around the first hard frost. On very rare occasions the condition can create significant death rates, but often does “not have any substantial effect on the population.” It spreads through the bite of a midge

fly and has no effect on pets or humans. Meat from affected animals is not dangerous to consume.

Signs of HD in the wild include less fear of humans, disorientation, bleeding from the nose or rear end, and swelling on the face.

HD has no connection with the more serious Chronic Wasting Disease. This condition is caused by a “prion,” an abnormally shaped protein in the brain that disrupts neurological functions. Another name for the family of conditions is called transmissible spongiform encephalopathy. The DNR says “there is no practical test of live animals to detect CWD, and there is no known treatment or vaccine. Postmortem testing is necessary for definitive diagnosis.” This is because one would need a sample of brain tissue to confirm diagnosis. Animals pass the condition to each other through contact with bodily fluids.

The human condition of the disease is known as Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease. It can occur sporadically or from eating meat from infected cattle, which also carry a form of the disease. While no known transmission has come to humans from deer, health officials strongly urge that meat from deer who appear sick or have died from disease not be eaten.

CWD generally is locally concentrated in the many states and Canadian provinces which have reported its presence. Most West Virginia cases come from the Potomac Highlands. The DNR reports that “as of April 15, 2026, 737 deer from Hampshire County, 39 from Hardy County, 63 from Berkeley County, 22 from Mineral County, 27 from Morgan County, 13 from Jefferson County and one from Grant County are the only animals found thus far to have the abnormal prion associated with CWD.”

Measures to control CWD are in place. “The WVDNR also discourages supplemental feeding and baiting of deer statewide, bans these practices on public land, and also bans these practices

anytime in Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan and Pendleton counties. In addition, there are restrictions on the disposal and transport of deer carcasses from Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral and Morgan counties within the West

See “Wildlife Disease” Pg 7

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Essential Skills

I can hardly believe that October is here already! It won't be long before children will begin thinking about Trick-or-Treating and moms may need to sharpen their creativity skills and refresh their sewing techniques. I've noticed that the days of simply wearing a mask are no longer suitable. Today the wee ones don some pretty elaborate garb, completed with appropriate hairstyles, makeup, glitter, and all kinds of extras! The best part is that for many of them, their ornate apparel is designed and fashioned by their moms. Maybe it's a competition, I'm not sure, but mothers go to a lot of trouble to carry out every detail of the costuming theme, so, before you have children, moms might want to polish up on their DIY abilities! They probably weren't thinking about this when they had a child ... SURPRISE!!!

Are you a new parent? If so, it is a moving experience, but it also opens up a whole new world and perhaps a lifestyle switch. But in time, you'll learn just what your baby needs. It can be a learning experience for the whole family.

Patience is a great asset to refine when you have little ones. You can expect to be tested on many levels! In fact, I saw a list of tests of a mother's patience that I had saved long ago; I'm going to share just in case this might be a day that you need a laugh!

For anyone who is considering starting a family, this might help you determine if you are truly prepared for the experience or not. This may help you prepare to withstand the first few years.

MESS TEST: You may find peanut butter on the sofa and/or curtains. You may find a lovely picture painted on your walls with a crayon. Or you could discover a fish stick behind the couch that has been there all summer. Can you pass the patience test on these possible messes?

TOY TEST: Obtain a 55-gallon box of Legos. If these are not available, you may substitute roofing tacks or broken bottles. Have a friend spread them all over the house. Now put on a blindfold and try to walk to the bathroom. If you happen to step on them, DO NOT scream as this could wake the child at night. Can you pass this test without losing your temper or swearing?

GROCERY TEST: Borrow one or two small animals (goats would work) and take them with you as you shop at the grocery store. Always keep them in sight and pay for anything they eat or damage. A little challenging but you can do it!

DRESSING TEST: Obtain one large, unhappy, live octopus. Try stuffing it into a small net bag making sure that all arms stay inside. You might have to work a little at that one!

FEEDING TEST: Take a large plastic milk jug and fill it halfway with water. Suspend it from the ceiling with a stout cord. Start the jug swinging and try to insert spoonfuls of soggy cereal into the mouth of the jug while pretending to be an airplane. Try not to dump the contents of the jug on the floor. Good luck!

NIGHT TEST: Obtain a small cloth bag and fill it with 8 to 12 pounds of sand. Soak it thoroughly in water. At 8 p.m. begin to waltz and hum, holding the bag until 9 p.m. Lay down your bag and set your alarm for 10 p.m. Get up, pick up your bag and sing every song you know. Make up about a dozen more and sing these too until 4 a.m. Set the alarm for 5 a.m. Get up and make breakfast. Keep this up for several months. Stay cheerful!

Tests are complete. How did you do? Pass or Fail? Don't worry, though; they may try your patience at first, but these 'trials' are forgotten as the years pass.

I'm sure I must have gone through them too, and certainly they weren't funny at the time, but NOW I find them humorous. Be patient; that child is worth every trial and you WILL live through it.

Quote of the Week: *"There are hard days in motherhood, but looking into your baby's eyes, even the hardest days can feel like a blessing."* ~ Unknown Author



"People & Mountains"

cont. from p. 1

Trilogy has earned numerous honors. The second volume, *The Fate of the Day*, continues the sweeping narrative of the American Revolution, capturing the conflict's critical middle years with vivid storytelling and insights. Atkinson also served as a historical advisor for Ken Burns' PBS documentary series *The American Revolution*, which commemorates the Revolution's 250th anniversary. Several titles on more recent conflicts preceded these efforts, including the much-acclaimed *Liberation Trilogy*, which chronicles the American military's role in Europe during World War II—the first volume of which, *An Army at Dawn*, won the Pulitzer Prize for history in 2003.

For more information about the lecture, contact Council Program Officer Kyle Warmack, warmack@wvhumanities.org, 304-346-8500.

The Fall issue also highlights an often overlooked tool of weavers. Fiber artist Enrica McMillon of Elkins explains how box tape looms were used, what they produced and why they were essential to life on the frontier. This article is part of the nationwide *By the People: Conversations Beyond 250* initiative, developed by the Federation of State Humanities Councils and the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. West Virginia Folklife filmed demonstrations by traditional musicians and

artists. The finished material will be deposited in the Smithsonian and featured in e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia. Both West Virginia Folklife and e-WV are projects of the Council.

Additionally, *People & Mountains* looks at the fascinating hunting and writing career of Preston County's George Bird Evans, who championed a philosophy of conservation, ethics and personal restraint. This issue also includes photos from a celebration of folklorist Gerry Milnes held at the Council headquarters in May. The West Virginia Humanities Council successfully nominated Milnes to be a 2026 National Heritage Fellow and this year's sole recipient of the prestigious Bess Lomax Hawes National Heritage Fellowship.

People & Mountains is published by the West Virginia Humanities Council three times a year. It profiles the Council's work and developments in the humanities statewide. It is available for free on the Council's website: wvhumanities.org.

The West Virginia Humanities Council, an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit institution, is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). With the support of the NEH, the State of West Virginia, the West Virginia Department of Tourism and contributions from the private sector, the Council supports a vigorous program in the humanities statewide in West Virginia.

"Verizon"

cont. from p. 3

Commission, the Commission referred to by Verizon, requires that replacement technology provide "substantially similar levels of network infrastructure and service quality as the service being discontinued."

One of the reasons given by Verizon for discontinuing the century-old service lay in the opportunity cost spent on maintaining the aging network. Verizon was quoted by the Rappahannock News as stating that "every day that passes without approval is a missed opportunity to unleash resources for investment, reduce inefficient energy consumption, and free useful copper for more valuable purposes."

Last Friday, the FCC halted the process of approving Verizon's request to investigate further. It stated that the pause did not reflect a determination to deny the request.

The Pendleton County OEM shared, after

speaking with State officials, that "it is our understanding . . . that no disconnection can occur without an approved alternative."

"If a location lacks fiber, adequate wireless coverage, or another approved replacement voice service, they will not discontinue the existing copper line service," stated the Pendleton County OEM. They added that the FCC required that Verizon inform a number of customers who are not part of Verizon's plan of disconnection.

Furthermore it encouraged "if you end up being advised that your location has an alternative service, such as cellular, and you do not, challenge that claim with Frontier/Verizon and also contact the FCC. We have found that FCC maps, particularly related to cellular telephone coverage, are not accurate and do not represent real life coverage."

"Wildlife Disease"

cont. from p. 6

Virginia containment area "

With no way to eradicate the disease, the DNR relies heavily on reports of CWD to investigate outbreaks and control them before they affect the herd or spread from the containment area.

Rabies also represents a significant threat, but to domesticated animals and humans. Rabid animals show disorientation, aggression, frothing at the mouth, and significant thirst. They are highly dangerous, so one should report sightings to both the DNR and also the county health department so residents can be alerted quickly.

Observers should also report issues with birds, especially unusual number of sick or dying animals. While a number of issues could cause

this, the most significant could come from variants of avian flu.

Most birds in the wild exhibit few or no symptoms of avian flu, having developed natural immunity through exposure. The usual point of transmission to domestic chickens or turkeys comes through "backyard flocks," or small numbers of free ranging or yard-enclosed poultry. The WVDA has emergency protocols in place to address avian flu outbreaks, as poultry represents a significant percentage of the West Virginia agricultural economy. Reports allow DNR and/or WVDA experts to get into the field quickly, assess the danger, and recommend strategies to contain and eradicate the threat.

Governor Morrisey Announces "West Virginia's Dolly Days Read-a-Thon" in Partnership with the Department of Tourism

Statewide reading challenge encourages K-5 students to read 25 books

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Governor Patrick Morrisey today announced the launch of West Virginia's Dolly Days Read-a-Thon, a statewide reading challenge celebrating Dolly Parton's commitment to childhood literacy and encouraging West Virginia students to discover the joy of reading.

The challenge begins October 1, 2026, and is open to all West Virginia students in grades K-5.

"Fostering a lifelong love of reading is one of the most important gifts we can give our children," said Governor Morrisey. "Dolly Parton has spent a lifetime inspiring imagination and joy around the world, and there is no better way to honor her legacy here in West Virginia than by encouraging our youngest students to open a book, explore new worlds, and discover the power of learning."

Running through December 31, 2026, the Read-a-Thon challenges participants to read 25 books, averaging about two books per week. Students are encouraged to visit their local public libraries to discover new titles and participate in storytime programs.

Registration opens October 1, and students may sign up at any point during the challenge. Participants will use a paper reading log, available to download online or pick up at participating public libraries, to track their progress. The reading log includes an optional creative section where children can draw a picture depicting their favorite book or Read-a-Thon moment.

Completed logs must be submitted electronically through the program's website or delivered to a local library for submission to the West Virginia State Library by Tuesday, January 5, 2027. The State Library is overseen by the West Virginia Department of Tourism.

"Sparking a love for reading in our youngest generation connects them to a rich tradition of storytelling," said Kayla Kessinger, Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Tourism. "We can't wait to see our kids explore new worlds through books and showcase their incredible creativity, all while highlighting the impact Dolly Parton has had on so many of us."

See "Dolly Days" Pg 9

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

(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. 178138 Brandon Coleman)

To: BRYAN R WEST OR HIS HEIRS ASSIGNS AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST, LORI M WEST, GEORGE C BEEZEL, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT COAL-OUTSIDE DISTRICT MAP 1119 PARCEL 0138 0000

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

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

You may redeem any time before 11/02/2026 by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

Given under my hand 8/27/2026

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

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

LEGAL

(2025-C-000833 - HARRISON COUNTY - EASTERN HOLDINGS LLC)

To: LORETTA D. RIEBE c/o DARLA SMITH, LORETTA D. RIEBE c/o DONNA POPOVICH, LORETTA D. RIEBE c/o DOREEN SAHLI, LORETTA D. RIEBE c/o JOHN PETERSON, LORETTA D. RIEBE c/o DOTTIE EARWOOD, LORETTA D. RIEBE, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT TENMILE OUTSIDE DISTRICT MAP 9999 PARCEL 0686 5485 0000

You will take notice that EASTERN HOLDINGS LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No.** 2025-C-000833, located in TENMILE OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, .0356 INT 144 AC O&G INDIAN RUN CONSOL-API#3515-352, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of WILLIAMS ROBERT LEE & MAYNO W BLAND, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of HARRISON County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 7, 2026. EASTERN HOLDINGS LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate on or after February 1, 2027, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before January 31, 2027, will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2024 - 65523.	\$	203.57
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number.	\$	0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2025 - 66661.	\$	52.00
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	210.50
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	1,013.21
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	1,479.28

You may redeem at any time before January 31, 2027 by paying the above total less any unearned interest.
If the above real estate is your primary residence, you may petition the Auditor to redeem the real estate in not more than three incremental payments that equal the total mount required to redeem the real estate prior to the issuance of the deed described above.

Given under my hand August 26, 2026

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

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

LEGAL

(2025-C-000131 - HARRISON COUNTY - BAUERNHOF RAD, LLC)

To: EUGENE DAVID HUNTERMARK , MATTHEW WAYNE HUNTERMARK , EUGENE DAVID HUNTERMARK, MATTHEW WAYNE HUNTERMARK, MATTHEW WAYNE HUNTERMARK, OC-CUPANT, UNITED HOSPITAL CENTER C/O SALMAN, THOMAS & BATTLE , UNITED HOSPITAL CENTER C/O SUNITA KELLERMAYER, ALL THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITORS, REPRESENTATIVES, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF EUGENE DAVID HUNTERMARK, ALL THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITORS, REPRESENTATIVES, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF MATTHEW WAYNE HUNTERMARK, ALL THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITORS, REPRESENTATIVES, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF NEWTON B TURNER, ALL THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITORS, REPRESENTATIVES, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF DORA J TURNER, ALL THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITORS, REPRESENTATIVES, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF STEVEN B TURNER, ALL THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITORS, REPRESENTATIVES, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF JUDITH ANN HUNTERMARK, 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 20 PARCEL 0188 0000 0000

You will take notice that BAUERNHOF RAD, LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No.** 2025-C-000131, located in CLARK CLARKSBURG CORP District, 1 LOT PT 22 & PT 23 H & D ADD, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of HUNTERMARK EUGENE DAVID & MATTHEW W, 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. BAUERNHOF RAD, LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate on or after March 1, 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 - 7686.	\$	1,397.60
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 - 7746.	\$	1,320.73
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	211.05
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	1,100.07
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$	4,029.45

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 16, 2026

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

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

LEGAL

(2025-C-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

UHC welcomes Tooba Ayub, MD to Bridgeport Endocrinology



Bridgeport, W.Va.—Tooba Ayub, MD, joins Bridgeport Endocrinology, the practice of Apoorva Iyer, MD and Jennifer S. Turner, MD. She comes to the practice having finished her fellowship in endocrinology, diabetes, and metabolism at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center.

Her educational journey began with a medical degree from King Edward Medical University, Lahore, Pakistan, going on to Loyola Medicine MacNeal Hospital, Berwyn, Ill., for her internal medicine residency. She completed her fellowship

in endocrinology, diabetes, and metabolism at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center.

Dr. Ayub has contributed to many professional publications as well as being involved in teaching and mentorship, both at conferences and for medical students, primarily in the field of diabetes.

Included in her accomplishments are healthcare outreach and education lead for Loyola MacNeal Hospital and resident wellness events coordinator, also at Loyola MacNeal Hospital.

She is board certified in internal medicine and board eligible in endocrinology, diabetes, and

metabolism. Her expertise focuses on hormone-related conditions and metabolic disorders that affect how the body processes nutrients and maintains healthy bone structure.

Dr. Ayub is a member of the American Society of Clinical Endocrinology, the Endocrine Society and the American Medical Association. When she’s not practicing medicine, Dr. Ayub enjoys traveling, cooking, and building new friendships.

Her office is located at Bridgeport Endocrinology, 710 Genesis Blvd, Bridgeport. Please visit <https://wvendocrinology.com/> or call 681.342.3070 for more information.

LEGAL

(2025-C-000719 - HARRISON COUNTY - BAUERNHOF RAD, LLC)

To: ANN LAUGHLIN AKA ANN HYDE, OCCUPANT, ANN LAUGHLIN AKA ANN HYDE, MAPLE LAKE CLUB INC C/O MANDY SHELDON, ALL THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITORS, REPRESENTATIVES, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF ANN LAUGHLIN AKA ANN HYDE, ALL THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, CREDITORS, REPRESENTATIVES, SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS OF MAPLE LAKE CLUB INC, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT SIMPSON OUTSIDE DISTRICT MAP 2301 PARCEL 0013 0000 0000

You will take notice that BAUERNHOF RAD, LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, **Cert No. 2025-C-000719**, located in SIMPSON OUTSIDE DISTRICT District, 1 LOT 57 & PT 56 MAPLE LAKE, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of LAUGHLIN ANN, 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. BAUERNHOF RAD, LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate on or after March 1, 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 - 53104.	\$ 483.21
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 - 54074.	\$ 764.97
Additional taxes with interest.	\$ 0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$ 211.05
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$ 1,024.39
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$ 0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check.	\$ 2,483.62

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 16, 2026

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

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

“Smoot”

cont. from p. 2

her? Plus, teaching American history as a list of evils is fundamentally a form of falsehood anyway.

Equally important, the basic educational curriculum of civics and government needs to be West Virginia oriented and practically crafted. Here is a proposal.

In fifth grade, students need to master knowledge of the basic elements of government. That includes federal, state, and local, as well as the branches and officials’ responsibilities at each level. Again, do not use a nationally produced textbook that will confuse children with mentions of townships, boroughs, etc.

In eighth grade, introduce local level problem solving. One could break a class into units of five, with a mayor, three council members, and a city manager in each. A teacher could get very creative with using examples to teach how these bodies make decisions. One could even use AI to craft citizen bots that would come up with questions, concerns, and ideas that could either be very good or very bad, but the group must address them.

The AI bot could even be “trained” to be confrontational and abusive to the “elected officials” whose roles the students take, giving a realistic view of what these officials must confront in some circumstances. This is important because too few people treat elected officials like fellow human beings when they feel outraged.

At this level students also need to start understanding the basics of economics, working with supply and demand charts, understanding supply chains, and other important problems.

A capstone would come in 11th grade. Students as individuals can be

turned loose on long-term projects, such as grant writing for infrastructure projects and other basic priorities. They could be tasked to “manage” a volunteer fire or EMS company and deal with the headwinds against those valued organizations.

Community and technical colleges can build on this by creating a “Grow Your Own” program for local officials similar to what has been done for teachers.

What should be discouraged, however, is the teaching and encouragement of activism as an effective and appropriate response to concerns. Shouting and waving signs rarely promotes understanding or changing of policies, let alone minds. Activism and protest does make those engaged in it feel productive without real accomplishment. It’s almost always akin to the old man shaking his fists at the sky, but often in reality only succeeding in inconveniencing others trying to get on with their day.

With repeated batteries of practical civics education, much can be done to expand learning and understanding while creating a direct local positive in a more knowledgeable citizenry. Some of those citizens could come directly into entry levels of local government staff after graduating from high school or also fire and EMS roles. Others could work in regional planning and development council positions. Active and involved minds need not move away to find success.

Students along the way would also need to develop understanding of how systems such as electric power production and transmission operate, how international trade works, and also, vitally important, personal

“Dolly Days”

cont. from p. 7

Winners will be announced January 19, 2027, in celebration of Dolly Parton’s birthday. Every child who completes the 25-book challenge will receive a special completion sticker.

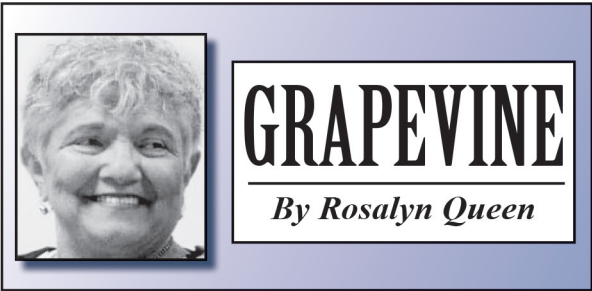
One hundred randomly selected participants will receive a special-edition Dolly Parton suncatcher crafted by Blenko Glass. Five winners will receive a butterfly suncatcher and an exclusive set of butterfly bookends from Blenko, and one grand prize winner will receive the Blenko prizes along with a special

literary-themed gift basket.

Artwork submitted with participants’ reading logs will be displayed at the West Virginia State Library in the Culture Center throughout February and March 2027.

For more information, to download a reading log or to register beginning October 1, visit the West Virginia Dolly Days Read-a-Thon website or contact your local public library.

The Joy of Reading



I have seen on television the author captures these war stories as though they are happening in true life. And not in a novel. She covers the actual battles that involve the citizens and finally how they must handle starvation. This is

ROZS BOOK CLUB: Most days will find me fixing my morning coffee and turning the television on and watching news all day long. This habit has given me the opportunity to follow the news. I have especially gotten involved with the Afghanistan and Ukraine wars. I have followed the day to day happenings and although the two books I am reviewing are novels, the research the author did on the day to day happenings and the effect it has on the lives of so many is real.

The first book is JOY by Danielle Steel. Allegra is the main character of this story and it traces her life from a young girl who is abandoned by her mother to being sent to her grandparents’ joyless home. At boarding school she finds the love of her life and when he gets called to the Afghanistan war, they decide to marry. The horrors he is involved in the war changes him completely and the joyAllegra has searched for is again lost. She refuses to give up until she finds the joy she deserves.

THE TRUE MEANING OF LOVE: this story takes place in Afghanistan. Just ordinary people are the characters in this story and how they are affected by their horrors of war. There are several characters in this story and there stories are captured as to how the war is affecting their lives. From what

a story about ordinary people and how they react during wartime.,Tatyanna and Vladimir are the main characters in this story.

Danielle Steel is my favorite author and she continues to turn out great novels. In these two books she has tried a different approach than her usual love stories or life happenings. In my opinion she has captivated heart wrenching stories in both novels. Just a reminder that both books are in large print . Julia Todd, Clarksburg Public Library librarian assists me and always keeps me informed when new books are coming out.If I am in Bridgeport I stop at their library and they also have a nice collection of large print books.

Another secret that I learned from the Bridgeport Library is that they have magazines available for check out.I intend to start taking advantage of this service.The other secret that I want to share with you is that I read four books this week. I thank God that as I age I still have good vision. Age takes its toll on such functions as walking and many others but remember it is better than the alternative.

Take care, stay healthy, make sure you have your flu shot, curl up with a good book and until next week “Now You Have Heard It Through Grapevine.”

finance and how that relates to microeconomics. Educating children on the reality of a community, as opposed to a social or ideological vision, will produce much better outcomes and a much more engaged young adult generation.

Education at the elementary and secondary level must focus on producing functional citizens and citizens cannot function well if they do not understand the world around them and how it operates.

This is vital because a free society in a Republic with democratic features needs a critical mass of people who understand how important elements work. We can no longer just assume that young people will absorb this along the way as they have in the past. We can no longer pretend that a society can function without knowing its own foundation and fundamentals.

The frightening question to consider is, do we have that critical mass currently?

William R. Sharpe, Jr. Hospital Hosts Western Psychiatric State Hospital Association Conference at Stonewall Resort

WESTON, W.Va. – William R. Sharpe, Jr. Hospital hosted the 2026 Western Psychiatric State Hospital Association (WPSHA) Conference, bringing together leaders and professionals from state psychiatric hospitals for three days of education, collaboration and discussion focused on improving care in publicly operated mental health facilities.

“We are incredibly proud to have had the opportunity to host this year’s conference,” said West Virginia Department of Health Facilities Cabinet Secretary Michael Caruso. “Welcoming colleagues from across the region to West Virginia reflects our commitment to collaboration, education and improving the quality of care we provide. Events like this remind us that we are all working toward the same goal: providing the best possible care and support to those we serve.”

The conference was held September 1 through September 3 at Stonewall Resort in Roanoke. Participants shared experiences, discussed common challenges and explored effective approaches to mental health treatment, rehabilitation and hospital management.

Mildred Mitchell-Bateman Hospital, another state-owned and operated psychiatric facility, also presented during the conference.

For William R. Sharpe, Jr. Hospital, hosting the conference provided an opportunity to showcase West Virginia’s work while contributing to a broader regional discussion about the future of public behavioral health services.

“Bringing leaders and professionals together gives us the chance to share what is working, learn from one another and identify new ways to strengthen the care we provide,” said William R. Sharpe, Jr. Hospital Administrator Patrick Ryan. “The work of state psychiatric hospitals is challenging and complex, and collaboration allows us to draw on the experience and expertise of our colleagues across the region.”

“A heartfelt thank you to the state of West Virginia and the incredible team at William R. Sharpe, Jr. Hospital for opening their doors to the WPSHA family,” said WPSHA President and Arizona State Hospital CEO Mike Sheldon. “Your commitment to

advancing public psychiatric healthcare through academic partnerships and fostering meaningful regional collaboration made this event a resounding success.”

Education and collaboration are central to WPSHA’s mission of ensuring effective, state-of-the-art mental health treatment and rehabilitation services for people served by publicly operated hospitals. The annual conference allows participating hospitals to build professional relationships, exchange successful practices and work together on challenges shared by state-operated psychiatric facilities.

For more information, visit Overview | Western Psychiatric State Hospital Association.

The West Virginia Department of Health Facilities (DHF) seeks to coordinate, oversee, and provide direction of state-owned health care facilities, including one acute medical hospital and two acute psychiatric hospitals. DHF also works diligently to improve the health and well-being of all West Virginians who utilize the services of these facilities.

Roads and animals don't mix: what to do when there's a dead animal on the road

CHARLESTON, WV – Crossin’ the highway late last night, he shoulda looked left and he shoulda looked right. He didn’t see the station wagon car, the skunk got squashed and there you are....

Wildlife and roadways don’t mix. And with approximately 39,000 miles of highway, much of it rural, West Virginia is ground zero for collisions between cars and animals.

And when car meets animal in the middle of the road, animal loses.

You got your dead cat and you got your dead dog, on a moonlight night you got your dead toad frog....

West Virginia leads the nation in deer strikes – collisions between cars and deer.

According to State Farm Insurance, West Virginia drivers stand a 1 in 40 chance of hitting a deer or other animal on the road. That far exceeds the national average of about 1 in 160.

But deer aren’t the only four-legged road hazard. Other wildlife species West Virginia drivers may tangle with on the highway include raccoons, coyotes, and a surprising number of bears.

Got your dead rabbit and your dead raccoon, the blood and the guts they’re gonna make you swoon....

When there’s a dead animal in the road, someone



has to deal with it. Oftentimes, that someone is a West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) transportation worker.

The WVDOH treats dead animals like any other road obstruction, prioritizing high-danger areas like travel lanes on interstates over the shoulders of rural roads.

If a dead animal is a hazard to traffic, it will be removed. But the WVDOH will not go into your yard to pick up a dead deer, or pick up a deer that isn’t physically in the road. Dead animals in ditch lines may be covered in lime.

If you see a dead animal in the road, you can call the SWAT hotline at 1-833-WVROADS, email WVDOTCommunications@wv.gov, file a report online at <https://webapps.transportation.wv.gov/swat/>, or contact your local WVDOH field office.

You got your dead skunk in the middle of the road, dead skunk in the middle of the road, dead skunk in the middle of the road, stinkin’ to high heaven....

--Louden Wainwright III

With work continuing in all 55 counties across the state, the West Virginia Division of Highways and the West Virginia Department of Transportation remind the public of the importance of keeping everyone safe in work zones. “Safe actions save lives!”

Join us for the

GRAND RE-OPENING

& RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

of

The Shinnston Rail Trail

October 10, 2026
11am - 2pm

Come & Enjoy the trail!

FREE FAMILY EVENT
Moon Bounce • Food Vendors
Humane Society of Harrison County

Representatives from
Kleinfelder, Thaxton, and DEP
will discuss the
trail repair project,
and answer questions.

Family Bike and Walk Run for Advanced to Novice Biker/Runner/Walker
Lead Bike Runs • Lead Walks

MAKE A WHOLE DAY OF IT
STICK AROUND AND VISIT
THE SHINNSTON FALL FESTIVAL
Beginning at 1:00pm

Sponsored by City of Shinnston, HCPR, and Marion County Parks and Recreation

THANK YOU FOR READING THE SHINNSTON NEWS & HARRISON COUNTY JOURNAL

SHINNSTON FALL FEST

OCTOBER 10, 1 PM | THE GREEN SPACE

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF MUSIC,
VENDORS, FOOD TRUCKS,
COSTUME COMPETITIONS
FOR PETS & CHILDREN
AND MORE!!

MUSIC BY ALABASTER BOXER AT 2 PM

Don't be scared by high energy prices this winter, switch to natural gas and start saving money!

Payment Plans Available

BOO!

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