

Bice-Ferguson Museum To Close Its Season With Fiber Arts Show



Pictured here are just a few examples of the fiber arts that are on display at the museum throughout the month of October. Stop by and see the talents and skills that are being shared.

By Leigh C. Merrifield

The Bice-Ferguson Memorial Museum in Shinnston has experienced a very eventful summer season and it is continuing into the early fall months as well! According to Museum Director Debra Herndon, it has been extremely worthwhile.

She commented, “For those who aren’t particularly drawn to historical items and artifacts, these exhibits that our Museum has hosted during the past several months have brought many new faces in to pay us a visit because we have featured such a mix of visual arts. By stopping in, these folks have gotten a glimpse of the

local heritage that is preserved and showcased here.”

The exhibits began in July when the Museum hosted its first photography show. Mrs. Herndon noted that 24 very nice pieces were brought in for that, and there might have been more except they had asked for pieces with a historic theme related to north

central West Virginia. “We learned from this,” she said, “and next year when we host this again, it will not have a restricting theme.”

During the month of August, an Art Show was held that included nearly 60 paintings and drawings – in oil, acrylics, watercolor, and pencil

See “Bice-Ferguson” Pg 7

Current Project Updates & Improvement Plans Are Topics of Shinnston City Council's Recent Work Session



Pictured here, Mayor Patrick Kovalck reads a proclamation in support of FTD awareness. Pictured with him is local resident Tammy Carpenter, a West Virginia FTD Ambassador and one of many who suffers from this brain disorder that is a form of dementia.

By Leigh C. Merrifield

Shinnston City Council’s Sept. 28th Work Session was held at the Woman’s Club clubhouse, and following regular opening procedures, Mayor Patrick Kovalck read a Proclamation denoting the week of Sept. 28th – October 6th as Frontotemporal D e g e n e r a t i o n Awareness Week in the City of Shinnston.

Mayor Kovalck then reported on attending a Ribbon Cutting at JR’s Barber Shop in Shinnston that welcomed a new, additional barber there which has increased traffic at that business. He also noted that large stones were being placed surrounding the

‘Welcome to Shinnston’ sign on Saltwell Road, offering protection from traffic running into it.

The winners of the People’s Choice awards at the Quilt Show held at the Museum were announced as follows: 1st Place – Kim Strait; 2nd Place – Minda Shingleton; and 3rd Place – Terry Robey.

Museum Director Debra Herndon had noted that the Quilt Show had drawn many visitors to the Museum this year.

City Manager Tori Drainer stated that she had attended the Mon Harrison Hospital opening; she also confirmed that the Lincoln Homecoming Parade had drawn wonderful attendance. She noted upcoming dates of importance:

Downtown Trailhead cleanup & mulching will be done on October 4th prior to the Rail Trail Reopening celebration and Fall Festival in the downtown area on October 10th. Third graders will be visiting the City’s offices and the Police Department on October 14th, and Lincoln High School’s DECA students will host a ‘Haunted Trail’ on October 16th. She also stated that after going over 19 pages of legal papers, it was determined that delinquent citations can still be collected. This will be discussed in more detail at the next October meeting.

Vice-Mayor Rodney Strait interjected that The Rail Trail is definitely bringing

many people into the area, and that he had the opportunity to meet several of those people from out of town who offered many complimentary comments of the trail being a magnificent attraction.

Council then proceeded to its list of discussion items that included the following:

- To draft the amended ordinance for the Police fee. City residents have long had a fee of \$15 on their monthly City bill – a fee that is divided for Police and Fire Department funding as well as for street maintenance. A previous increase in that fee was postponed during COVID, but Council is now addressing a \$7 total increase in that service fee. The Fire Department’s share of the fee has been \$7 and will remain at that same amount because they have no serious immediate needs.
- Councilperson Mary Ann Ferris noted that residents should remember that Shinnston’s VFD has a very high rating which benefits local residents because it is reflected in their insurance billing. The Police Department’s share

See “Council” Pg 7



An Amazing City Across the River



By JIM HUNT

Building Amazing Cities

For the Harrison County Journal

Sometimes the best discoveries are the ones you weren’t expecting.

When I learned that the Kentucky League of Cities would hold its annual conference in Covington, Kentucky, I marked my calendar and gave little thought to where Covington actually was. As the meeting approached, I finally looked at a map.

There it was, right across the Ohio River from Cincinnati and pretty much straight west from Clarksburg along U.S. Route 50. The drive would take about four and a half hours. Faced with a choice between a pleasant drive and spending much of the day navigating airports, I chose the car.

I arrived late in the afternoon, handed my keys to the valet at the Hotel Covington and stepped inside.

Immediately, I knew this would be more than a place to leave my suitcase.

The interior reminded me of the 1950s in the best

See “Hunt” Pg 3



OPINION

The Beauty of Aging

By Stephen Smoot

There’s an old joke about a young man shocked to hear about a man turning 95.

“Who would ever want to turn 95?” asked the young man rhetorically. The answer is “a 94-year old.”

Last week, the former popular music star Madonna emerged at the Video Music Awards. In some way that was fitting since neither institution has aged very well. The VMAs will cause the average person to say “wait, is that still around?” The answer, of course, is true. Long after MTV jettisoned their raison d’etre to creep into garbage television, long after music videos have regularly appeared on television, the VMAs soldier on, like Don Quixote living far beyond their natural time.

Reports scattered online showed her dressed in almost nothing, having difficulty speaking , and not even knowing what awards she won.

I have no other details because I am not watching the VMAs so you don’t have to.

The issue is not video awards, or even Madonna specifically. Madonna burst into celebrity status in the mid-80s with a hit song “Borderline.” She shaped her career around vivacious, and often at the time controversial, sexuality. Often she would commingle sexual and Roman Catholic imagery, which truly did demonstrate her overall lack of taste in her younger years.

As she has grown older, the headlines moved from music and style to outrageous behavior, then plastic surgeries and other efforts to outrace aging.

Aging is not simply a natural process. It reflects one of the constant recurring patterns of the universe. Everything has a starting point, rising life, a peak, falling life, then a conclusion or a death. That includes all in existence that has any kind of dynamism. It is the life pattern of people and also of stars, the celestial kind, not the celebrity.

The universe itself, unless current theories are wrong and they very well might be, follows this same cycle.

In Victorian times, men worked hard to hide their age, even going to the extent sometimes of dyeing their youthful hair with shades or elements of gray. Rising age meant rising knowledge, rising capabilities, rising influence. Older men received more respect because experience was valued more than “youthful energy.”

The matriarch of this world was Queen Victoria, one of the greatest monarchs in both British and world history. In her youth, she portrayed true regal beauty, but it was not her svelte form, big doe eyes, and pursed lips of youth that served as the appearance of greatness. Her greatness came as she aged, working with and learning from great statesmen such as Benjamin Disraeli, Lord Salisbury, and countless others..

As she reached her years of greatest effectiveness, Queen Victoria grew extraordinarily corpulent. Her soft expression hardened into a thoughtful scowl as flushed high cheeks evolved and sank into jowls. Her eyes shed their youthful sparkle and gained the steady light of a great mind.

In her youth, Queen Victoria was hesitant to act.

In her age, the great lady of Europe served as Queen of Great Britain and Ireland as well as Empress of India. She was head of an Empire that controlled 25

See “Smoot” Pg 5

ShinnstonHarrison County

The News & Journal

• EDITORIAL

Oct 8 - Oct 14, 2026

Super Crossword

JOURNALISTIC SET

ACROSS

1 Principal part of a ship's rigging

9 Glucose and dextrose

15 Want greatly

20 Phrase before a memoir co-author

21 Result of iron deficiency

22 Opponent

23 Question to someone barking orders

26 Wiggly fish

27 Extinct bird

28 Swerving billiards shot

29 Teeny

30 Suspenseful NFL periods

33 CIA worker

35 PC fixer, e.g.

37 "Hey, amigo"

39 Highest price customers are amenable to paying

47 "Less filling" Miller beer

48 Prefix similar to "equi-"

49 Vaccination fluids

50 Neighbor of Monterey Park, Calif.

51 Connections

53 Maximum

56 Rustic hotel

58 Lean- (simple huts)

59 Time to steel oneself and power through

66 Congregated

67 Goes past the time limit

68 Cold shoulder preventer?

69 A humidifier moistens it

71 Suddenly blazing stars

73 Pungent salad veggie

77 Lhasa (small dogs)

80 Official assisting a referee

83 "Rapa- (1994 Esai Morales film)

84 Classic Maurice Sendak book

89 Cabinet dept. focused on homes

90 "— culpa"

91 Wedge for filling a gap

92 Show fatigue reflexively

93 Mother on "Bewitched"

97 Aruba, e.g.

100 Steal from

102 Medicine bottle

104 Jesus' words after "My God, my God;" in Matthew

109 "You bet!," in Baja

110 Favorite cereal of a "silly rabbit"

111 "I'm — loss for words"

112 Pub barrel

113 "La-la" lead-in

116 "Jay — Garage"

119 Best draft status

121 Business mag

123 Response upon hearing about an astonishing feat

130 "Aida," e.g.

131 Dogs from Japan

132 They often get mashed

133 Stopwatch button

134 Despotic ruler

135 They begin this puzzle's long answers

DOWN

1 Greedy gullet

2 Fire residue

3 Figure skater Midori

4 Central point

5 Superlatively sneaky

6 University on Long Island

7 "— be an honor"

8 Put freight in

9 Less happy

10 Opens with a key

11 "Well, I'll be!"

12 Radio toggle letters

13 Actress Hayworth

14 Gives a quick greeting

15 Disney villainess De Vil

16 Chest bone

17 State boldly

18 Rose holder

19 Otherwise

24 — bene

25 "— Mio"

30 Hooting bird

31 Toward there

32 Feeling of fullness

34 Sycophantic guys

36 Bray syllable

38 Crunches tone them

40 High schooler, e.g.

41 Some rock band synthe-sizers

42 Calc prereq

43 Subsidies

44 Caesar's final reproach

45 Bump on —

46 Unduly quick

52 Zebra feature

54 Shortly

55 Resort town near Rome

57 High degree

59 H-bomb, e.g.

60 "Lummox"

61 "A Town Like Alice" author Shute

62 Large pianos

63 Clingy wrap

64 Like a banjo's sound

65 On in years

70 Bern's river

72 Comic Rogen

74 Very shortly

75 "Smith" is the commonest one in the United States

76 Hasten

78 Resistance unit

79 Understand the point

81 Bake, as an egg

82 Brunch cocktail

84 "Close call!"

85 "Come again?"

86 Water swirl

87 Do laundry

88 Goalie's goal

94 Elle King's "Ex's & —"

95 Lambastes

96 Valuable trait

98 Auction unit

99 Former Volkswagen seven-seater

101 "Freedom" singer Jon

103 Shin's place

105 Soldier's steel helmet

106 Best in quality

107 Yaks, e.g.

108 Wichita site

113 Thunder god

114 Lasso, e.g.

115 Stupefies

117 Tasting of wood, as wine

118 Move a bit

120 Session with a dr., e.g.

122 — Field (Mrs. Met's home)

124 Deep anger

125 Greek vowel

126 "La-la" lead-in

127 Fight like Ali

128 Actor Ayres

129 Snaky letter

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Find the Super Crossword Answers on Page 4!

THIS WEEK IN West Virginia History

Charleston WV – The following events happened on these dates in West Virginia history. To read more, go to e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia at www.wvencyclopedia.org.

Oct. 8, 1764: Harman Blennerhassett was born in England. He and his wife Margaret settled on an island near Parkersburg in 1798 and built an elaborate mansion. In 1805, they joined the Aaron Burr Conspiracy, leading to Harman’s arrest on treason charges. Although released after Burr’s acquittal, Blennerhassett died in poverty in 1831.

Oct. 8, 1909: Harry Brawley was born in Charleston. As a history teacher, he pioneered the use of radio in classrooms and later broadcast shows for schools. He also was instrumental in founding what is now West Virginia Public Broadcasting.

Oct. 8, 1993: The Rev. Bernard Coffindaffer died unexpectedly of a heart attack. Starting in 1984, Coffindaffer began erecting clusters of crosses in West Virginia and other states. He was buried in Nicholas County, just across the highway from a set of his crosses.

Oct. 9, 1877: The Episcopal Church created the Diocese of West Virginia. The initial convention of the new diocese met at St. John’s Episcopal in Charleston, with 14 clergy and 16 lay delegates.

Oct. 9, 1918: Lucinda Rose died. During World War I, the Doddridge County native and Clarksburg resident was dispatched overseas as a nurse with the Red Cross. She contracted influenza on the transport and died after reaching England. She is the only West Virginia woman to lose her life overseas during the war.

Oct. 9, 2014: Following court rulings and announcements by the governor and the attorney general, same-sex marriage was effectively legalized in West Virginia.

Oct. 10, 1774: Shawnee warriors led by Cornstalk were defeated by Virginia militia at the Battle of Point Pleasant. It was the only major engagement of Dunmore’s War and the most important battle ever fought in present West Virginia.

Oct. 10, 1872: Architect H. Rus Warne was born in Parkersburg. Warne designed many notable buildings in Charleston, including City Hall and the Masonic Temple.

Oct. 10, 1878: Blanche Lazzell was born in Maidsville, Monongalia County. She was one of West Virginia’s most notable artists and is recognized as one of America’s leading abstract painters and print makers.

Oct. 10, 1904: Author W. E. Blackhurst was born in

Arbovale, Pocahontas County. As a teacher at Green Bank High School, he developed the state’s first conservation classroom course. His 1954 novel Riders of the Flood is a classic tale of the timber boom era in the Greenbrier Valley.

Oct. 10, 1948: During a boat-racing event in Charleston, Chuck Yeager flew a Lockheed P-80 Shooting Star under the South Side Bridge, surprising boaters, audience and news media at the event.

Oct. 11, 1811: State founder and U.S. Senator Waitman T. Willey was born near Farmington. Willey proposed the West Virginia Statehood Bill in the Senate and saw to its passage and later signing by President Lincoln. He was then elected as one of West Virginia’s first two U.S. senators and served from 1863 to 1871.

Oct. 11, 1896: George Preston Marshall was born in Point Pleasant and later lived in Grafton. As longtime owner of the Washington Redskins, he deserves much credit for inventing modern professional football. Marshall’s other legacy, however, is one of deeply entrenched racism, as Washington was the last NFL team to integrate.

Oct. 11, 1923: Science fiction and fantasy author Doris Piserchia was born Doris Summers in Fairmont. She was a pioneer in a genre that has become known as feminist science fiction, authoring 13 novels and 17 short stories between 1966 and 1983.

Oct. 12, 1877: Howard Mason Gore was born in Harrison County. He served as U.S. secretary of agriculture and the 14th governor of West Virginia.

Oct. 12, 2020: Actress Conchata Ferrell died. Born in Loudendale, Kanawha County, Ferrell was best known as Berta the housekeeper on the CBS sitcom Two and a Half Men. She enjoyed a long career on stage, film and television.

Oct. 13, 1863: The Battle of Bulltown took place in Braxton County. The location was valuable during the Civil War because the Weston Gauley Bridge Turnpike crossed the Little

Kanawha River on a covered bridge at this site.

Oct. 14, 1943: The army began transforming parts of Dolly Sods into an artillery range to train military troops bound for duty during World War II. The operation ended on July 1, 1944.

Oct. 14, 1947: In a Bell X-1 rocket airplane dropped from a B-29 bomber, Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier by flying 700 miles per hour. He set another speed record on December 12, 1953, by flying two-and-a-half times the speed of sound in a Bell X-1A.

Oct. 14, 1949: WSAZ-TV went on the air on channel 5. Early shows included the first telecast of a Marshall College (now University) basketball game on December 3, 1949.

Oct. 14, 1985: Kanawha Airport was renamed Yeager Airport in honor of Chuck Yeager.

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Veldia May Hess
Veldia May Hess, 84, of Reynoldsville, passed away on Monday, September 28, 2026 at the United Hospital Center in Bridgeport. She was born in Clarksburg, August 18, 1942, a daughter of the late Sewell Neil and Ernestine Lena Moore Day. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Charles Edward Hess, Sr., whom she married March 25, 1967; and a son Jason Hess. Surviving are three children, Marsha

Gamble and her companion Robert Winfrey, Clarksburg, Charles E. Hess, Jr. and his wife Amber, Clarksburg, Jeff Hess and his wife Michelle, West Milford; six grandchildren: Lena Gamble and her companion Jay, Christopher Gibbs and his wife Ashlee, Carrie Cox and her husband Jeffrey, Logan Hess, Nicholas Hess and his wife Christina, and Hope Hess; six great grandchildren: Lloyd Stevens, Mason Cox, Sarah Cox, Ivy Hess, Emberlee Gibbs, and Rowan Gibbs. Veldia retired from the United Hospital Center where she was a switchboard operator. She was also previously employed with Anchor Hocking Glass. She enjoyed watching police

dramas, especially Law & Order SVU, and doing her puzzle books. She was a member of the Reynoldsville Baptist Church. The family will receive friends at the Perine Funeral Home, 1348 S. Pike St., Shinnston, from 11am until the time of the funeral service at 1pm, Thursday, October 1st with Pastor Jon Hayes officiating. Interment will be in the Lumberport Lions Club Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to defer the cost of funeral expenses at <https://www.tmcfunding.com/funds/veldia-m-hess/17273/> Condolences may be extended to the family at www.perinefunerals.com. The Perine Funeral Home is honored to serve the Hess family.

Luella Mae Dotson Tanner

Luella Mae Dotson Tanner of Shinnston passed away on September 29, 2026. She was born June 29, 1941, to the late William Ralph Dotson and Orpha Belle Dotson. Luella married Wayne Tanner on August 29, 1958, and together they had five daughters, Debbie Colanero (Jamie), Jennifer

Tanner, Rebecca Davis (Jim). She is also Tanner (Brad), survived by a sister- Heather Pillo (Jimmy), in-law, Leslie Tanner and several nieces and nephews. She also had 10 Grandchildren, She was proceeded in Kristoffer Lucas death by her husband of 64 years (Stephanie), Abby Wayne Tanner as well as her Hunt, Rachel Babich brother Robert Dotson (Richard), Daisy (Irma) and sister Doris McGeehan(Allen), Emma Rose, Bradley Hall. Lue was a stay-at-home mom and Samantha Pillo homemaker until her (David), Sarah Collins youngest daughter started school. (Zane), and Kara Pillo, She then went to work in 8 Great Grandchildren, a retail setting for the Tyler Lucas, Marley next 30+ years. She Wilson, Olivia enjoyed taking care of Christopher Arnold, her home and family Ryleigh, Roman and as well as sewing, Rhett Babich. reading, and trips to She said every one of her grandchildren were the beach. “beautiful”. Luella will be Lue is also survived cremated and no formal by her brother Roger service will take place. Dotson (Janet) and A date for a memorial sisters Judy Bennett service for our family (Larry) and Janet will be chosen later.

“Hunt”

possible way. There was an elegance that made me think of a Clark Gable movie, when hotel lobbies had personality and checking in felt like the beginning of an adventure. The clerk welcomed me, and I took the elevator to my second-floor room. I have stayed in plenty of hotels described as “historic.” Sometimes that means little more than an old exterior surrounding an interior that could be anywhere in America. Somewhere during the renovation, the character disappears beneath oversized televisions and furnishings selected from the same catalog. Hotel Covington struck me differently. Its building once housed Coppin’s Department Store, and its transformation into a hotel gave that historic structure a new purpose. The result, to my eye, honored its character while making room for modern comfort. There were thoughtful touches throughout, subtle nods to technology and convenience that did not overwhelm the atmosphere. It brought a smile

to my face. With about an hour of daylight remaining, I headed outside to explore. For someone who loves cities, walking through an unfamiliar downtown is one of life’s great pleasures. You notice the buildings, the storefronts and the small details that reveal whether people care about their community. In Covington, that care was on display. The architecture was generally well preserved, with details that invited me to slow down and look. Large murals gave several buildings a fresh energy. The downtown felt “cool,” but in a refined, comfortable way. Its older buildings and contemporary artwork seemed perfectly at home together. Then there was the Mother of God Roman Catholic Church, a commanding presence whose twin clock towers dominate the sky. It was another surprise in an evening already full of them. As I walked, I kept asking myself, “How have I never heard more about this amazing city?”

cont. from p. 1
Perhaps that is what happens when you live across the river from a much larger, better-known neighbor. Cincinnati naturally attracts attention, and visitors may overlook what is waiting on the Kentucky side. But Covington reminded me that a city’s appeal cannot be measured by its size or the familiarity of its name. During my years in local government, I learned that the places people remember often reflect countless decisions made over time: saving a building, caring for a streetscape, welcoming public art or helping an old property find a new use. Those decisions give people reasons to stop, walk and return. I went to Covington for a conference with people who care deeply about Kentucky’s cities. Before the conference even began, the host city had already given me something to think about. Sometimes an amazing city is closer than you realize. It could be just over the river.

Shinnston Honey Producer One of Many Harrison County Nominees for WV Living’s “Best of”

By Stephen Smoot
Every summer, West Virginia Living invites all Mountain State residents to show their support for the best that the state has to offer. Voters go online and select from a broad variety of fields that cover tourism, community service, local culture, attractions, and places to consume both potables and victuals. Shinnston’s own Hive and Holler received nomination for best honey. The beekeeping team of Mike and Amanda Flannigan over eight years ago ventured into the field of producing honey back in 2018. According to their website, it all started with two small hives on Mr. Flannigan’s father’s farm just outside of Salem. Wrote Mr. Flannigan on his website, “I just thought it would be interesting to learn and maybe even a good way to help the environment. But from the moment I opened my first hive, I was hooked.” As true entrepreneurs do, the team looked for inspiration in how to use what the bees made for them. They described “experimenting with ways to use the beeswax we collected.” This led the business beyond simply selling raw or filtered honey. The natural product was fashioned into skin and haircare, as well as lifestyle products. And now their friends and neighbors, as well as their growing customer base, can help to vote the team of Shinnston beekeepers as “Best Honey” in the state. Much of Harrison County’s nominations for Best In State came in categories of food and drink. Clarksburg’s Wonder Bar Steakhouse was nominated for Best Fine Dining. Oliverio Peppers represented one of the best food products made in state. And just up the road, NIne Hives Meadery in

Lumberport was selected to compete for Best Meadery or Cidery. Strangely enough, and likely to the consternation of many who live Italian heritage in the region, not a single Harrison County establishment was named for Best Italian Restaurant or Best Pizza. Oliverios Ristorante was listed for Morgantown, not Bridgeport. Muriales was nominated, however. Harrison County does host several sites where locals and visitors can enjoy recreation, regardless of what form that takes. Active individuals and athletes can vote for The Bridge as Best Sports Complex. Music and theater lovers can show their appreciation for the Robinson Grand Surprisingly, the robust commitment of the City of Shinnston and legions of volunteers, multiple

great venues, participation opportunities, and performers did not warrant in 2026 a nomination for Shinnston as Best Town For the Arts. Artworks in Bridgeport was chosen to compete for Best Art Gallery, however. It should be noted that nominations come from the general public and do not indicate that a person, place, or thing not selected is inferior to items that made the list. Harrison County had one selection for Best Musical Band, the Davisson Brothers. Tuscan Sun Spas can be voted on for best spa as well. Nomination to the list has significant impact even if the selection does not win. Thousands take to the WV Living website to vote and each selection enjoys free advertising.

State Introduces Program to Help With Home Energy Efficiency Upgrades

By Stephen Smoot
Last week, West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrisey touted the establishment of a new program geared to help home owners upgrade their residences to lower their bills. From the United States Department of Energy came \$88 million of \$8.8 billion distributed to states nationally to support two programs for West Virginia residents. The Mountain State rolled out their version of the programs before any other state. “Affordability is one of the biggest challenges facing West Virginia families, and lowering monthly energy bills is one way we can help families keep more of their hard-earned money,” said Governor Morrisey. “We want to hold down energy costs, create good-paying jobs, and make sure West Virginians have every opportunity to get ahead.” The two programs at the State level in West Virginia are called the Home Owner Managing Energy Savings program, or HOMES, and the Home Efficiency Appliance Rebates, or HEAR. Currently, the programs are operating on a pilot basis as applications start to come in. Execution of the programs will take place after the pilot stage is complete. The HOMES program, according to the West Virginia Office of Energy, includes “upgrading insulation, replacing outdated equipment, or installing a heat pump.” Regulations state that *See “Energy” Pg 7*

Cougars and Flying Eagles Set to Collide in Clarksburg



The Bottom Line

By Bill Nestor
Sports Editor

Lincoln fans were worried about the after-effects of the hard-fought loss to North Marion last week. The Cougars had the lead over the undefeated Huskies with seconds left before suffering a heart breaking one point loss.

There is no place like home and playing in Shinnston helped this constantly improving squad get back on track with a convincing 54 to 14 win over winless Lewis County. Lincoln got defensive in the first half, forcing a handful of turnovers and quarterback Bear Saab turned in his best performance of the campaign in the victory.

Saab tossed four first quarter touchdowns to help his team to a 27 to two lead. Colton Edwards bookended three scoring strikes, hauling in the first touchdown reception from 15 yards and Braiden Minor pulled in a 64 yarder for the longest scoring pass play of the affair.

The second period saw the Cougars beat the Minutemen at their own game. Lincoln went to the ground and pounded Lewis County into submission. Conner Rice continued his consistent play as the running back served back to back touchdowns on runs of nine and 80 yards respectively. Cade Mooney added a one yard scoring plunge to help the cause.

Special teams play was once again impressive for the Cougars. Brody Anderson scooped up a blocked punt and returned it 70 yards for Lincoln's final touchdown. Lukas Sostheim added five extra points while Ave McGill added another in the win.

Lincoln moved to three and three on the game and has a big road game this week with Robert C. Byrd.

The Flying Eagles were in a similar situation coming off of a loss the week prior and looking to bounce back against East Fairmont. The difference was that they were on the road playing at East-West Stadium. The result was very similar as RCB utilized a strong first half to earn a 49 to 0 victory.

RCB's defense forced three turnovers (all interceptions) and allowed just 94 yards of offense. Big plays were the difference as RCB would score six touchdowns of 61 yards or more with Isiah Heflin having his hands or legs involved in four of them.

Heflin tossed a pair of touchdown passes to Sean Adams of 64 and 61 yards. Heflin returned an interception 68 yards for a score. He also scored on a 94 yard run, the second longest in school history. Corbin Shevront found the end zone on a 75-yard run and Junior Smith scored on a 66 yard scamper. Heflin was a perfect seven of seven on extra points in the lock-up. The win helped the Flying Eagles to a five and one record.

These two teams are on a collision course in a pivotal game for both squads. The Cougars could garner a ton of bonus points while RCB needs to win to keep its hopes of hosting in the postseason. This series has been highly contested as of late with the Cougars holding the advantage. Lincoln won last year 35 to 28. The year prior the Flying Eagles won by the same score. Lincoln won in both 2022 and 2023 and RCB prevailed in 2021. The Cougars have taken three of the last five. This year's contest will be played in Clarksburg and is the premier intracounty matchup on the schedule.

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.

By Bill Nestor

The Harrison County athletes in the spotlight this week are South Harrison's Audrey Burnside and Robert C. Byrd's Ethan Lake.

Hawk volleyball player Audrey Burnside has been playing lights out as of late. A couple of weeks ago, she scored a triple-double in a win over Doddridge County. This past week, Burnside had 15 assists, 10 digs, eight kills, and seven service points, including three aces in a win over Williamstown.

Flying Eagle soccer player Ethan Lake just can't seem to stop scoring. Lake scored four goals in an 11 to one win over Pike View last Monday. He followed that epic effort with a four-pack of goals in a 10 to 0 win at Preston on Thursday.

Congratulations to South Harrison's Audrey Burnside and RCB's Ethan Lake for shining bright in the SN and HCJ spotlight!



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USDA Issues Final Rule with Comment Period Ahead of Opening the Application Window for Rural Energy for America Program

Washington, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture is taking steps to advance the Trump Administration’s commitment to unleashing American energy and economic prosperity and is streamlining program delivery for the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). Rural Development through the Rural Business Cooperative Service (RBCS) is issuing a final rule with comment period that will simplify the application process, reduce risk to the agency, and protect taxpayer dollars.

“The final rule from USDA will restore integrity and stability to the Rural Energy for America Program. For too long many applicants have prioritized unreliable energy sources and have not fully delivered on their stated goals, as of today that ends,” said Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins. “President Trump is committed to an energy dominant future for America and it starts with our rural communities, USDA stands ready to deliver on this goal.”

“This rule cuts the red tape so that farmers and rural small businesses can spend less time and money navigating paperwork and more time investing in their operations,” said Under Secretary for Rural Development Glen R.

Smith. “At the same time, we’re protecting productive American farmland from oversized solar developments and ensuring taxpayer-supported energy investments don’t put components from foreign adversaries on American farms. REAP should work for rural America, not foreign supply chains or projects that take good farmland out of production.”

Important changes to program requirements include:

- Implementation of the Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins’ direction to disincentivize solar photovoltaic and wind energy systems on cropland.
- Requiring projects to be fully built, operational, and demonstrating performance before applying. This ensures that the applicant can demonstrate the project’s actual documented output, energy savings, costs, and system performance.
- Multilocation projects and specific application of certain technologies are now ineligible.
- Implementation of a single streamlined national competition process to simplify program administration and prioritize projects delivering verifiable results.
- A planned online application portal will significantly decrease burden for applicants by shortening application

length and review times across the program.

Applications with a Form 1940-1 “Request for Obligation of Funds” signed by the Applicant and the Agency prior to the effective date of this regulation will continue to be processed, provided that their project remains in line with applicable terms and conditions. Each person or entity is subject to maximum amount of grant assistance per Federal fiscal year. Entities that share common management or ownership, regardless of percent owned, either directly or indirectly through another entity or person, are considered one entity for which aggregate funding cannot exceed the applicable dollar limit.

Stay tuned for the publication of the annual program notices which will announce application window open and close dates.

The REAP Program provides guaranteed loan and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. For more information on this program visit <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/energy-programs> or contact your State Energy Coordinator.

If you’d like to subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit our GovDelivery subscriber page.

“Smoot” cont. from p. 2

percent of the land surface of the globe and all of the oceans. Queen Victoria served as the personal suzerain of countless local indigenous leaders who pledged loyalty to her Crown in exchange for protection and trade.

Even though British law limited her actual powers as Queen, no monarch in Europe dared to cross her. When her 20 something year old grandson, the brashly rude and ambitious Kaiser Wilhelm II, overstepped etiquette in a dispute with other members of the British royal family, she sent him a terse note. It was not a note written to an equal head of state and fellow ruler of an empire. It was penned as a grandmother to a petulant child throwing a temper tantrum. He dared not respond contentiously to her out of deep respect.

Aging means coming to terms with diminishing physical capabilities, but a well tended mind will continue to flourish and gain. It takes years or even decades for most people to truly develop their mind to their God-given potential. It requires also that adult men and women leave behind the pursuits and desires of childhood and mature into productive human beings capable of handling responsibilities.

“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.” says I Corinthians 13:11, the words of Saint Paul.

Putting away childish things does not mean abandoning fun and games in one’s spare time forever. It does mean accepting the mindset of an adult, of taking on and fulfilling responsibilities, of not letting one’s youthful type of desires consume so much time, money, or energy that one cannot function properly as an adult.

It means that one must embrace the challenges that life sets before one, instead of trying to shirk or run away from obligations and responsibilities. One’s roles in life, father, mother, son, daughter, employer, employee, community member, become more important than the whims of childhood.

It means that one must exercise emotional and personal discipline. Emotions to a truly functioning adult are always secondary to getting the job done. When those who are over the age of majority allow their emotions, especially their negative emotions, to rule them and direct their behaviors and responses, they have not put away their childish things. Instead, they have embraced permanent childhood. The longer one continues in such a state, the sadder that state becomes.

Imagine a world where Madonna put aside childish things and embraced maturity and age. Imagine if her, admittedly beautiful and quite distinctive voice followed a mature personality into a Barbara Streisand type middle age and senior career. Instead of serving as a tired punchline, she’d be respected, perhaps even in some quarters even revered.

Too many men also fail to set aside childish things, also. A century ago, most men had libraries, workshops, or even laboratories where they spent time in productive or enlightening practices. Now too many men go to “man caves” and try to stretch the false halcyon mid teen to mid 20s years as long as they possibly can.

One cannot help but to note that Plato metaphorically equated a complete lack of understanding with living at the bottom of a dark cave.



Dear Recycle Lady,

I know you recycle toothbrushes, but are there any other oral items that can be recycled? *Clean Teeth*

Dear Clean Teeth,

Yes. There are several other oral items that can be recycled. All brands of toothbrushes and empty tubes of toothpaste, plus their caps, can be recycled. Try to get as much of the tooth paste out as you can before recycling the tube. Not only will that make it more recyclable, it will also save you money! The small plastic floss containers can also be recycled, as well as dental flosses and picks. Don’t forget to include all the packaging that the oral products come in. They are also recyclable. Deposit all these items in the small tube that is part of the aluminum can bin. Colgate pays for the postage for all boxes of oral products returned to TerraCycle and the Recycling center has returned 6 boxes weighing approximately 25 pounds over the past three years.

Dear Recycle Lady,

What are plant-based cleaners? Do they do a good job? *Cleaner-Upper*

Dear Cleaner-Upper,

Good question. Plant-based cleaners are cleaners made with environmentally friendly ingredients such as vinegar, lemon juice, and baking soda; all of which have excellent antibacterial, degreasing, and stain removing properties. Vinegar is a natural disinfectant and deodorizer, lemon juice has antibacterial properties and a fresh scent, and baking soda is effective for scrubbing and neutralizing odors. Used properly, plant-based cleaners can be just as effective as chemical cleaners, however, they work more slowly so let them sit a while before removing them. There are also several commercial cleaners available that are plant-based. They are made with ingredients derived from renewable plant-based sources rather than petroleum and synthetic chemicals. Also, biodegradable plant-based cleaners are less harmful for aquatic life than commercial cleaners. Look for the EPA Safer Choice label or USDA

BioPreferred certified. A significant part of these products must be plant-based. Tide PurClean ingredients are 75% plant-based and Clorox Ecoclean is made with 99% plant-based cleaning ingredients. Seventh Generation has many plant-based cleaning products, as does Mr. Clean. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also approves natural cleaners with ingredients like thymol (from the oil of thyme), including Seventh Generation’s Disinfecting Wipes and Cleaners.

Dear Recycle Lady,

I recently replaced my lawn mower battery. Will my old lawn mower battery recycle? *Lawn Caretaker*

Dear Lawn Caretaker,

The Recycling Center not only accepts lawn mower batteries, but it will pay you for them. Car batteries are also accepted as are all rechargeable batteries of any size, regardless of whether or not they will charge. Proper disposal of rechargeable batteries is crucial to prevent environmental harm and to recover valuable minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, lead and aluminum. I am sorry to say no alkaline batteries of any kind are accepted at our Recycling Center. However, according to battery manufacturers it is now safe to put them in the landfill. When you take your lawn mower battery to the Recycle Center, go in the door for recycling aluminum cans, push the button and a staff member will come help you.

Kudos to Mountain Table in Renick, WV for using a compostable bag for their k-cups and saving space in the landfill. Compostable bags are made from organic materials such as sugarcane or potato starch. They break down quickly, are biodegradable and can be composted at home.

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.

The true halcyon years in a person’s life, if they have set aside their childish things, start in one’s late 30s. Hard work, wise decisions, and mature behavior bear fruit in early middle age when, suddenly, an adult’s opinions and ideas are more respected, even sought after. One is asked to lead and/or mentor others and help them to grow and achieve in their own lives.

The aged mind is a beautiful one. It grew on experiences, relationships, failures and successes both, and learning how the world works and how people operate. It has much more to offer as it continues to accumulate those experiences. Valuable are these minds and wise are the young people who seek their counsel and listen to their advice.

Embracing middle and old age comes easier to those who have kept their faith. They understand that this world is not the only or the final one, but that heaven awaits the righteous. Fear of death is mitigated by the understanding that it is not the end.

One may have some concern for how one dies, but death itself is not frightening. There is no “Dead End” sign there, but a doorway into what comes next.

If one does not have faith and feels that this life is the only one there is, their great fear is very likely of not living the one period of existence they have to their fullest. Fear of death, or of not living life completely, will warp judgment and decisions of many in this mindset. It could certainly lead to clinging to young adulthood or even childhood as long as one can, avoiding the reality that all living creatures must face.

Adulthood is challenging almost by definition, but true happiness only comes from overcoming challenges and obstacles in life. Clinging to childish things, however, only perpetuates the delusion of youth.

As the delusion becomes more untenable, the deluded descends into a figure of either pathos or ridicule.



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- 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.

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- Experience working in a government office, county office, or administrative setting.
- Knowledge of office procedures, records management, and customer service.
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- Ability to prepare professional correspondence and presentations.
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Mountain Valley Pipeline Paying Off In Local and State Revenues, Reports Treasurer Pack

By Stephen Smoot

Over 12 years ago, Governor Earl Ray Tomblin (D- W. Va) and Virginia Governor Terry MacAuliffe (D-VA) came together to endorse the Mountain Valley Pipeline. It connected natural gas sources in the Mountain State to the Old Dominion, running from north to south through central West Virginia, then turning east after crossing into Virginia.

The 303 mile line has a daily transmission capacity of two billion cubic feet. That translates to about two trillion British Thermal Units of energy, enough to heat 28,500 homes for a year.

Said then-Governor MacAuliffe, who worked as a confidante to President Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary, “to compete globally to attract businesses and create jobs, Virginia must have world-class energy infrastructure that provides abundant access to low-cost energy sources.” He noted that natural gas represented a cleaner form of energy use and would contribute to reducing the environmental impact of power generation.

“West Virginia continues to be one of our nation’s energy leaders,” noted then-Governor Tomblin, who then added “these investments have the potential to create good-paying jobs and by keeping key byproducts in our state, we have the opportunity to rejuvenate our manufacturing sector and create promising opportunities for future generations.”

A release from Mountain Valley Pipeline in 2014 shared that the companies involved expected it to come into service in 2018. Despite considerable protest and lengthy court battles launched by environmental activists that delayed approval, the pipeline opened service in 2024. Some at the time opposed the use of shale gas while others noted the potential environmental impact of extending natural gas infrastructure.

The approval process started with EQT, Next Era, and other stakeholders holding community open houses and used local input to draw the final route.

Late last month, West Virginia Treasurer Larry Pack released a report sharing the positive economic and tax revenues impacts of the MVP since its opening in 2024.

West Virginia Treasury strategic analyst Mark Muchow detailed revenue gains for both county commissions and county school systems since the opening. Mountain Valley Pipeline LLC pays Class III property taxes. That refers to “all real and personal property situated outside a municipality that is not taxed in Class I (intangible personal property) Class II (owner-occupied residential property), or Class IV (property within a municipality not in Class I or II).

MVP’s property in 11 counties has been taxed “with fully assessed property tax revenues arriving in 2026-2027.” The report notes that “the property tax base associated with rural public utility properties in these 11 counties collectively grew by more than 62 percent in one year, largely due to MVP.”

Cumulative totals see county commission revenues in the 11 counties “rose by nearly \$9.1 million, and total school board revenues rose by nearly \$18 million.” It added that “additional property tax revenues associated with public utility property in the 11 counties collectively accounted for more than 86 percent of the total net gain in property taxes from all sources in these counties.”

Harrison County, for example, saw a Class III public utility valuation increase of almost \$178 million. That represents the increase in related taxable property values. Class III public utility tax base growth in Harrison rose by a little less than 30 percent.

The county commission regular revenues came in at \$969,365 and county excess at \$311,869. Harrison County Schools garnered almost \$1.4 million in the regular assessment and \$973,764 in the school excess.

Overall, Harrison County saw the county commission pull in \$1,362,722 more for fiscal year 2027 than fiscal year 2026. Harrison County Schools saw its revenues increase by \$990,846 between FY 26 and FY 27.

Muchow’s report stated, and Treasurer Pack shared, “the numbers show that large utility capital investment projects significantly affect local

See “Pipeline” Pg 7

State Introduces Program to Help With Home Energy Efficiency Upgrades

By Stephen Smoot

Last week, West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrisey touted the establishment of a new program geared to help home owners upgrade their residences to lower their bills. From the United States Department of Energy came \$88 million of \$8.8 billion distributed to states nationally to support two programs for West Virginia residents.

The Mountain State rolled out their version of the programs before any other state.

“Affordability is one of the biggest challenges facing West Virginia families, and lowering monthly energy bills is one way we can help families keep more of their hard-earned money,” said Governor Morrisey. “We want to hold down energy costs, create good-paying jobs, and make sure West Virginians have every opportunity to get ahead.”

The two programs at the State level in West Virginia are called the Home Owner Managing Energy Savings program, or HOMES, and the Home Efficiency Appliance Rebates, or HEAR. Currently, the programs are operating on a pilot basis as applications start to come in. Execution of the programs will take place after the pilot stage is complete.

The HOMES program, according to the West Virginia Office of Energy, includes “upgrading insulation, replacing outdated equipment, or installing a heat pump.” Regulations state that equipment “may only be upgraded when switching to an energy efficient model or equivalent. For example, a gas appliance may be replaced with a more efficient gas model, while an electric appliance may be replaced with a more efficient

electric model.”

Additionally, “rebates are available to households of all income levels, and the more energy your project saves, the more this program will cover.”

The HEAR program has a slightly different focus. It “aims to help West Virginia residents lower the cost of purchasing and installing energy-saving appliances and upgrades.”

The HOMES program has a four step process. First, residents apply for household qualification. Applications go to the West Virginia Office of Energy, but Regional Implementation Partners are available to provide assistance “every step of the way.” In Harrison County, that agency is CHANGE Inc.

Next, “certified energy auditors visit the homes to assess opportunities for energy savings.” After the energy audit, residents will receive a “customized plan” suggesting energy efficient measures to adopt moving forward.

Finally, certified contractors come to install the upgrades.

Examples of eligible upgrades include heat pump installations, gas equipment upgrades, and weatherization improvements.

The rebate amount received is calculated via a formula that adds household income to projected energy savings.

For HEAR, the first step is the same, but second brings certified energy auditors to analyze household appliances and their energy use. The third and last step comes when certified contractors complete the work required.

The West Virginia Office of Energy’s websites explaining the programs has additional information for potential applicants, contractors, and others.

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Measuring Your Wealth

Parents spend a lot of their time trying to set good examples for their children and trying to teach them valuable lessons. Youngsters should feel comfortable turning to their parents for guidance and direction, but once in a while they may see things differently. Sometimes it is worth listening to their perspective ... as hopefully you will see with this interesting example.

I am going to introduce you to a very successful man; we'll call him Ben. He was quite successful and it was certainly visible. Everyone could see that he was wealthy, and certainly Ben himself knew it. He wore custom suits, lived with his family in a large mansion, and drove top-of-the-line imported cars. He felt a little overly proud of himself with all this wealth.

Ben and his wife had a son who seemed to ignore the family wealth. His father didn't feel his son appreciated the kind of life he was giving him, so he set out to teach him something and sent him off to spend a day and night in the country visiting another family that he considered much less fortunate than his own. The boy would learn how 'poorer people' live and then he would be more grateful for the life his father was providing for him.

So the boy spent a day and a night "on the farm" living with this poor family. Upon the boy's return, his father asked, "How was the trip?" The boy replied that he had enjoyed himself. Then Dad asked, "Do you see now how poor people live? What did you learn from this?"

The son answered, "I saw that we have a dog at home, and they had four! We have a pool that reaches to the edge of the garden, but they had a creek that had no end!" the boy replied ... and continued, "We have imported lamps in the garden, but they had the stars above. Our patio reaches to the front yard, but they had a whole horizon! It was amazing!"

Ben stood there speechless – especially when the boy said, "Thanks for letting me see how poor we are."

It seems the lesson this father had expected his son to learn had taken an about face. You see, wealth is not the best way to judge people. Don't evaluate someone by the way they dress, their lifestyle, the kind of car they drive, etc. because that does not truly reflect their character. Sometimes the affluent stick their chests out and feel they are better than others because they have been successful financially. They often become overly proud of themselves and don't hesitate to present that image – one of being of "upper class" status. However, as the saying goes ... "Money doesn't buy happiness".

One can be PROUD of a job well done ... of doing a job with no fanfare expected ... nor expecting a pay raise or promotion. Doing a job well builds self-respect and confidence and does not rely on outside praise or recognition. We can also be proud of doing for others ... or showing up for someone who needs help ... or simply offering random acts of kindness. OR just do something kind for someone (free) and ask that they return the favor to someone else. This is a lesson children need to be taught, and it can't be bought.

Quote of the Week: *"The true measure of a person's wealth is not the balance in their bank account, but the depth of their character and the purity of their heart."* ~ Anonymous Author

"Pipeline" cont. from p. 6

government financing through substantial additional property tax collections" with "the impact on the smaller rural counties is even more significant given the size of government."

Webster County, for example, saw its public utility valuation skyrocket by over 600 percent. It saw 77 percent growth in county commission revenues between FY 26 and FY 27 and the exact same percentage growth for Webster County Schools.

The 11 counties combined saw a jump of \$111,300,322 between FY 26 and FY 27.

It must be noted that these tax revenues correlate to operation of the pipeline and do not reflect direct tax revenue impact. That said, especially in counties such as Webster, economic growth unrelated to MVP could not fully account otherwise for the boost in revenues.

Treasurer Pack explained that "as local entities embrace these types of projects, it is vital that residents understand what those investments could mean for their counties." He added that "providing clear, transparent information about increased revenues helps local officials make informed decisions and garners collective buy-in from constituents.

"Bice-Ferguson"

illustrations. This exhibit drew even larger attendance than previous art shows.

In September, a variety of nearly 30 quilts were on display – some sewn by machine and others completely by hand, a few dating back as far as the early 1900s! This exhibit too drew a lot of attention.

Now, throughout the month of October, the museum will again be featuring something new – 'fiber arts' that will include skills such as knitting, crocheting, cross-stitch, handwoven baskets, clothing items, embroidered items, shawls, doilies, afgans, pillows, table runners, and a Swedish woven blanket! There is a lot to see, and Mrs. Herndon is hopeful that it too will draw enough interest that it will warrant

"Council"

of this fee has been \$5 but will be increased to \$10. This \$5 jump for SPD was deemed warranted because the City Manager remarked that Shinnston's police pay is lower than other area cities, making it hard to keep officers here. She also stated that this \$5 jump would pay for another officer that would make 24-hour police coverage more achievable. Street maintenance receives \$3 for its share, and that would be upped \$2 to \$5. A \$2 jump and a \$5 jump would lift the service fee just \$7 total, but residents would benefit from just that \$7 addition! Raising the service fee from \$15 to \$22 would first have to be agreed upon, then have a first reading, a public hearing, and then a second reading before it could be approved and go into effect.

- The Police building's remodel was then discussed. The company that completely remediated the mold situation will also be submitting a bid for the building remodel. Walls affected by mold have been torn out and are being allowed to breathe and fully dry before new drywall is installed. Better

air quality has already been noticed! Exterior drains and downspouts may need to be rerouted for better drainage around the building. The Public Works Department could possibly handle performing that task.

- The next item for discussion was a Code Enforcement update. The city's Code Enforcement officer is continuing rental inspections, working on certified letters for the condemned properties for the grant and violations for nuisances. Mayor Kovalck said he would like to see the City offer the Code Enforcement officer a vehicle, perhaps a retired police vehicle, so that he could be identified as an official employee of the City.
- DLAP Grant opportunities from the Dept. of Environmental Protection were also discussed. These are funding resources to help rid the City of dilapidated properties. Right now, there are seven properties on the list to be handled: 90 Third St., 90 Main St., 72 Mahlon St., 1040 East Ave., 1225 Stewart St., 501 East Ave., and 528 Pike St. (Ashby Apts.) The City Manager has applied for a \$340,000 grant

"Energy"

equipment "may only be upgraded when switching to an energy efficient model or equivalent. For example, a gas appliance may be replaced with a more efficient gas model, while an electric appliance may be replaced with a more efficient electric model."

Additionally, "rebates are available to households of all income levels, and the more energy your project saves, the more this program will cover."

The HEAR program has a slightly different focus. It "aims to help West Virginia residents lower the cost of purchasing and installing energy-saving appliances and upgrades."

The HOMES program has a four step process. First, residents apply for household qualification. Applications go to the West Virginia Office of Energy, but Regional Implementation Partners are available to provide assistance "every step of the way." In Harrison County, that agency is CHANGE Inc.

hosting it again next year. Fiber arts will be on display until the 31st of October, which will be the museum's final day of the season.

The museum will remain closed from November until Spring, and will reopen on the first Thursday in May of 2027 when another new show will be introduced, exclusively featuring both beautiful paintings and baskets, all made by the late Beverly Pauschel who passed away in 2019. A 1953 graduate of Shinnston High School, Beverly was a self-taught artist who specialized in oil and watercolor, painting nature and landscapes. The museum will be filled with her talented work during 2027's opening month, giving visitors something to look forward to!

cont. from p. 1

cont. from p. 1

- to get rid of these properties.
- The dog park was the next discussion item. Alco Fence Company will be submitting a quote for the dog park fence, and two others will be contacted to see if they are interested. Due to some deeply rooted old trees, they have had to manipulate the location somewhat. It will be located at the top of the hill at the park near the bocce court. The playground area for dogs is 50 feet by 100 feet and will include a water fountain.
- The final discussion item was repaving Pike Street; the DOH has been contacted and asked to mill and smooth out the horrendous bumps particularly in the Charles Street area. With work on the South Shinnston bridge replacement scheduled for next year, the City is simply requesting that at least the Pike & Charles Street area be repaired before winter weather sets in.
- It was also noted that the Shinnston Swing at the park, a local Eagle Scout's project that has been talked about for at least a year, has experienced some delays but is still an endeavor that is ongoing.

cont. from p. 3

Next, "certified energy auditors visit the homes to assess opportunities for energy savings." After the energy audit, residents will receive a "customized plan" suggesting energy efficient measures to adopt moving forward.

Finally, certified contractors come to install the upgrades.

Examples of eligible upgrades include heat pump installations, gas equipment upgrades, and weatherization improvements.

The rebate amount received is calculated via a formula that adds household income to projected energy savings.

For HEAR, the first step is the same, but second brings certified energy auditors to analyze household appliances and their energy use. The third and last step comes when certified contractors complete the work required.

The West Virginia Office of Energy's websites explaining the programs has additional information for potential applicants, contractors, and others.

Bridgeport One of Cities Receiving New "Financial Efficacy Award" For Local Governments

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The West Virginia State Auditor today launched the West Virginia State Auditor's Financial Efficacy (WVSAFE) Award, a quarterly recognition program for local governments that excel in transparency, compliance and fiscal management. Using a 100-point scorecard from the Chief Inspector Division, the program will evaluate all 55 counties and more than 230 municipalities on criteria including timely, accurate data uploads to the OpenGov portal, clean audit opinions, early financial statement submissions and citizen-friendly budget summaries.

"This is a level playing field. Whether a community has a staff of three or three hundred,

this award measures the integrity of the process, not the size of the budget.

We look forward to celebrating West Virginia's local leaders who are leading the way in open government," said Mark A. Hunt, West Virginia State Auditor

INAUGURAL WVSAFE AWARD WINNERS
The State Auditor's Office will present framed certificates and digital badges to the inaugural WVSAFE Award winners: Roane County (Oct. 8, Spencer City Hall), Huntington (Class 2, date TBD), Bridgeport (Class 3, Oct. 26 council meeting) and Danville (Class 4, Oct. 6 council meeting).

THANK YOU FOR READING

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

WVDNR anticipates higher deer harvest due to lower mast production

2026 Hunting Outlook and Mast Survey available online

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) announced today that hunters preparing for fall seasons may now consult the 2026 Hunting Outlook and Mast Survey, which details the abundance of wild fruits and nuts produced by 18 species of trees and shrubs and forecasts game harvests for the coming year.

According to the survey, the mast index is 14% below the statewide long-term average and 16% below 2025. “Overall hard mast production, especially red oak and black oak, is down this year and is expected to be less abundant across the state,” said Avery Echevarria, mast survey project leader for the WVDNR’s Wildlife Resources Section. “Soft mast production was mixed. It was above the 2025 production level but slightly below the long-term average.”

When mast is less abundant, big game tend to move more, making them easier for hunters to locate. However, the increase in soft mast may mitigate this somewhat.

Because mast production influences wildlife behavior, harvests for white-

tailed deer and raccoon should be higher in 2026. According to the survey, the black bear harvest is predicted to be higher for archery hunters but slightly lower during firearms season. Compared to 2025, hunters should see similar harvests for wild turkey and ruffed grouse in 2026. Wild boar harvest is expected to be lower, and gray and fox squirrel harvest is expected to be higher.

“Every hunting season in West Virginia comes with unique opportunities and challenges, so I encourage folks to use this report to their advantage, plan accordingly and enjoy a great hunting season this fall,” said WVDNR Director Brett McMillion.

The survey, which is conducted by active and retired staff from the WVDNR’s Wildlife Resources Section and West Virginia Division of Forestry, may be downloaded at WVdnr.gov/mast-survey.

All hunters 15 and older are required to have a valid West Virginia hunting license and valid form of identification while hunting, which can be purchased at license agents across the state or online at WVhunt.com.

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, OCCUPANT, 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

Turning Tradition Into Savings For the Food Budget

With everyone feeling the pinch from the rising cost of living, it just might be time to consider preserving all the vegetables that are available this time of the year.

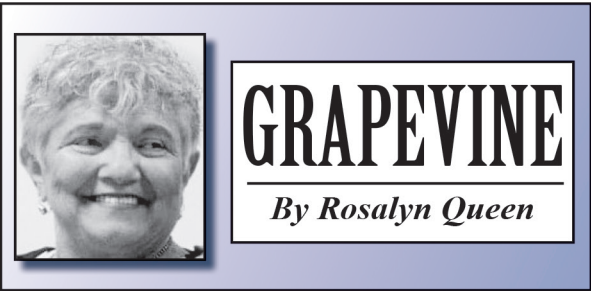
I wanted to advise you of the state of the art machines that are available for public use and our located in the kitchen at the uptown event center. Last year we received a grant that allowed the progressive women’s association to have these machines installed in the kitchen. The machines are available for public use.

There is a bottling machine, convection Ovens, A pressure machine, and several other machines that are used when preserving fruits and vegetables. The machines are located in a spacious kitchen area and make it very nice when preserving a large number of fruits or vegetables. The kitchen has a special work area and large commercial sinks. Several individuals can work together in this spacious kitchen.

Another consideration is pressure bagging fruits or vegetables for the freezer.

Most popular this time of year is canning peppers and tomatoes. You can also find an abundance of green beans ready to put in the jar. You might want to try canning vegetables for soup, will come in handy this winter when making a pot of vegetable soup.

Another feature to this kitchen is the use of the dining area which allows individuals to work from large tables. Using this area is a great time for starting a family tradition for baking for the holidays. If your family has grown and you want to include them in baking pita and cookies for the holidays. This is the ideal place to do that. Large ovens allow you to bake as many as 8 pitas at a time. How many times have you been preparing a large meal or baking numerous items that you wished you had more oven space. Well this is the place to schedule to allow you to get this done in a



timely manner.
Another idea is preparing your Christmas Eve dinner or your Thanksgiving dinner here. You would have to transport it to your home, but how great it would be to not have a messy kitchen.

Call 304 624 6881 to make an appointment to view the kitchen and to make an appointment for doing your canning. Start a new tradition. One your family will always remember.

For all of you out there with little ones, choose a Halloween party that they will enjoy. Start your plans now and be sure to choose a costume that will be safe for them to get around on.

October is breast cancer awareness month. I witness to the fact that there are many survivors out there. I encourage all of you women to get a regular mammogram. Early detection is so important. It has been over ten years since ce I was diagnosed and after over four years of fighting it, I pray I am still a survivor.

October is also my birth month. I will be 87 and it is hard for me to believe it but I am so thankful to be able to get around and to enjoy my family and friends. Thanks to Suzie and Bob Bright for the wonderful dinner at Julio’s with Debbie Merandi, but most of all for the four hours of great conservation. Thanks for the years of shared friendship. Another great dinner with my family and a lovely luncheon with Kathie Titus. Enjoying a new dinner at a restaurant in Fairmont with



Pictured are the “state of the art” machines installed in the kitchen of the Uptown Event Center. These machines are available for public use.

John and Cheryl Mihaulic. WOW I eat a lot but I sure enjoy it. Enjoy this beautiful fall season, stay healthy and until next week “Now You Have Heard It Through The Grapevine.”

