The Shinnston News & Journal
Harrison County
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Two Mountain State Turkeys to Be Named Later Are Citizens of the Month

By Stephen Smoot

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

About 10 months ago, Pendleton County earned a huge, but at the time secret, honor. The National Turkey Federation selected Dean's Gap Farms in Fort Seybert to host, raise, and also train turkeys to be featured at the White House Thanksgiving pardon ceremony.

Last week, with Thanksgiving almost upon the nation, the two turkeys bound for DC had their coming out party at Brandywine Elementary School. Over weeks, officials from the NFT, the White House, the State of West Virginia, and the United States Department of Agriculture worked tirelessly to put together a ceremony to recognize the event. With Becky Rightsell, who along with husband Scott own and operate Dean's Gap Farm, also a teacher at Brandywine Elementary School, the story sold itself. USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins, excited about holding the event at a school, committed to come.

Health and Human Services Secretary Robert Kennedy Jr was also a possibility to attend, but had to cancel a few days prior.

Then came Thursday's coming out party for the turkeys, who will take part in the White House turkey pardon ceremony. The tradition dates officially back to President George H. W. Bush, a Chief Executive with a big sense of humor and an even bigger heart. Presidents welcomed turkeys to the presidential table for many decades,

See "Turkeys" Pg 10



National Turkey Federation President Christy Puffenbarger, US Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins, Dean's Gap Farm owners Scott and Becky Rightsell and West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrisey celebrate two Mountain State birds going to DC

County Commission

By Stephen Smoot

"Heavenly father, we thank you for this day. We come to you in prayer not to convince you of anything, not that you ever could be, but to, Lord, just to praise you and glorify you and honor you because you are the master of all, the creator of the universe. We pray for peace and kindness for all the individuals in this room. We pray for a nice holiday season.

We like to call it Christmas here, Lord."

After Commissioner Patsy Trecost offered the invocation and attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance, the business of the Harrison County Commission opened.

Dave Sutton spoke during public comment. He has come on a regular basis to advocate for a ride share voucher program for recovering addicts trying to get to work or other locations. The Commonwealth of Virginia has issued a pilot grant for a similar program to help addicts get to addiction treatment appointments, but not other purposes.

Additionally, the United Way has an agreement with Lyft that can assist eligible riders with transportation to normal daily destinations.

Under the law, Commissioners cannot respond during public comment, even to ask questions. These laws protect those from the public who wish to speak during the comment period so long as they adhere to the rules.

David Bland spoke on behalf of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades. He advocated for legal language to give preference to "local contractors that have insurance and retirement and good wages" in the bidding process. He also invited all to the IUPAT exposition. The union typically holds an exposition in mid April at the Finishing Trades Institute Training Center in Weston.

Finally, the Commission heard from a representative of Hero's Haven. This "safe, child-friendly facility" provides a place "where child protection, criminal justice, and child treatment professionals" from Harrison, Doddridge, Taylor, and Barbour counties can collaborate to help children and also identify and prosecute offenders.

On December 1, the organizations will hold its dinner and annual awards. Because much of the growth of the organization's capabilities opened decades ago when the Commission provided them a grant writer, Hero's Haven will honor the body as a community hero.

"We wanted to invite you and a guest to our dinner on December 1, and congratulations on your nomination."

Next came a special funding request from Fort New Salem, They requested $5,000 to help to defer the cost of shuttle buses running visitors from designated parking lots during their Old Time Christmas celebration.

For 52 years, visitors have enjoyed history they can see and feel at Fort New Salem. The complex returns visitors to the days of the Appalachian frontier with its structures, its exhibits, and also special events.

Said a spokesman for Fort New Salem, "This year, 2026, we've added two cabins. The Bennett Cabin was dedicated in April this year. The Reynolds Cabin was dedicated in May of this year. It's the biggest cabin on on-site in the spirit of Christmas in the mountains for 2025.

We had 986 people attend, and what we do is we have them sign a guest book."

The spokesman added that "the spirit of Christmas in the mountains is our biggest event, and it'll happen this year on November twenty eighth and twenty ninth and again on December fifth and sixth of this year. Starts at noon and goes to dark. And at dark, we light the Christmas tree in in the center of the commons."

Said Commissioner Trecost, "I love what you do, and I was just thinking about how nice it's always been.

Commissioners then voted two to one to lift the requirement that county employes pay to use the designated county parking lot. Additionally, they approved moving pay dates to the 15th and 30th of each month.

The Data Center Opportunity: A Once-in-a-Generation Moment for Mason and Putnam Counties

Beyond technology and construction jobs lies a long-term opportunity to strengthen schools, support public services, and improve the quality of life for communities across West Virginia.

By the Honorable Clark Barnes, former West Virginia State Senator

There are moments in a community's history when decisions made today shape opportunities for generations to come. The proposed data center developments in Mason and Putnam Counties may represent one of those moments.

Much attention has been given to artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and the technology driving the modern economy. Those topics certainly deserve discussion. Yet for local residents, the more important question is far simpler: What do these projects mean for our communities?

The answer begins with jobs and investment, but it does not end there.

The arrival of large-scale data centers represents one of the most significant private investments ever contemplated in this region. Drawn by reliable electric power, strategic location, available land, and access to major markets, technology companies are increasingly viewing West Virginia as an attractive destination for future development.

The benefits begin long before a facility becomes operational.

During construction, hundreds and potentially thousands of local and regional workers may be employed in site preparation, building construction, utility installation, electrical work, and equipment deployment. These projects create opportunities for heavy equipment operators, electricians, steel workers, concrete specialists, truck drivers, engineers, surveyors, and countless others.

The economic impact extends beyond the job site. Local restaurants, hotels, fuel suppliers, equipment vendors, contractors, and service providers all stand to benefit from years of construction activity.

Once operational, the facilities create a new layer of highly skilled employment opportunities, including data center technicians, network engineers, facility operators, security professionals, maintenance personnel, and management staff. These positions typically provide competitive wages, specialized training, and long-term career opportunities.

In addition, the facilities require ongoing support from local contractors, service providers, electricians, security firms, utilities, and maintenance companies, creating economic activity that extends throughout the surrounding community.

Yet the greatest benefit may be the one least discussed.

Construction projects eventually conclude. Headlines fade. Companies move on to the next investment. What remains is the tax base.

Data centers represent extraordinary concentrations of private investment. The land, buildings, electrical infrastructure, and equipment associated with these facilities collectively create a property tax base unlike anything most communities have previously experienced. Once placed on the tax rolls, those assets generate recurring revenue year after year.

See "Data Center" Pg 10

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OPINION

Happy Thanksgiving

By Stephen Smoot

From the establishment of the Church of England by King Henry VIII, done for the purposes of securing a legal divorce and also to absorb the acreage owned by the Roman Catholic Church in his country, battles brewed over what that faith should look like.

Puritans battled those who wanted to keep as many of the Roman Catholic characteristics as possible. They wanted a faith purified of old influences. Even more radical, the Separatists judged that the Church of England could not be saved and started their own. Since this violated English law, they went to the Netherlands, a land that tolerated all faiths.

American history remembers the Separatists as "the Pilgrims."

Separatist leaders, looking less for tolerance and more for a place to practice their own ways apart from other influences, eventually chartered the Mayflower to carry their band across the water.

They, and the Puritans who followed, saw themselves as akin to the Hebrews fleeing slavery in Egypt. "Hebrew" could originate in an ancient Egyptian word "habiru," which means landless foreigner. The Pilgrim Separatists identified most with the idea of those homeless and persecuted for their faith.

When they arrived in America, the Pilgrims established the idea of the covenant as a basic law. Like the Hebrews, they set up overarching and guiding laws to which all other ordinances must adhere. This was a break from the English system of common law, court case precedents, and Parliamentary and Royal laws and assizes.

It did establish a Judeo-Christian legal foundation from which the American Constitutional system evolved.

After struggling to adapt to the rocky and unforgiving New England soils, local Indians helped to teach them how to farm, how to gather, and how to feed their people.

Soon, Puritans joined the Separatists. They established Massachusetts Bay Colony, Salem, New Haven, and others north and on either side of the Separatists' Plymouth Plantation.

After the first successful harvest, the English and Indians held the first Thanksgiving. Remembered Edward Winslow "our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent foure men on fowling so we might after a special manner rejoice together, after we had gathered the fruits of our labors; they foure in one day killed as much fowls . . . served the Company almost a weeke."

Indians under the chief Massasoyt "went and killed five Deere, which they brought to the Plantation and bestowed on our Governour." About 90 Indians joined the English for the celebration. Water birds, wild turkeys, deer, and more were served for the feast.

Massasoyt and the English formed a powerful bond early on. English doctors took care of him

See "Smoot" Pg 7

"A Newspaper The Whole Family Can Read"
Shinnston Harrison County
The News & Journal

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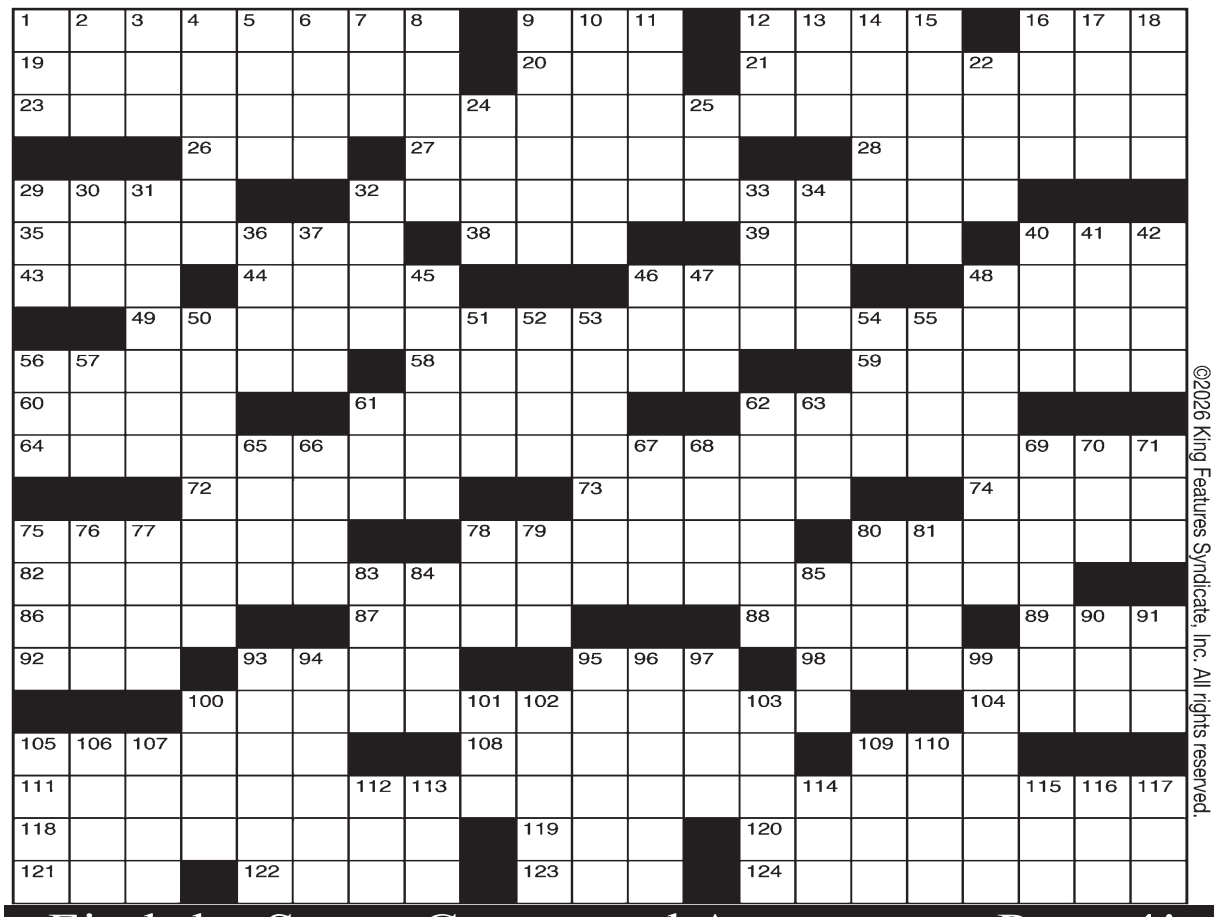
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Super Crossword

BEINGS AMONG THE BLOOMS

ACROSS
1 "The Breakfast Club" bunch
9 Successors of LPs
12 Chores, e.g.
16 Thurman of "Burnt"
19 Not too hard to construct
20 Oval portion
21 Sea east of Italy
23 Start of a riddle
26 Singer Yoko
27 Neighbor of an Ethiopian
28 Instrument with over 30 strings
29 Madeline of "High Anxiety"
32 Riddle, part 2
35 Hard to find
38 Even one
39 Feels poorly
40 Show — (films, plays, TV, etc.)
43 "Assuredly!"
44 Emulate a supermodel
46 Bull's-eye hitter
48 Do a fall yard chore
49 Riddle, part 3
56 Deceive
58 Most liberated
59 Puts in the crosshairs
60 Yuletide
61 Huge meal
62 Louvre Pyramid architect
64 Riddle, part 4
72 Raise, as a flag
73 Earthen cooking pots
74 Soul singer India
75 Cincinnati citizen, say
78 Less certain
80 Be nippy with, as a pup
82 Riddle, part 5
86 Omit
87 Page for think pieces
88 Post-shower powder
89 Bride's vow
92 Ares, to Zeus
93 "I" problems
95 Gun, slangily
98 Largest city in Scotland
100 End of the riddle
104 In the past
105 British noble, in brief
108 "Mrs." with an infamous cow
109 "She's the one"
111 Riddle's answer
118 Result of a shaving slip
119 Tucson-to-Tulsa dir.
120 Delights in the flattery, maybe
121 Styled like
122 Late-night host Meyers
123 Garnet, e.g.
124 Zooms past

DOWN
1 Sporty German auto
2 "Yay team!"
3 Alias lead-in
4 Wyoming range
5 Place in hock
6 "Peek- —!"
7 "McQ" actor Gulager
8 "That '70s Show" character Michael
9 Guy driving a taxi
10 Given to reverie
11 La — (Italian opera house)
12 Tip container
13 Lofty verse
14 Pelé's nation
15 Peaceful protests
16 Provo's state
17 Performer acting silently
18 Big PC brand
22 Poker cost
24 Nick Jr.'s "explorer"
25 Band booking
29 Door opener
30 Hoppy drink
31 Shook a leg
32 Admit to it, with "up"
33 Seniors' org.
34 Tubular pasta
36 Tablet since 2010
37 Use a ballot
40 Saloons
41 Giant in retail furniture
42 Liveliness
45 Consequence
46 Two, in Chile
47 Toward a boat's stern
48 Think deeply
50 It's spun by hip gyration
51 River to the Caspian
52 — majesty (treason)
53 Allows to go with no punishment
54 Accessory for Superman
55 Stadium level
56 Genetic helix
57 Near-eternity
61 Hi- — (some stereos)
62 Trapped by habit
63 Show hosts, in brief
65 Tiger sound
66 Funny Fey
67 Roman 152
68 Cassini of fashion
69 Quitter's statement
70 Vardalos of the screen
71 Catch on to
75 Bettors' calculations
76 Savior
77 Clicked-on symbol
78 "— done it!"
79 Gave grub to
80 Banknote
81 Peruvian ancient
83 Jack or hammer, e.g.
84 — facto
85 — to riches
90 ICU worker
91 Be indebted
93 Sets foot in
94 Pressure felt by a jet pilot
95 "Bonanza" star Lorne
96 Degraded
97 Actress Garr
99 Morally degraded
100 Colon's meaning in an analogy
101 Vie for the affection of
102 Bull on a bottle of glue
103 Fractions of newtons
105 "— -Ca-Dabra" (1974 song)
106 Not fictional
107 Chichén — (Mexican ruins)
109 Abhor
110 Irish Gaelic language
112 Stomach
113 Utmost
114 Hiatus
115 ALF et al.
116 Pencil remnant, e.g.
117 CIA type



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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.

Nov. 25, 1896: Athlete Clinton Cyrus Thomas was born in Greenup, Ky. He starred for various teams in the Negro Leagues when Major League Baseball was segregated. Thomas settled in Charleston after his playing days and had a long career in West Virginia state government.

Nov. 25, 1946: Artist Robin Hammer was born in Roanoke, Va., and moved to Charleston in 1968. He was known for his drawings, mixed-media paintings, prints and photography, as well as his nearly three-decade collaboration with Chris Dutch as DutchHammer, which earned numerous awards.

Nov. 26, 1952: A blaze on the evening before Thanksgiving at the Huntington State Hospital killed 14 patients, with three more patients later dying from their injuries—making it the deadliest fire on record in West Virginia history. Huntington State Hospital is known today as the Mildred Mitchell-Bateman Hospital.

Nov. 26, 1861: The Constitutional Convention of 1861-63 was convened in Wheeling. The convention provided the foundation for state government in preparation for statehood.

Nov. 26, 1953: Politician Shelley Moore Capito was born in Glen Dale, the daughter of future congressman and governor Arch Moore. In 2001, she became the second woman ever to represent West Virginia in Congress and, in 2015, the first woman from the Mountain State to serve in the U.S. Senate.

Nov. 27, 1848: African American educator William H. Davis was born. As a teacher of Black children in Malden, his most famous student was Booker T. Washington. In 1888, Davis was nominated as an independent candidate for governor—to date, the only Black person so honored in West Virginia history.

Nov. 27, 1933: Daniel Boardman Purinton, a faculty member and president of West Virginia University, died. He was an early and strong supporter of co-education.

Nov. 28, 1864: In a local skirmish north of Moorefield, Rosser's Confederate cavalry and McNeill's Rangers rebuffed a raid by Union Col. R. E. Fleming and spared the South Branch Valley from destruction.

Nov. 28, 1890: Col. Hubbard W. Shawhan was born in Kentucky. As West Virginia's first official State Forester and first director of the state Conservation Commission, Shawan oversaw the purchase of 102,000 acres of mountain lands and development of the state's first parks and forests.

Nov. 28, 1891: In its first football game ever, West Virginia University lost 72-0 in Morgantown to Washington & Jefferson College from Washington, Pa.

Nov. 29, 1878: Margaret Prescott Montague was born at White Sulphur Springs, Greenbrier County. She was known for her stories and novels depicting Appalachian mountain life, including her fictional Tony Beaver lumberjack tales. She won the 1919 O. Henry Award for her World War I story "England to America."

Nov. 29, 1921: The actress Dagmar was born Virginia Ruth Egnor in Lincoln County. Her acting career took off in 1950 when she was hired to be on NBC's Broadway Open House, the network's first late-night television show.

Nov. 29, 2001: Writer John Knowles died in Florida. Knowles, born in Fairmont, attained literary fame in 1959 with his first novel, A Separate Peace.

Nov. 30, 1796: Brooke County was established under an act of the General Assembly of Virginia. The county was formed from part of Ohio County and named in honor of Robert Brooke, governor of Virginia.

Nov. 30, 1812: Lewis Washington, a great-grandson of George Washington's half-brother, was born in Virginia. Living in Jefferson County in 1859, Lewis was taken hostage during John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry and testified at Brown's trial.

Nov. 30, 1865: Hymnist Ida L. Reed was born into a Methodist family near Philippi, Barbour County. She wrote about 2,000 hymns, some of which have remained quite popular, such as "I Belong to the King."

Dec. 1, 1797: John S. Gallaher was born in Martinsburg. In 1821, he founded the Harpers Ferry Free Press and later The Ladies' Garland, one of the nation's earliest literary magazines devoted to women.

Dec. 1, 1936: Artist Ellie Schaul was born in Massachusetts. Since moving to West Virginia in 1956, she has been one of Appalachia's most enduring artists.

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

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Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library Shares Year of Accomplishment With Board of Education



Director Shannon Beam and her dedicated staff presented a year of progress from Clarksburg -Harrison Public Library.

By Stephen Smoot

Last week Shannon Beam, director of the Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library went to the Harrison County Board of Education with a long list of accomplishments to share.

She stated that she meets with the body "once a year to be able to share with you, since you are one of our funding bodies, everything that we do in the schools and then what impact we are making in the community."

Beam first noted that the library has for the past four years used a bookmobile as part of its outreach, especially to youth. "It's very popular. It's decked out . . . It's our bookmobile, and kids get really excited when we bring that into the school."

Attendees to the meeting then got to see the vehicle serving different areas of Harrison County.

Said Beam, "If there's something in Marion County that you want, but you live in Clarksburg and that's your home location, then the transit van will come, deliver that to you, and then you just drop it back off at your home location."

She then shared examples of services and events that can take place at any of the four libraries in the county. "We have programming for all ages, anywhere from infants to older adults," she began, giving examples of STEM educational activities, a junior garden club, and History Alive presentations from the West Virginia Humanities Council.

Also, adults can enjoy art classes and book clubs.

Beam then introduced the concept explored in recent years called "the library of things." She pointed out on her visual aid that "On the top left, you'll see that that is our three d printer . . . we also have an engraver (and) our memory lab.

"People can come for free, and they can take a VHS tape that they have, a cassette tape, a floppy disc, and turn it into newer digital media such as an SD card or thumb drive. We also have a tool lending library that includes power tools, includes garden tools" and even snow shovels.

Then she listed technology access that patrons have grown familiar with in the past 20 years, such as "free computer use, free scanning, low cost faxing, laminating, free notary services. We are a passport acceptance facility as well." Those with difficult to access internet at home can use the library's hot spots."

Another upgrade in service has come from a transit van that travels twice a week. It delivers materials unavailable in Harrison County libraries, but held in the collections of Marion County, if requested by library card holders.

Erica Perry, children's librarian, shared examples of programming and materials geared towards young people.

She also performs outreach into the schools and shared "I love the dedication that the children have and the teachers have for inviting us in." Perry then explained that "I am reading to head start, and that's what I did today. I was at the Clarksburg head start, and I was also reading "The Littlest Pilgrim" today.

"It was about a little girl who's wanting to do things with her mom and her dad, but she finds herself being little, and they're not allowing her to do something. And the way that she did do something at the end was she made a friend."

She concluded with "it related to the kids this morning when I read that, and I got a thrill out of it because at the very end, they put a thumbs up."

The team from the library system then discussed programs specific to the branch libraries and expressed appreciation for support from the school system.

Mountain State Pardon Turkeys Named



These names came from a list created by students of Brandywine Elementary School in Pendleton County a few miles from where the turkeys were raised at Fort Seybert 's Dean's Gap Farm

And Then There Was Just One



The Bottom Line
By Bill Nestor
Sports Editor

One is a lonely number, at least that is what the song says. For the Bridgeport High School football team, it means they are the last Harrison County football squad remaining.

It wasn't easy, at least for a half, but when the dust settled, the Indians walked away with a 31 to three victory over Fairmont Senior. The first time these teams met during the regular season, Bridgeport dominated play, handing a 56 to seven setback to the Polar Bears on the last weekend in October. Fresh in both teams' memories, just one game in between that has a "championship or bust" mentality this season.

Fairmont Senior was playing with a chip on their shoulder, tired of hearing that they didn't belong in the second season with a losing record. Everything was stacked against the Polar Bears. The first lock up was at East West Stadium in friendly territory while this battle was set to take place at Wayne Jamison Field, which gives a distinct home field advantage to the Tribe.

The Indians used their top tier backfield of Gavin Williams and Gabe Martin to grab the early lead. Martin scored the game's first touchdown on a one yard run in the opening quarter. Jaylon Brown added the point after for the seven to nothing lead. Fairmont Senior cut the deficit to seven to three on a second period field goal. Williams showed his versatility, hauling in a pass from Graham Vincent for a 42-yard score

Brown's extra point took it to 14 to three.

The visitors had an opportunity early in the second half, but Bridgeport's defense force a punt and a subsequent touchdown allowed them to pull away. The defense also forced a handful of turnovers, five to be exact, to help the cause.

This win sets up this week's showdown with Class AAA's top team, Herbert Hoover. The bad news for Indian fans is that they will have to travel to Clendenin, just outside of Charleston for this epic clash. If they are victorious, the Indians could just stay there for a little vacation before the championship game which will be held in Laidley Field in Charleston.

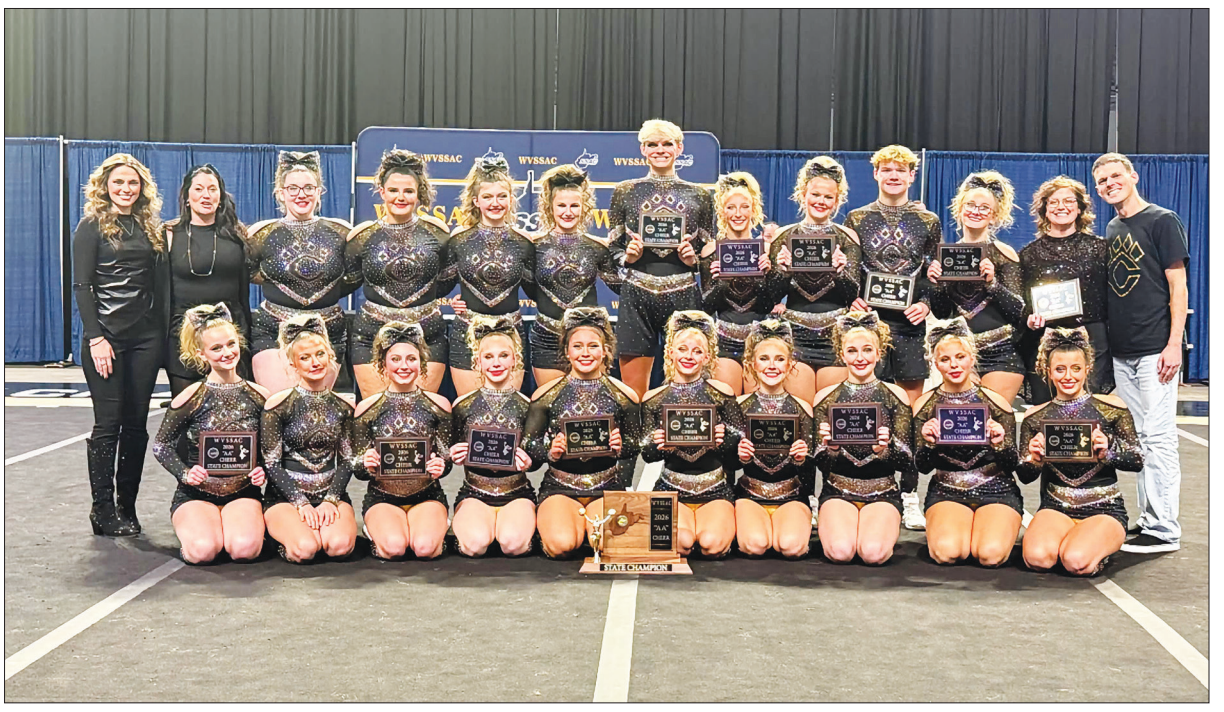
Staying on the topic of number one and Charleston, how about the efforts of Lincoln's cheer team? The Cougars utilized a near-perfect routine to garner the Class AA West Virginia State Championship last Wednesday at the Coliseum. Lincoln coach Amanda Brown and her squad edged out Logan to claim the title.

In Class AAA, Bridgeport earned the West Virginia State Cheer Championship. The Indians held off Robert C. Byrd. The Flying Eagles nabbed state runner up.

Now comes the less fun news. West Virginia's football team has needed just one more win to become bowl eligible. This has been the case for the Mountaineers for the past three weeks. In two of those, WVU was close to pulling upsets. Three weeks ago in Lubbock, they had Texas Tech where they wanted them and let them off the hook. Two weeks ago, Kansas came to town and took WVU's lunch money, leaving Touchdown City with a 23 point victory. This past week was Senior Day with 20th ranked Houston in town.

The Mountaineers had a 10 point fourth quarter lead, but lost on a last second field goal. That leaves one game remaining to make this year's edition eligible for a bowl game. That's the good news. The bad news is the opponent, second ranked Utah, who is a 19.5 point favorite. Mountaineer fans know not to count Rich Rodriguez out of any game and this would surely be the signature win this team has been looking for.

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



Claws out for the Lincoln High School State Champion Cheer Squad

Harrison County EMS Athletes of the Week

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

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

By Bill Nestor

The Harrison County athletes in the spotlight this week are the cheer squads from Lincoln and Bridgeport.

Earning the top spot is never easy and having a pair of championship teams from the same county is rather impressive.

Cougars Head Coach Amanda Brown and Indians Head Coach Natalie Wagner, along with their teams, deserve a ton of credit for their efforts this week.

Lincoln earned the Class AA championship and Bridgeport the Class AAA.

Congratulations to the cheer teams and their coaches from Lincoln and Bridgeport for shining bright in the SN and HCJ spotlight!







Super Crossword

Answers

B	R	A	T	P	A	C	K	■	C	D	S	■	J	O	B	S	■	U	M	A
M	A	K	E	A	B	L	E	■	A	R	C	■	A	D	R	I	A	T	I	C
W	H	A	T	W	O	U	L	D	B	E	A	G	R	E	A	T	N	A	M	E
■	■	■	O	N	O	■	S	O	M	A	L	I	■	■	Z	I	T	H	E	R
K	A	H	N	■	■	F	O	R	A	M	A	G	A	Z	I	N	E	■	■	■
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Shinnston Turkey Trot and Gobble Wobble Supported By Commission and Supporting the Community

By Stephen Smoot

Last week Jason Moore, representing the annual Shinnston Turkey Trot, went to the Harrison County Commission to request support. As they have annually, the Commission has happily done so, this year to the tune of $1,500. Runners can compete as they do in any other US Track and Field sanctioned event, or simply enjoy a nice long walk in the cool November air.

Others who may not want to do the full five kilometers, including children, can do the "Gobble Wobble."

This year, the theme of the Trot will be America 250

Originally, the Turkey Trot was organized to help pay for deserving youth to attend 4H camps at Jackson's Mills. That grew into a mission "to benefit the youth of Harrison County" as the scope and impact of the event evolved and grew. That first year, it attracted 53 participants.

The purpose of the Trot now has expanded into raising funds to improve the community. This coming year, two scholarships will be paid for out of Turkey Trot proceeds. The Marie Gaston Scholarship Foundation was named for a young lady active in 4H and student government before tragically passing away in a 1992 vehicle accident.

Past events helped to also pay for a fire pit in the Shinnston Green Space, as well as events and maintenance on the West Fork Rail Trail. Donations also support The Lord's Pantry in Shinnston.

Organizers have also noted the major boost in city and county tourism that the event produces every year. In the past, organizers have also noted how the Turkey Trot has grown into another unofficial reunion for Lincoln and Shinnston high school graduates and anyone else who ever proudly called Shinston home, past or present.

Commissioners voted to approve the $1,500 request. It will cover costs such as providing hot chocolate to participants and other needs that will enhance the experience for all.

The Kids' Gobble Wobble starts at 8:45 a.m. while the race commences at nine o' clock. Due to insurance needs, no pets are permitted at the Turkey Trot.

Commissioners also got in on the fun. Commissioner David Hinkle jokingly asked "if we get you more money, could you put Patsy in a turkey outfit?"

Commissioner Patsy Trecost forecast an even better turnout for 2026, saying "You're actually gonna have nice weather this year. I think that 800 will be much more this year. Because we ran in it pretty cold weather some years."

Business of the Month Out and West LLC Adds Glamour Camping Options to West Virginia State Parks and Resorts Without Cost to Taxpayers

By Stephen Smoot

Coming soon to West Virginia State Parks, the trendy new "glamorous camping" experience.

And it's brought to enthusiasts by a new and growing West Virginia-based company with aspirations to spread the experience statewide.

"We got started several years ago," shared Corinne Traub of Out and West LLC, based in Lewisburg. Traub has background experience in vacation lodging and cabin rental prior to coming into this field. Her first foray into glamping came with creating "glamping" accommodations at Firefly Ridge Resort near Great Cacapon in Morgan County in 2023.

Their website states that one can "get outdoors without sacrificing the comfort of hotel-style accommodations."

Two years later, former Secretary of Tourism Chelsea Ruby and her team personally experienced glamping at Firefly Ridge and wanted to engage Traub to learn more. From that came a plan to bring it to the West Virginia State Park and Resort system.

Traub said that the Secretary indicated she would "love to see glamping in West Virginia state parks." This led to a public-private partnership with Out and West LLC and the state park system. The company provides the accommodations and the State owns the land and infrastructure.

Traub did not simply start setting up the amenity-laden canvass tents with all of the comforts of home, but did research. Glamping was tried in different styles and settings to find out what would work and what would not. Public hearings brought home the message that "people are generally happy with it."

On November 13, West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrisey announced that 32 different glamping sites would now open for reservations. The first four parks to offer this amenity are Lost River State Park near Mathias, Blackwater Falls State Park near Davis, Pipestem Resort State Park, and Summersville Lake State Park.

The Governor noted that the partnership increases "opportunities for visitors without puting construction costs on taxpayers."

Campers can stay in thick canvass tents with "furnished interiors, comfortable beds, seating, lighting, and outdoor gathering places."

Research and Markets, an entity that studies business and economic trends, states that the glamping market will continue to grow. By 2033, it will likely expand from just under a $1 billion industry into one that garners $2.6 billion.

With West Virginia Tourism defying national trends and continuing to see expansion, expanding glamping sites will expand visitor numbers coming to the Mountain State. According to Yahoo Finance "this growth is primarily driven by millennials and Gen Z's desire for immersive travel experiences that combine luxury and nature."

This is a distinct departure from Baby Boomers and Generation X's affinity for "roughing it" in natural settings during their younger years.

Additionally, these four sites barely scratch the surface of opportunities for growth in West Virginia. State and



Out and West LLC has brought luxury style accomodations to some of West Virginia's wildest and most wonderful locales. Here is an example of canvass tent "glamping".

county parks and forests throughout the state, as well as privately owned properties, can host hundreds of such sites or more. While it diminishes the "wild," for many seeking time in nature, glamping enhances the "wonderful."

Traub draws on long family traditions in the outdoors, saying "I grew up camping as a child. I was in Girl Scouts and my brother was in Boy Scouts. He was an Eagle Scout." She admitted that when she first experienced glamping, she knew "I could never go back to regular camping."

She added that glamping serves as a "gateway" to those with interest in the outdoors, but also intimidation from lack of experience. It can help introduce people "just starting to think about camping, but not sure yet if they like it."

That said, it brings a person close to the authentic camping experience in terms of enjoying and experiencing nature in the Mountain State's incredible system of public recreational lands.

Everything is taken care of at these sites, even the providing of firewood. This adds the benefit of not trafficking firewood across the state, potentially exposing forests to invasive predator insects and diseases.

The partnership created, as Traub describes "a long-term relationship we can build on," potentially leading to "other types of unique stay experiences."

Traub stated that she is also open to working with county parks, local convention and visitors bureaus, and others to see how to bring the experience to other areas as well.

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Dear Recycle Lady,

I seem to be getting more and more junk mail these days? Can all of it be recycled with office paper? *Hates Junk Mail*

Dear Hates Junk Mail,

Junk mail does seem to be on the increase and most of it goes to the landfill. However, junk mail can be recycled, and it is a source of revenue for the Recycling Center. White junk mail envelopes and their white paper content can be recycled with office paper. Be sure to remove any slicks, and colored paper return envelopes and put them in the magazine bin. Any attached membership cards, address labels, and dark colored paper go in the trash. The quickest way to remove these items is to slit the top of the envelope open with a letter opener, thumb through the contents and pull these objects out. Practice makes perfect and you will soon be able to identify and remove these items quickly.

Dear Recycle Lady,

How many aluminum cans does it take to make pound? What products are aluminum cans upcycled into? *Can Recycler*

Dear Can Recycler,

A standard aluminum can weighs about 0.5 ounces, so it takes between 30 and 31 empty cans to make up a pound. This number changes as some cans are larger than others. Regardless of the size, be sure the cans you bring to the Recycling Center are empty as all cans are sent up a conveyer belt and weighted as they moved upward. Any overweight cans will be dropped out, thus no payment. This scale was added to the conveyor belt when it was discovered that some of the cans had rocks put in them to increase their weight! Aluminum cans can be recycled over and over again. This saves natural resources and uses less energy than creating cans from virgin resources. Recycled cans can also be upcycled into stools, tables, storage containers, organizers, decorative pieces or home décor such as candle holders, vases or wall art. Crushed cans can be melted in a furnace to create a molten aluminum alloy that is poured into molds to create new aluminum products such as sheets or rods.

Dear Recycle Lady,

I have a #1 dark green hand soap bottle with a black plastic pump. Is this bottle recyclable? *Recycler*

Dear Recycler,

Good Catch! Hold up your dark green bottle to the light. If you can see any light coming through the bottle, it is recyclable with #1 plastic bottles and jugs. If you don't see some light, it is not recyclable and goes in the trash along with the black plastic pump. Are you familiar with the large variety of products that are made from recycled bottles and jugs? Products range from new bottles to carpeting, tennis balls, insulation for jackets, t-shirts, and paint brushes. There are even birdhouses made from recycled plastic.

Good News: Giant kelp is one of the fastest-growing organisms on Earth. It can grow up to two feet per day forming underwater forests that shelter sea otters, fish and seals. Nature's materials work wonders on land, too! Compostable bags are made from cornstarch and break down in industrial compost within 180 days.

Bad News: Researchers have spotted a single-use plastic bag nearly 36,000 feet down in the Mariana Trench, the deepest place on Earth. Even the ocean's most remote corners aren't safe from plastic.

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.

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N&J Briefs

FROM AROUND HARRISON COUNTY

This Shinnston News provides a calendar of events free of charge to churches and nonprofit organizations. Please submit your listing two weeks prior to the event. Send via email to newsandjournal@yahoo.com.

Wednesday, December 2, 2026

St Ann's Catholic Church 610 Pike St., Shinnston will be having their annual holiday bake sale on December 5 from 8 to 2. Breakfast will be served 8 to 11. Pita Piata's, Rosette's, long nut rolls, and crescent will be baked and available for sale on the fourth and fifth, but are not available for pre-ordering. You may pre-order the following items : two sizes of cookie trays with homemade cookies . Wedding cookies a dozen,& galettes a dozen. 304–2 03–8905. 304–5 92–0665. 304–8 41–1487. 304–677–0799, 304–5 92–2243. 304–5 84–4376.

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"Smoot"

cont. from p. 2

during a serious illness and brought him back to health in 1623. The Wampanoag people had suffered from disease that reduced their numbers, but found in the English powerful friends willing to help protect them.

From then until 1676 the colonists, whose settlements gradually consolidated, did not object to Indians living in their midst. Those who converted to Christianity, called "praying Indians" could reside in villages set amongst the English. Though populations of these villages did not mix much and live together, the Puritans by and large accepted these Indians as fellow Christians.

The friendly ally, the Great Sachem Massasoit passed away in 1661. One of his younger sons Metacomet assumed a leadership role.

Metacomet had little agreement with his father's cooperative approach to integrating the English into their world. He despised the ease with which other Wampanoag converted to the Christian faith. The "praying Indians" found it both a comfort and also a way to enjoy even warmer relations with the colonists.

As for the Puritan leadership, they focused on the growing numbers of worshippers in the Church of England finding lucrative ways to earn money in the growing port cities of Boston, New Haven, and others. They traded in slaves, rum, and other commodities that the Puritans opposed as sinful, but they permitted the industries because the revenues enhanced the wealth of the colonies.

Until 1676, these colonies thrived. Then came a war of genocide that nearly eliminated New England completely.

A century before American independence, Metacomet launched a surprise attack on the New England colonies. So complacent were the Puritans about any potential threat from Indian attack at this point that they armed their militia with generations old firearms and pikes. This indicated a level of comfort and coexistence that Metacomet shattered forever.

Puritan leaders blamed less the Indians and found fault more with themselves. Many argued that allowing Anglican businessmen to traffic in slaves and liquor had angered God and that Metacomet was simply His tool of vengeance.

While Puritans took to the churches, Anglicans took up arms. Their ships brought in flintlocks to replace matchlocks. They drilled militia into capable fighting forces. Just as Metacomet came close to killing or driving away the colonists, he was captured in an ambush and sold with his fellow warriors into Caribbean slavery.

Though the genocide was not completed, the damage to Massachusetts Bay and New England was significant. Historians debate whether they recovered economically to 1675 levels by 1776 or 1812, but clearly Metacomet wounded New England badly.

In the end, however, it was the American Indians who lost due to Metacomet's lust for war. Puritans lost their authority in the colonies because residents now blamed them for the destruction of war. While Great Britain forged alliance with the Five Nations of the Iroquois League and worked well with some other nations, colonists overall rejected the notion that Europeans and Indians could or should ever live in proximity to each other.

This would bring the thinking of the northern colonies more in line with Virginia, especially, which had a much more active frontier in the early decades of colonization. Virginians, called "the Long Knives" by multiple Indian nations, practiced the idea of separation and that good fences, i.e. the Ohio River, make for good neighbors.

Virginians never, however, adopted the most extreme attitudes. When the family of Chief Logan of the Mingo (a group of mixed Iroquois in Ohio) was murdered by English, the majority of Virginians howled in anger and demanded the culprits be brought to justice because Logan had always worked fairly with the colonists.

Thanksgiving originally was about what the two cultures had in common. Both Virginia and Massachusetts experienced this dramatic meeting of peoples who came from as different of places as one could imagine in those days.

What a shame that the original fellowship could not last.

****

It is best that each American, as they join family and/or friends this year for Thanksgiving, emulate the days of good feelings that were enjoyed so early. Enjoy the family. Enjoy the fellowship. Enjoy the football and food. Enjoy a holiday that just requires everyone to simply enjoy the company of those who love you the most and then you return that love just as openly.

It's a time to thank God for the goodness that each of us has been given in life, even if He gave us what we needed as opposed to what we may have wanted.

It's also a time to hug your mom and dad tight if you can, call and say you love them if you can't, or remember their impact on your life if they have passed on. If there are tough feelings on any topic, set them aside and be grateful to God that you still have your parents in your life. Not everyone does.

Finally, lock the smart phone in a drawer, turn off the video game console, and just take a few days to simply be in a good moment with those who love you. Then laugh together, listen to music, play board games, share stories and memories.

You'll always be thankful for the time you spend loving your family.

Natural gas service is probably newer than you think



Guest Column

By Charlotte Lane

Chair, WV Public Service Commission

The year seems to have flown past, and now it is Thanksgiving.

So, let me wish you a happy Thanksgiving along with all the joys of the opening of the holiday season.

It's usually cold outside at this time. I'm thankful my home has natural gas for heat.

What must it have been like before we had such conveniences? And when you think about it, many of the things that make life so much easier for us really have not been around for very long.

Doing a little research, I found that natural gas wells were being tapped in the Little Kanawha Valley in north-central West Virginia in the 1860s and 70s.

In 1861, a town along the river had all its light and heating provided by natural gas. This must have been among the first communities to adopt gas for residential purposes.

In her article for West Virginia Geology, Jane R. Eggleston says the town has several thousand inhabitants.

Gas heating for homes generally began in the late 19th Century.

The first documented household use was in Wheeling in 1886.

The Natural Gas Company of West Virginia was laying gas pipes then to every street and connecting the service to homes.

The Wheeling Intelligencer says the company offered free gas for general household usage from May 1 to October, while levying a modest monthly fee for stoves and heating appliances.

Formalized gas-fed central heating systems for homes came into existence here in the early 1900s, and began to replace wood and coal stoves.

But Pro-Gas Services, LLC, in its history of natural gas for heating homes, says widespread adoption of gas heating for the dwellings of most residents came only in the 1940s and 1950s.

By the 1960s, gas heating had become the preferred method for new housing construction.

We are fortunate today to be supplied by unlimited gas service all across the states, whether that be piped natural gas or through the use of propane. Our homes are infinitely warmer and safer than they were last century.

We regulate gas utilities at the Public Service Commission. We are happy that many West Virginians have access to natural gas.

So, this Thanksgiving, as we gather around the table, prepare our holiday meals, and enjoy the warmth of our homes, it is worth taking a moment to appreciate not only the family and friends around us, but also the generations of innovation and infrastructure that make these simple comforts possible.

The thousands of miles of pipelines beneath our feet are rarely seen and seldom noticed, yet they quietly help sustain our daily lives. For that, and for the people who work every day to deliver this vital service, we can all be especially thankful.

The Season of Advent Is Almost Upon Us



GRAPEVINE

By Rosalyn Queen

The month of December marks the beginning of Advent. What is Advent? Advent is a Latin word meaning coming or arrival. To us it means the season of preparation for Christmas. Advent begins the Sunday nearest November 30 and continues until December 24th.

One of the most popular customs observed during advent is the Advent wreath. You place four candles in the wreath and each candle carries a meaning of hope, peace, joy and love. The hope candle is purple, the peace candle is purple, the joy candle is pink and the love candle is white. Each Sunday of the four candles are lit along with the one from the previous candle until the last candle is lit on the last Sunday before Christmas and then on Christmas Eve all four candles are lit. Some individuals replace the candles with white on Christmas Eve. Each Sunday as you participate in the candle lighting you may want to reflect on what you might do to make this a more meaningful holiday.

Another custom during the Advent season is the ADVENT Calendar. The calendar has24 numbered flaps concealing a biblical scene and verse about the birth of Jesus. Each day a new flap is opened and those participating discuss the verse. Each child might be encouraged to do something that would be pleasing to the Lord. The Advent calendar originated in the 19th Century in Europe.

If you have never observed either of these customs, this year might be the time to start. Be sure to let the children be involved in setting up the observance you choose.

One great observance to practice is to quit complaining and replace it with gratitude.choose one practice to continue into the New Year and write it down as a reminder. "When you fall, begin again."

I encourage you to participate in the many holiday activities planned in our area. Plan on attending the parade, shop at the Farmers Market Craft Show, attend the many shows at the Robinson Grand. Be sure to get your Pita Piata from the PWA. Call 304 624 6881 and reserve yours. They cost $12,00 and each will be placed on a Fiesta plate. Makes a wonderful gift.

Spend time with a sick family member, visit your friend, make a visit to the hospital or nursing home and until next week "Now You Have Heard It Through The Grapevine."

WVU Medicine United Hospital Center Earns an "A" Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group

Fall 2026 Safety Grade is a national recognition for commitment to patient safety

Bridgeport, W.Va. – WVU Medicine United Hospital Center (UHC) earned an "A" Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group, an independent national nonprofit watchdog focused on patient safety. Leapfrog assigns an "A", "B", "C", "D" or "F" grade to general hospitals across the country using evidence-based measures of patient safety focused exclusively on errors, accidents, injuries and infections.

"The Leapfrog Group's & Hospital Safety Grade is a meaningful recognition of the exceptional dedication our physicians, nurses, and staff bring to patient care every day," said David F. Hess, MD, CEO of UHC and Regional President of the Central Region for West Virginia University Health System. "Patient safety is at the heart of everything we do, and this recognition underscores the culture of excellence, accountability, and teamwork that defines UHC. We are honored to receive this distinction and remain dedicated to continuously improving the care experience for every patient."

"Earning an 'A' Hospital Safety Grade reflects UHC's commitment to putting patient safety first," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "This recognition is a testament to the dedication of your hospital leadership, clinicians and staff who work every day to prevent medical errors and protect patients from harm."

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade stands as the only hospital ratings program focused solely on preventable medical errors, infections, and injuries that kill more than 500 patients a day in the United States. This program is peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public. Grades are updated twice annually, in the fall and spring.

To explore UHC's full grade details and to find valuable tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit HospitalSafetyGrade.org.

LEGAL

AIR QUALITY PERMIT NOTICE
Notice of Application

Notice is given that DTM Appalachia Gathering, LLC has applied to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Air Quality, for a Class I Administrative Update for an existing natural gas booster station (Lumberport Booster Station) located off Reeses Run Road in Lumberport, Harrison County, West Virginia. Site Latitude and Longitude Coordinates are: 39.36522, -80.37501.

The applicant estimates the potential to discharge the following Regulated Air Pollutants will be:

Pollutant	Facility Wide (tpy)	Facility Wide excluding Fugitive Emissions (tpy)
Nitrogen Oxides	47.50	47.50
Carbon Monoxide	91.25	91.25
Particulate Matter-10	3.20	3.20
Particulate Matter-2.5	3.20	3.20
Volatile Organic Compounds	36.15	36.15
Sulfur Dioxide	0.32	0.32
Formaldehyde	6.60	6.60
Benzene	0.14	0.14
Toluene	0.13	0.13
Ethylbenzene	0.01	0.01
Xylenes	0.06	0.06
Hexane	0.46	0.46
Total Hazardous Air Pollutants	12.89	12.89
Carbon Dioxide Equivalents (C02e)	54,827	54,818

DTM is requesting that the emergency generator (Emission Unit ID: E003; Emission Point ID: S003) under General Permit Registration G35-E206 installation date on pages 7 and 8 is revised from 01/01/2014 to 01/01/2021; and an update to the applicability rules on page 7 is completed to identify the engine as Certified unit. Written comments will be received by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Air Quality, 601 57th Street, SE, Charleston, WV 25304, for at least 30 calendar days from the date of publication of this notice.

Any questions regarding this permit application should be directed to the DAQ at (304) 926-0499, extension 1250, during normal business hours.

Dated this the 26th Day of November, 2026.

By: DTM Appalachia Gathering, LLC
Kimberly Walker
1000 Noble Energy Drive, Suite 500
Canonsburg, PA 15317

LEGAL

(Cert. No. 178989 Cvetican RD LLC)

To: JANICE HILL, DANA G HILL, RHONDA J HARRIS, TROY HILL, RONALD E HILL JR, JACQUELINE L HALL, CITY OF CLARKSBURG, STATE OF WV C/O HARRISON COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY, 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** 25 **PARCEL** 0435 00000000

You will take notice that Cvetican RD LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, Certification No. 178989, located in CLARK-CLARKSBURG CORP District, 1 LOT A S-D #94 ALTA VISTA 40X60, which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of HILL DANA G ETAL, 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, Cvetican RD LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after 01/12/2027, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before 01/12/2027 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to 01/12/2027	$	1943.74
Amount of taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to 01/12/2027	$	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 01/12/2027	$	1148.34
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest to 01/12/2027	$	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.**	$	3092.08

You may redeem any time before 01/12/2027 by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

Given under my hand 11/6/2026

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

Calls on Governor and Legislature to Focus on Teacher Pay, Local Control and Government Accountability

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – State Treasurer Larry Pack today released a set of policy priorities for the 2027 Legislative Session, calling on the Governor and state Legislature to advanced policies that strengthen education, protect West Virginia citizens and promote greater accountability in government.

"West Virginians deserve a government that respects their hard-earned money, supports our teachers and gives communities a stronger voice in decisions that affect their future," Treasurer Pack said. "As we approach the 2027 Legislative Session, we're calling on the Governor and Legislature to advance commonsense policies that strengthen our education system, promote responsible economic growth and ensure government remains accountable to the people it serves. These priorities are about putting West Virginia families first and building a stronger future for our state."

Top Policy Priorities:

- **Prioritize Teacher Pay:** As it was done five times under Governor Jim Justice, Treasurer Pack is asking the Governor and Legislature to fund a substantial teacher pay raise to help make West Virginia competitive with neighboring states in attracting and retaining qualified educators.
- **Restore Local Control Over Economic Development Projects:** Treasurer Pack is calling for changes to HB 2014 that would restore the traditional distribution of property tax revenue based on existing local tax levies, rather than a special distribution formula. The proposal would help ensure local governments receive tax revenue according to their established levy rates.
- **Eliminate Business Inventory Tax:** A proposed resolution for Constitutional Amendment to eliminate property taxes on business inventory over a five-year phase out would greatly improve the West Virginia business climate relative to all our neighboring states. West Virginia is one of just 14 states imposing property tax on business inventories and one of just seven states taxing manufacturing inventories. No such taxes exist in neighboring Ohio or Pennsylvania. Both Maryland and Virginia exempt manufacturing inventories from their property tax. The Tax Foundation ranks West Virginia only 46th among 50 states in business competitiveness regarding tangible personal property tax policy, a ranking held down by the imposition of inventory taxes.

Other Priorities:

- **Unclaimed Property Consumer Protection Bill:** As the administrator of the Unclaimed Property Program in West Virginia, it is the Treasurer's duty to help return lost and abandoned property back to our citizens. Treasurer Pack will introduce legislation that aims to protect rightful owners' unclaimed property benefits and prevent increasing predatory practices by out of state companies that seek to take advantage of West Virginia citizens.
- **Constitutional Term Limits:** Treasurer Pack is renewing his call for a constitutional amendment that would limit individuals serving as Secretary of State, Auditor, State Treasurer, Commissioner of Agriculture or Attorney General to no more than three consecutive terms. The proposal is intended to encourage fresh perspectives in public office and ensure elected officials remain accountable to the citizens they serve.
- **Constitutional Board Appointments:** Treasurer Pack supports proposed changes related to appointments to constitutional boards to strengthen accountability and ensure appropriate representation in state government.
- **Implement Five-Year Sunset on All Tax Credits:** A decade ago, the Legislature wisely implemented sunset provisions for all administrative rules across state government. The premise was that we should periodically review regulations to ensure they are still necessary. The same logic should apply to the numerous tax credits in state code. The Legislature should implement a five-year sunset on all tax credits to ensure which credits are accomplishing their intended purpose and which ones can be repealed.

"We have an opportunity to build on the progress West Virginia has made while addressing the challenges that still lie ahead," Treasurer Pack said. "Our focus should be creating environment that attracts young families to the state and addresses affordability head on. That means quality education, investments in infrastructure and high-paying jobs. We look forward to working with lawmakers to advance policies that deliver real results for the people we serve."

The 2027 Regular Legislative Session will begin on Wednesday, January 13, 2027.

LEGAL

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Division of Highways
NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia until January 12, 2027 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project(s):

Call	Contract	State Project	Federal Project	Description
008	2020000689R1	S317-5/7-0.30 00	STP-0507(013)D	STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT Coon Hunters Arch Begin: 0.03 Mi W CR 5 End: 0.05 Mi W CR 5 **COUNTY:** HARRISON

Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractors' licence is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin. Registration is required with the Department of Administration, Division of Purchasing, in accordance with Chapter 5A, Article 3, Section 12 of the West Virginia Code. All contractors submitting bids on project(s) must include one of the following forms properly executed with each proposal: Proposal Guaranty Bond, Cashier's Check, or Certified Check for $500.00 or 5% of the total bid, whichever is greater.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways reserves the right to defer, delay or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement. The deferment, delay, postponement, and the date that proposals will be received and publicly opened will be available on www.bidx.com.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award.

LHS NJROTC Color Guard Honors Veterans



Lincoln NJROTC students formed the Color Guard who attended the Pratt and Whitney flag raising ceremony on Veterans Day.

Read Local
Keep up with your community!

Board of Education Recognizes Liberty Middle School Sports Squads





Both the Liberty football and soccer squads had two straight seasons of excellence recognized at the Board meeting last week.

By Stephen Smoot

In the final regular meeting before the Thanksgiving holiday, the Harrison County Board of Education shared thanks for two exemplary middle school sports teams, both from Liberty Middle School.

The football team completed an undefeated season, earning a conference title. A representative present from the school shared that "Even more impressive, this marks the second consecutive year without a loss, a remarkable accomplishment that speaks volumes about hard work of our players and coaches. These young men have established a tradition of success and have given our school and community plenty to be proud of . . . one proud Mountaineer family."

This also serves as their second consecutive season without the blemish of a loss.

Harrison County Board of Education President Frank Devono then called on the English version of football to come forward. The school's representatives shared that the Liberty Middle School soccer team fell just once to loss all year and also won their conference title.

A Liberty representative shared that The Liberty Middle School boys soccer team has once again proven what it means to be mountaineers. After an outstanding season that included just one loss, the boys battled their way to the top and captured the Mid Mountain 10 championship, winning an intense championship match in penalty kicks."

The soccer squad repeated the feat of the football team. "With this victory, Liberty has officially become back to back Mid Mountain 10 champions."

Later in the meeting came a report from the Office of Accountability of the West Virginia Department of Education. A team selected 20 random individualized education program reports from middle and high school students across the Harrison County Schools system. Six came from middle school grades.

It was shared with the Board and Superintendent that "they weren't able to link it directly to personnel decisions, but they were able to note that (with) the services for our IEPs, placement decisions, supplemental services . . . data was not being used to make those decisions. It was evident that at times, services were increased or decreased without any data at those meetings."

One example was shared, showing that "in one of them students are making adequate progress. Their scores, their grades were performing well above, but they were moved into a special education environment out of a gen ed environment without any data that supported that."

The State team will pull five more random IEPs on December 1. Harrison County Schools will hold additional trainings to ensure that data is applied properly to IEPs and decisions made in them.

The State will "make sure that we're looking at transcripts, current data in those classrooms and are we making decisions not just on placement, but looking at some of those supplemental aids so that we are not over servicing or under servicing our students."

Eric Post was then introduced as the new Director of Transportation and Facilities. He opened by sharing that "I've been, moving around the county, meeting a lot of people that I'd only talked to on the phone, a lot of people I hadn't ever put a face to.So I'm getting to learn a lot and meet a lot, and I'm really looking forward to the future and what we're getting into."

He added that seven potential school bus drivers are currently in training, two in the interview process, and two "in the wings." Post shared that his goal lies in building up enough drivers to have a substitute pool again.

"I'm also working with the bus garage and our finance to find a way to where we...

maybe we can piece routes if a bus driver is out. Instead of just parking the bus, we're trying to find a way." Post stated.

Heavier than usual traffic expected for Thanksgiving week

CHARLESTON, WV – Travel officials are expecting significant traffic in and through the Mountain State during the week of Thanksgiving, From Tuesday, November 24, 2026, through Sunday, November 29, 2026.

Officials for the West Virginia Parkways Authority expect about 719,000 transactions on the West Virginia Turnpike during the five-day period for motorists traveling in the state or passing through. Heaviest traffic days are expected the be the Sunday after Thanksgiving, with an estimated 155,000 transactions, and the Wednesday before, with an expected 153,000 transactions.

Parkways officials suggest drivers plan their trip to try to avoid peak travel times on the Turnpike, between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Parkways officials also urge frequent Turnpike travelers to take advantage of the Turnpike E-ZPass program. For $27.50 per year, plus a one-time $13 transponder fee, travelers can have unlimited use of the Turnpike for a year.

Commercial and pay-by-plate options are also available.

According to AAA Bluegrass, which includes the Mountain State, more than 369,000 West Virginians are expected to travel during Thanksgiving week, as they find their way over the river and through the woods to waiting relatives. About 91 percent of travelers -- about 21 percent of the state's population -- are expected to go by car, with another 6 percent or so flying the friendly skies.

No matter what method you choose, the West Virginia Division of Highways urges motorists to obey posted speed limits, avoid distractions, and remain alert to ensure safe holiday travels.

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!"

West Virginia small game hunting and trapping seasons set to open

Licenses can be purchased online at WVhunt.com

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources reminds hunters and trappers that seasons for several small game and furbearing species are set to open from Nov. 7, 2026 to Feb. 28, 2027.

Hunting seasons open for bobwhite quail, cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare and ring-necked pheasant (cock birds only). Trapping seasons open for raccoons, mink, muskrat, fisher, beaver, otter, skunk, opossum, coyote and weasel. Hunting and trapping seasons open for red fox, gray fox and bobcat. As a reminder, hunting for bobwhite quail is closed on Tomblin Wildlife Management Area in Logan County. Additionally, ring-necked pheasant hunting on Hillcrest Wildlife Management Area in Hancock County runs Nov. 14 to Dec. 5.

"The opening of small game seasons marks the start of many long-held traditions across the Mountain State," WVDNR Director Brett McMillion said. "Our diverse public lands and abundant wildlife offer fantastic opportunities for both seasoned outdoorsmen and newcomers taking to the fields and woods for the first time. We encourage all hunters and trappers to prioritize safety and enjoy the unmatched natural beauty West Virginia has to offer."

Trappers who harvest a beaver, fisher or otter must electronically check their catches at WVhunt.com. A WVDNR-issued game check confirmation number must be recorded in writing with the trapper's name and address and stay attached to each pelt or whole animal until sold, tanned, processed into commercial fur or mounted. Hunters and trappers who harvest a bobcat must electronically check the bobcat at WVhunt.com.

Bobcat hunters and trappers and otter trappers must also obtain a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) seal for each bobcat and otter pelt they plan to sell out of state. All bobcat and/or otter pelts being sold by licensed fur dealers must have a CITES seal from the state where the animal was harvested before being sold on the international market. CITES seals may be obtained from the Elkins Operations Center or a local WVDNR district office.

WVDNR also reminds trappers about its ongoing otter research project. Trappers who harvest a radio-tagged otter should report the tag number and return the transmitter to the District 4 office in Beckley. Trappers who deliver a legally harvested and electronically registered skinned otter carcass to a WVDNR district office will be eligible to receive a $20 gift card.

Hunters and trappers 15 and older, except those hunting or trapping with resident landowner privileges, are required to have a valid West Virginia hunting license and form of identification while hunting. To purchase a hunting and trapping license, visit WVhunt.com. For more information about small game and furbearer season dates and limits, visit WVdnr.gov/hunting-seasons.

"Turkeys"

cont. from p. 1

but President John F. Kennedy served up the first turkey pardon. When presented with a 55-pound behemoth of a bird, as the White House Historical Association shared, President Kennedy looked the bird up and down. Impressed, he said "Let's keep this one going."

Now the pardoned turkeys head to a home at Texas A&M University. There they will serve as humanely treated subjects to teach agriculture and care for animals to students.

Students filed into the old, but brightly painted gymnasium, kindergarten on up. Once in place, they created an excited chatter that never really got loud. Some wore handmade construction paper turkey hats with a headband and colorful paper feathers sticking out of the top. Some older students wore turkey-themed toboggans. All exuded excitement over the special day.

The turkeys came out and stood on a plastic covered section of gymnasium with wood shavings placed on it to remind them of their home. The turkeys were as, if not more, fascinated with the children as the children were with them.

Prior to arrival, a USDA security team did two separate sweeps of BES before dignitaries and media started to arrive around one o' clock in the afternoon. Those dignitaries included Secretary Rollins, West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrisey, West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt, State Senator Bill Hamilton, House of Delegates-elect member Steven Schetrom. USDA Rural Development Director for West Virginia John Reisenweber, Pendleton County Schools Superintendent Nicole Hevener, the County Board of Education, West Virginia Poultry Association President Ward Malcolm, Pendleton County Farm Bureau President Steve Conrad, and the 2026 West Virginia Poultry Festival Queen Elizabeth Huffman.

Principal Ryan Lambert took the podium first and immediately praised the students, saying "you are doing a good job." He then introduced the special guests as ____ recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Puffenbarger rose next, representing the National Turkey Federation. She tasked the students to give her their best turkey gobble, which they did with tremendous enthusiasm and repeatedly.

"You did a good job with that!" she beamed. Puffenbarger had previously worked with Cargill's in assisting turkey growers, which was where she got to know the Rightsells. At Dean's Gap Farm, they not only raise premium turkeys, but also produce top quality produce in high tunnel greenhouses. Many farmers in West Virginia have started, some with the assistance of USDA, to make uneven farm lands more profitable by using high tunnel greenhouses to extend their growing season while protecting produce from extremes of weather.

She explained that "these two very special turkeys will take a trip to the White House to meet the President" and how wonderful it was that they hailed from "beautiful Brandywine and Fort Seybert." Then Puffenbarger told the children assembled that "pardon" means "you're off the hook!" The turkeys will enjoy deluxe accommodations at a premium hotel in DC, then spend the rest of their lives in pampered comfort and ease in Secretary Rollins' home state of Texas.

A unique aspect of raising turkeys for the pardon ceremony lies in training. They must come to DC prepared to hop onto a table and stand still on command. Additionally, the Rightsells had to regularly mimic putting the animals into environments where they would face a hundred or more curious faces.

What they could not teach, and what made the event even more fun, was the turkeys' penchant for helping speakers make specific points of emphasis by gobbling seemingly on cue.

Puffenbarger shared that the children of the school got to take part in a unique treat. The children themselves came up with a list of names from which President Donald Trump and others could select. He will announce those on the day of the event.

She then shared that on Thanksgiving Day that Americans would consume more than 30 million turkeys, to which the stars of the show responded proudly "Gobble! Gobble! Gobble!"

Puffenbarger introduced Becky and Scott Rightsell. Dean's Gap Farm was built on her family's land in Fort Seybert. Some farms in that valley date back to the time of what is called the French and Indian War in North America and the Seven Years War in the rest of the world. Descendants from those original frontier farmers were present in the room, including Steve Conrad, farmer and Pendleton Count Farm Bureau President, providing a backdrop of historical continuity dating back centuries. Fort Seybert itself was a frontier fort ordered built by George Washington in the 1750s, burned when Delaware Indians under Chief Killbuck raided the settlement seeking out iron tools to use and women and children to augment tribal numbers.

That means that these turkeys hail from farmland decades older than even the United States of America itself.

Mrs. Rightsell also serves as a teacher at Brandywine Elementary School where she has students work with a hydroponic tower where they can grow and then eat their own foods.. She said "today, I am going to tell you all about my other job."

"When I was your age, I lived on that very same farm where my Mom and Dad were farmers," she began, then added "I grew up to be a farmer and Mr. Rightsell joined me." She shared that this was a great moment in state and local history "and now you're a part of it."

Mr. Rightsell then talked about the work that went into raising them properly, saying the "turkeys keep me going day and night . . . I look at how they're walking, how they're eating, how they're acting." Training the birds "helps them to stay relaxed and brave" in situations unusual and frightening to most farm animals, especially "meeting a lot of new people."

"It's like your first day at school," he shared.

Secretary Rollins came to the podium next and asked the children to, when they viewed the Pendleton County turkeys on the news, say loudly "those are our turkeys!" She added that turkey is "one of the healthiest things you can eat," with the Greek chorus of turkey gobbles following after that important point.

"It's so cool to be here," the energetic Secretary announced, adding "I have the best job in the world!" Gratifyingly, when she asked "who wants to be a farmer, more than half of the more than 100 children seated before her raised their hands. The Secretary added that her job involved "fighting for farmers, ranchers, and rural Americans." USDA supports agriculture, but also plays a strong role in funding rural infrastructure and development. Reisenweber , who has formerly worked as Jefferson County Economic Development Director and was also on the staff of US Senator Shelley Moore Capito, leads the state USDA office that addresses those needs.

She then praised and introduced Governor Morrisey, calling him "a real leader" and said as well "you have the most amazing Governor in the country." Secretary Rollins stated later on that West Virginia was one of the first states to take steps to reform the SNAP program to encourage healthier eating choices, giving credit to Governor Morrisey for the efforts.

The Governor shared with the children "I'm so happy to be here. For West Virginia, this is an especially special time." He noted "this is the second time ever that a set of West Virginia turkeys has been sent to Washington . . . We take raising turkeys very seriously here in the Mountain State." When Governor Morrisey told all that state farmers raised four million turkeys per year, two percent of the total in the United States, the turkeys again raised an appreciative "Gobble! Gobble! Gobble!"

He then thanked Secretary Rollins and the National Turkey Federation.

Tight security arrangements required the cooperation of federal officials with the Pendleton County Sheriff's Department, West Virginia State Police, and the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources Police.

Pork Chops with Apples and Stuffing

This heartwarming taste of apples with cinnamon is the perfect companion to tender pork chops. This dish is always a winner with my family, and i am sure it will be a winner with your family as well. Because it calls for only four ingredients, it is a main course that can be served with little preparation.

On The Menu
Sponsored by
SHINNSTON
PRICE CUTTER
SHOP. FRESH. SAVE

INGREDIENTS

- 6 Boneless Pork Loin Chops (6 Ounces Each)
- 1 Tablespoon Canola Oil
- 1 Package (6 Ounces) Crushed Stuffing Mix
- 1 Can (21 Ounces) Apple Pie Filling With Cinnamon
- Minced Fresh Parsley (Optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

- In a large skillet, brown pork chops in oil over medium-high heat. Meanwhile, prepare stuffing according to package directions. Spread pie filling into a greased 13x9 inch baking dish. Place the pork chops on top; spoon stuffing over chops. Cover and bake 350 degrees for 35 minutes. Uncover; bake until a thermometer reads 145 degrees, about 10 minutes longer. Sprinkle with parsley before serving.

Remember, readers, if you have a favorite recipe that you would like to share, we welcome your submissions. E-mail your recipe to us at debra@mountainmedianews.com. And don't forget to stop by your local Price Cutter to purchase all of your cooking and baking needs.

"Data Center"

cont. from p. 1

Economic development projects are often measured by the number of jobs created. While employment matters, residents should also ask another important question: Where does the revenue go?

The answer is straightforward. Tax revenues generated by these facilities are distributed through existing state and local systems and ultimately support essential public services. Those revenues benefit public schools, county government, emergency services, public safety operations, infrastructure improvements, and important statewide initiatives.

The financial projections tell a remarkable story.

The combined Monarch and Tamarack developments in Mason County are expected to generate approximately $231.2 million annually in property tax revenue. Of that amount, more than $90 million would support county schools, nearly $47.5 million would flow to county government, and more than $7 million would support Fire and EMS services. Additional funding would support statewide initiatives, including the Personal Income Tax Reduction Fund, the Economic Enhancement Grant Fund, and improvements to West Virginia's electric grid.

Putnam County's proposed Google development, while smaller in scale, would still generate approximately $40.9 million annually in property tax revenue. Local schools would receive approximately $17.4 million each year, the County Commission more than $8.2 million, and Fire and EMS services approximately $1.6 million, with additional revenues supporting statewide priorities. Combined, these projects are projected to generate more than $272 million in annual property tax revenues.

Let that figure sink in.

More than a quarter of a billion dollars every year would flow into schools, county government, public safety programs, and state funds designed to improve the quality of life for West Virginians.

For Mason County schools alone, the projected annual distribution exceeds $90 million. Putnam County schools stand to receive more than $17 million annually. These are investments in classrooms, teachers, educational technology, facilities, and opportunities for future generations.

County governments would gain resources that could strengthen emergency services, improve infrastructure, address deferred maintenance, expand recreational opportunities, and better prepare for future growth.

Perhaps most importantly, this revenue stream is not a one-time payment or a temporary grant. It is generated year after year for as long as the facilities remain in operation.

That reality changes the conversation.

This is no longer simply a discussion about technology projects or industrial development. It is a discussion about whether West Virginia can position itself to capture the benefits of one of the fastest-growing sectors of the modern economy.

Reasonable questions should be asked. Citizens deserve transparency. Public officials should be held accountable for the decisions they make. Those principles are fundamental to good government and responsible economic development.

At the same time, it is important to recognize opportunity when it appears.

The proposed data centers in Mason and Putnam Counties represent more than buildings filled with servers. They represent thousands of construction jobs, long-term employment opportunities, substantial private investment, and hundreds of millions of dollars in recurring revenue that can strengthen schools, support public services, and improve local communities for decades.

Years from now, the success of these projects will not be judged by the size of the facilities or the sophistication of the technology they contain. They will be judged by whether they helped build stronger schools, safer communities, better public services, greater economic opportunity, and a higher quality of life for the people who call Mason and Putnam Counties home.

That is the true promise of this moment. It is a once-in-a-generation opportunity, and one worthy of thoughtful consideration.