

PHOTO OF THE YEAR

Chris Dorst
Charleston
Gazette-Mail

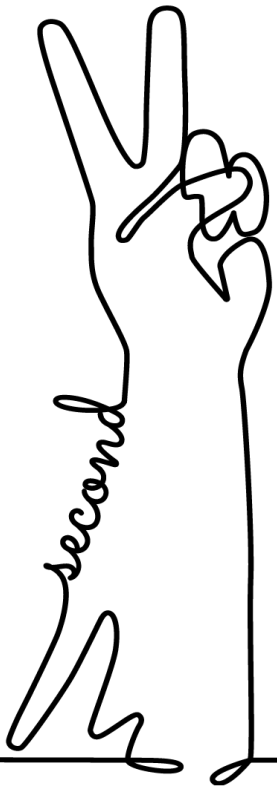


GENERAL EXCELLENCE

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

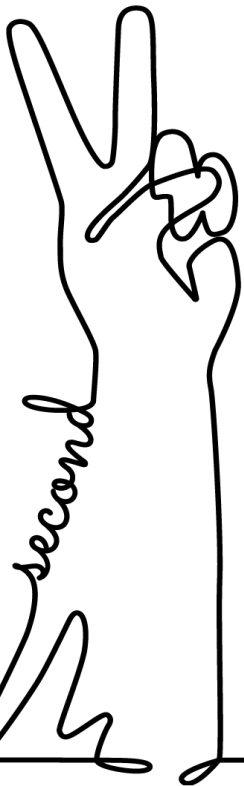
Division 4

Third Place (tie)



Mountain Messenger

The Shinnston News & Harrison County Journal



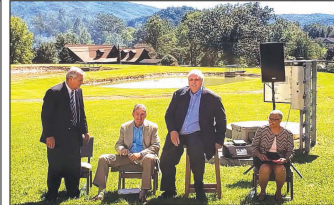
Greenbrier County to receive new voting machines

The Greenbrier County Commission met for a special session Tuesday, Aug. 30 to discuss a proposed grant application to the HAVA Election Security Fund (HSAF) under the American Vote Act of 2012. Federal bill that establishes funding and makes grants available for counties and municipalities to update voting hardware.

Lodenmick explained the situation as one of both necessity and necessity. "We're getting information now from ES&S (the manufacturer of the voting machines) that they're going to stop supporting the current machines we have and stop making parts for them as well, so the timing worked out well. We found this grant. This grant will match our contribution to the purchase of new voting machines up to 50 percent and I'm requesting for \$1.50 million match."

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USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack, Governor Justice, and Mayor White spoke at the event, with White saying, "We have waited a long time for this day to be realized, and there's been a tremendous amount of teamwork in helping us get this project off the ground, or should I say, in the ground."

Biden-Harris Administration invests \$75 Million to provide clean drinking water and safe wastewater infrastructure

The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to providing a healthy community and environment to make our people, children and families here clean water and safe water systems that prevent pollution and runoff. Vilsack said "Thanks to President Biden, Vice President Harris and to the tireless efforts of leaders like Sen. Manchin, USDA is making investments to build communities where they are needed most. With today's announcement and historic investments like the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, we will advance our work to ensure people in West Virginia throughout the country can look forward to healthy, vibrant futures for their families and the communities they call home."

Freshwater Folk Festival returns bigger and better than ever

The Freshwater Folk Festival of White Sulphur Springs is returning to the fish hatchery this year on Saturday, Sept. 16, and the itinerary is packed. So much so that instead of the traditional 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. time slot, the festival will run two hours longer to accommodate the huge package of vendors, musicians, displays, exhibits, and activities in store for attendees.

Larry Davis, President of the Friends of the White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery, is beyond excited for this year's festival, especially given that it's been on a two year hiatus. "We've got Carol Member, organizing the event, and she's just been doing an incredible job all around, rounding up all kinds of vendors and people to come out and



Jim Snyder, The Rust Brothers, and Richard Heifer.

Nature's Way

By Karen Cohen on page 4

The city of Lewisburg hosted an official opening of the new pickleball courts at Hollowell Park on Friday, Aug. 26. A large crowd of eager players on the courts, which are located adjacent to the skate park, have already had a good bit of use as the local pickleball fan club continues to expand. Pickleball is sport that combines elements from badminton, tennis, and ping pong into one fast-paced game for either two or four players on a half-court size court. Locally, the Greenbrier Valley Pickleball Club hosts over 200 members online, and area players coordinate games, meet-ups, and educational opportunities for new members through Facebook.



Lewisburg Mayor Beverly White cuts the ceremonial ribbon to the new pickleball courts and viewing stands at Hollowell Park.

Building Amazing Cities

By JAHMINT author provided

I came home recently, and my wife said she had some good news. I couldn't imagine that luck had befallen our happy lives. She then informed me that the Humans Society had four female puppies and we might be able to get one of them. While I had thought that we needed another dog, my wife was convinced that this was the perfect time to adopt another dog. We will have Jack the Wonder Dog, and he is approaching eleven years old and has been a true blessing to our family. After discussing the challenges of training another puppy, we decided that adopting a puppy might be a good thing for Jack and we would enjoy it ourselves.

The process for adopting a puppy is similar to applying for a mortgage. You need to fill out an application that covers all the facets of owning a dog. Do you have a fenced-in yard? Will you be gone for long periods of time? Are you prepared to spend time with the dog? I know these questions are necessary and making sure that people understand the responsibility of owning a dog makes for a better transition for the puppy. After successfully filling out the application, the Humans Society reviews the applications and decides if you are a good match for the dog. After a couple of days, we learned that we were approved to adopt Rose, a black border collie mix who was one of four female puppies that the staff at the Humans Society named "The Golden Girls". When we went to the Humans Society to pick up Rose, the staff was very thorough and made sure we knew when to bring Rose back for her shots and for spaying, which is done across two months. We waited for them to bring Rose, I noticed new caring the staff was with the variety of dogs and cats at the shelter. The shelter is also extremely clean and well taken care of.

See "Your Way" on page 4.

Pickleball courts officially open at Hollowell Park

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Shinnston winds down with cold brew and warm weather

This month's Wind Down Wednesday, held on July 13, was a warm, sunny evening filled with laughter, delicious food, ice-cold drinks, and great tunes. The energy was contagious as conversations with friends filled the air and children eagerly jumped in the new bounce house provided by Casey's Restaurant. Exciting discussions about up-coming ideas for Shinnston like new businesses, mural paintings, and car shows were only a few of the conversations shared amongst friends and families. Shinnston-based Dany Casey Coffee also shared their debut that evening serving their signature cold brew. Attendees said it was the perfect time to try their pick-me-up to combat the busy season, and it was delicious. Cold brew and sugar coffee was the only ice-cold drink available. Casey's was also selling their craft beer.



Korbin Vance stands beside his car named Brew at Wind Down Wednesday July 13. Travis Vance, his father, Robby Vance, and Brian Kean showed off their cars at the event. Photo by Maribela Marra.

City Council hears arts and culture news

Trent Speltman, board of directors member and head of the planning committee for The Cultural Foundation of Harrison County, attended last week's City Council meeting on July 11. He said the cultural foundation wants to make the county "a hub for the arts and culture." "We realize that if we want to be a representative of the entire county, we have to listen to what the entire county has to say," Speltman said. "We're going through a series of what we're calling 'community conversations.'" He said that the foundation is having community conversations with Shinnston, Salem, Lost Creek, Bridgeport, and Clarksville. Speltman said that the cultural foundation "is working towards becoming a thought leader and action leader in terms of bringing the arts and culture to Harrison County and making [the county] a hub for the arts and culture."

Former museum director removed from board

A former director of the Bio-Region Memorial Museum who served on the board for 18 years was removed from her position during last week's City Council meeting July 11. "I was blindsided," said Marie West, who was a member of the museum board from 2004-2022. She also served as director of the museum for eight years. "I worked hard at it," she said. "I enjoyed it."

Council voted on board appointments for the new fiscal year. All board members up for reappointment and new appointees were approved, except for one position on the Bio-Region Memorial Museum board. The museum board recommended the reappointment of Woody Maloy and Marie West. Councilmember Marjorie Farris made a motion to reappoint Maloy and West. However, Councilmember Parks Kovachik made a motion to appoint Janice Collier instead because of the interest in the position.

Council discussed the idea of appointing a new member to the museum board, but Farris noted that there is an ordinance that says the board is limited to five members. "I would not support Marie West and I would not support Maloy and Collier," Farris noted and said "You have just voted to eliminate the museum board's treasurer and secretary."

Farris said to Council that they did discuss the museum board's reappointment to the museum board but they did not discuss the museum board's reappointment to the museum board. "I loved the museum, and I will do, and I'll still attend programs," she said. "I served on the museum board in 2004, she said and there were two members on the board that had just been removed from the board. "I was very happy with what I accomplished," she said.



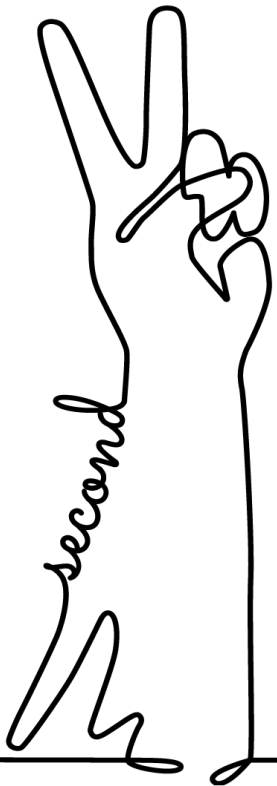
Logan Elder, who has experienced hearing heart problems, required four and heard transplants after contracting respiratory syncytial virus. The community has come together with multiple fundraisers since. The city lined the streets with their red shirts to welcome him back home from rehab. They also lined the streets with red heart balloons and welcome home signs. The town calls him "Our Hero."

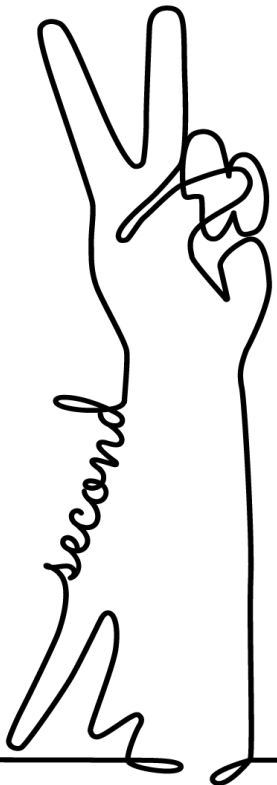
Each week copies of the News & Journal are distributed in each hospital to patients compliments of these community-minded sponsors listed: UNITED HOSPITAL CENTER, LOUIS HORNOR VA HOSPITAL, HIGHLAND CLARKSBURG HOSPITAL & VA WETERANS NURSING FACILITY

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Division 4

Second Place





The Logan Banner

Harts diner and bakery hangs on through COVID-19 pandemic

By DYLAN VIDOVICH Logan Banner
Mar 10, 2021



Tabitha Rakes, Ted Rakes Jr. and Dana Rakes stand outside their dual family business, Creeker's Diner and Dana's Sweet Selections Bakery, at Harts.

DYLAN VIDOVICH | Logan Banner

HARTS — Despite several setbacks posed by the global COVID-19 pandemic over the past year, the owners of a classic-themed diner and bakery at Harts remain hopeful for the future.

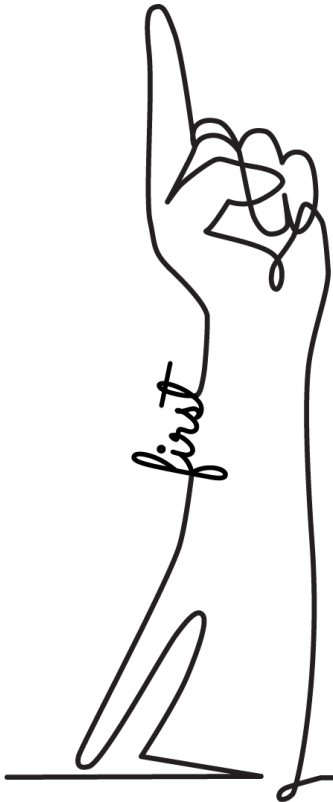
Since October 2017, Creeker's Diner has served customers in one side of the building, operated by Ted Rakes Jr. and his wife, Tabitha, and on the other side, Dana's Sweet Selections, operated by Ted's mother, Dana Rakes.

+

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Division 4

First Place





The Doddridge Independent

75¢

Early Pioneers and Communities of Center Point: B8

SPORTS
Sports Editor, Randall Jett was out sick this week. There will be a Sports Section next week.



A WWII Veteran: B1-2

Doddridge County News

Wednesday, March 9

9am - 10:30am 10:45am - 12pm

FREE COVID-19 TESTING

Doddridge County Health Department
60 Pennsylvania Street
West Union, WV 26456

Pre-registration is recommended but not required
www.getmycovidtest.com

Doddridge FFA Ham, Bacon, Egg & Shelf Stable Goods Sale set for March 10th

The Doddridge FFA Chapter would like to extend an invitation to all FFA supporters and all future FFA supporters to the Doddridge FFA Ham, Bacon, Egg & Shelf Stable Goods Sale. The sale will be held on Thursday, March 10 at the Doddridge County High School auditorium. There will be a complimentary dinner to all supporters in the lunch room beginning at 10:00 PM. The menu will include Ham, Bacon and various sides with the help of the Grand Champion ham. All food and drink will be for the benefit of the chapter. The FFA chapter is looking forward to your attendance at this event and sharing a wonderful evening of food and fellowship.

2022 Energy Express

Applications are now open for the 2022 for the AmeriCorps positions. Apply at: <https://energyexpress.wvu.edu>

NOW RECRUITING MEMBERS!

1-WEEK SUMMER READING PROGRAM

APPLY NOW!

Apply by March 10th

Apply at: www.energyexpress.wvu.edu

Statewide News

Work continuing on new West Virginia bridge on I-64

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Work continues this week on a new Interstate 64 bridge in West Virginia, the state Department of Transportation said. Contractors will continue hoisting bridge girders into place over West Virginia Highway 807. They began the work last Monday, hoisting one girder from a barge in the Kanawha River and another from the western shore and bolting them together to maintain the department said. The girders will be lifted over Highway 807, and traffic will be disrupted at times during the work. The new Donald M. Long Memorial Bridge carries I-64 over the Kanawha River between the Nims and St. Albans interchanges.

The \$214.4 million project will widen 1.8 miles of the road to six lanes. Between Nims and St. Albans, the road will be widened to eight lanes. The plan is to build a second bridge north of the existing bridge and eventually move eastbound traffic to the new bridge and on the existing bridge for eastbound traffic, the department said. The new bridge is expected to be completed in the summer of 2024.

Remote learning for WVa school for deaf, blind after fire

BONNEVILLE, W.Va. (AP) — The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind will move to remote learning this week as work continues to restore services to the campus following a fire that destroyed an administration building, officials said. The schools are working to determine what was lost and what making sure this situation has what it needs to continue its important mission in Hampshire County, Gov. Jim Justice said in a statement. State Superintendent of Schools W. Clayton Burck has directed school administrators to contact families personally to inform them of remote learning arrangements and to address any concerns. "We are moving forward to best meet the needs of our students during this difficult time," Burck said.

Public Notice from the WV DOH Road Closed

Doddridge County, WV - ROAD CLOSURE
Doddridge County, WV - The West Virginia Division of Highways advises motorists of a road closure on Doddridge County Routes 20, Morgans Run, and 30, Inlets Fork. The work location will begin 0.41 mile from the intersection of Morgans Run and US Route 50, and focus on mileposts 0.418, 0.538, 0.661, and 1.119. Signage is currently being placed, and work will begin Monday, February 21, 2022. Working hours will be from 7:00am through 7:00am. Work is expected to continue until March 10, 2022. There will be flaggers on site, but the road is going to be closed to all traffic except emergency vehicles. The reason for this road closure is for roadway slip repairs.

EMERGENCY VEHICLES WILL BE ACCOMMODATED, BUT DELAYS ARE POSSIBLE.

The Doddridge Independent

Friday, March 4, 2022 Volume 10 / Issue 02

Two Deputies Sworn In, PSD, CityNet Updates



WEST UNION, (TDI) — This week's four o'clock afternoon meeting held on Tuesday, March 1st. Those in attendance were some relatives of the two new deputies being sworn in and others were on the agenda. Attendance meeting were: Brian Glaspell, President; Ronnie L. Travis, Commissioner; Clinton Means, Commissioner; Casey Cline, County Clerk and Beth Keltus, Chief Clerk; Shannon Ross, Assistant Clerk and Handie Batten, Executive Assistant in the commission. Also present was Keyes Sims, Counsel for the commission. Commission president asked everyone to stand for a moment of silent respect, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the official Call to Order at 4:02 pm. The Commissioners had read the Preamble. Minutes meeting made to enter into record and they were passed in a 3-0 vote.

There was no request for Public Comment. With that the commission moved on to New Business beginning with: James McClain Basing, Sheriff - Outbid Office for Detention Rock and Dark. The Sheriff came to the front of the commission and called up the two new deputies to be sworn in by the commission. First up was Deputy Benjamin Bick, who took the oath of office as presented by President Glaspell. Immediately afterwards, Deputy James D. Jennifer Wilk. The oath consisted of swearing to support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of West Virginia, and faithfully discharge the duties of the Deputy Sheriff to the best of their ability. With that the two new deputies were requested to come to the table. The Sheriff and the Sheriff's Office took photos of them with the Sheriff and the commissioners.

Glaspell noted that the county is very lucky to have three of the last three deputies from within the county. James D. Jennifer Wilk - Consideration of Funding Request for 211 Program was tabled.

Item C1 Set Meeting Dates for Budget Workshops was approved and the commissioners looked through their calendars. The dates of March 16th, 23rd, 28th and 29th as well as April 5th and a tentative April 7th if needed. Item D1 Jennifer Wilk - Roadside Update was presented by CityNet's President, Jim Martin and Eric Price, facility. Wilk explained that the project started off as a wireless network, but now available financing. CityNet received \$22M from the federal government in grants. With the scope of the project getting that much bigger, the network will be Fiber Optic, not wireless.

CityNet map shows below trunk lines and fiber coverage areas where they will connect households.

Updates on the Blind Branch of the PSD is moving along with crews placing lines south on Route 81 and will apply the new power plant project as well as many residents along the way.

Item D1 Jennifer Wilk - Appointment of David King to Doddridge County EMA Board, and Item C1 Jennifer Wilk - Appointment of Jon Hubert to Doddridge County EMA Board. Both were approved in a 3-0 vote. Discussion started realizing that Doddridge County has received over \$20 million in Federal and State Counterterrorism grant money.

There was a meeting for Item D1 Joseph Perkins and Report.

Item D1 Report: Field and his activity report that included weekly state meetings, FEMA meeting, Cyber Security Classes, and Pipeline Emergency Response training.

DCAA Report submitted via a letter by Neil Hammer. DCAA found had \$45,334,618. Total income is after \$26,246,277. The driveway project remains half completed to date.

Item C1 Clerk of the Wives - Update on new Annex shows that the building is moving forward. There was a team meeting on the Annex with no problems foreseen. The new footer was prepared on the bedrock, during that side of the Annex. Both elevator towers are completed. They did find a pipe where a sewer line was buried near the construction site, that will be handled.

There were no Budget Revisions and no Exemptions and Probate Orders. Invoices were signed and the meeting was adjourned afterward.

The next commission meeting will be on Tuesday, March 15th at 4:00 pm.

Weather Joseph Williams WVTV/WVFX Meteorologist

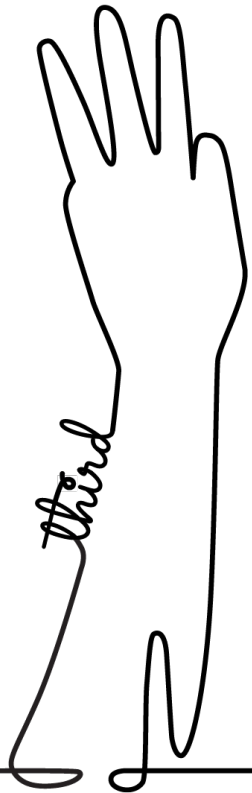
FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
52	73	69	66	45	53	56
10%	10%	10%	70%	10%	10%	10%
Mostly Sunny	All Day Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny
37	50	57	36	31	37	

This Friday will be the coldest of the week as a High-pressure system moves in from the north. During the afternoon, clouds will part to mostly sunny, and winds will be light. Temperatures will be in the mid-to-lows. Overall, it will be a nice way to end the week, but it will be a bit cooler than we've had in the past few days. There will be a partly sunny day on Saturday, and temperatures will be in the mid-50s. On Saturday afternoon, a warm front will move into our area. As a result, winds will be breezy coming from the south and west at 15 to 20 mph. There will also be a partly sunny day on Sunday, and another will be in the high to low 70s, about 20 degrees above average. So enjoy the warm weather if you can. On Sunday morning, a cold front will move in from the north and bring light rain to the area. This light rain will last through the late afternoon hours. But much rain is expected at about 0.7 to 0.7 at most. So, you may want an umbrella at times. The rain ends in the evening, and we take off on Monday afternoon, when another low-pressure system brings widespread rain into the area. It's not until Tuesday morning that the rain moves east, leaving cooler temperatures and clouds. Later in the week, we warm back up to the 50s, so about this Friday will be average in temperatures and partly sunny. Saturday will feel like late spring, and rain and soggy conditions come next week.

GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Division 3

Third Place



WETZEL CHRONICLE

COMMUNITY SERVICE • OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLE

New Martinsville, WV Vol. 44, No. 21 Wednesday, May 25, 2022 16 pages, 2 Sections One Dollar

Hundred Beautification Project

By Billie Zimmerman
Staff Writer

Have you been to Hundred and traveled along Main Street? You may have to do a double take when you pass by the amphitheater.

See "Hundred" on page 5



Hundred FFA members take a break from their work.



Joyce Jennings

Joyce's Smile

By Chuck Cleary
For The Wetzel Chronicle

Last Monday afternoon I was passing by Harlem Drive and observed a lady working with flowers before the New Martinsville sign welcoming visitors to town. A fine mist was falling on her as I passed. My curiosity got the better of me and I called around to talk with that lady in the rain. Her name, Joyce Jennings, I ask if she was part of a garden group taking care of the flowers. She explained that once she was, but the group had diminished over the years. She went on to explain that when she passed by, she always looks for the flowers. It was impossible for her to see them and the bit of beauty they brought to the site. I asked if I could take her picture and write a short story of her self-imposed gardening task. At first she was not sure, but after a few minutes she smiled and agreed.

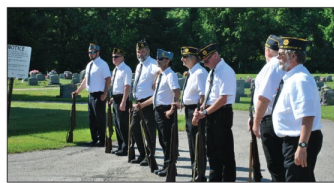
See "Joyce's" on page 5

Legion Post 28 Honor 'Our Fallen Heroes'

By Rick Lay
Staff Writer

The New Martinsville American Legion Post 28 under the direction of Commander Carl Keram held their annual memorial day service at Northview Cemetery in honor of the soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

See "Legion" on page 5



Honor Guard

Hannibal Post 760 Conducts Memorial Day Services

By Mark Cochran
Staff Writer

Members of American Legion Post 760 and Boy Scout Troop 149 led the parade onto the grounds of the Hannibal Locks and on Memorial Day to begin the ceremony of remembering honoring America's fallen warriors and service members.

Eighty-one year old teacher and Hannibal resident Jim Miller spoke eloquently of America's military history from Lexington Green in 1775 to Afghanistan in 2021 and the sacrifices our country's sons and daughters and mothers and fathers have made for the freedom enjoyed by all of us today.

A wreath was laid at the legion's base, members of the River Hills School band played America the Beautiful, the Post 760 Honor Guard conducted a twenty-one gun salute with the Post's M1 Garand, and River High Alumni Haven Branch brought the ceremony to end with a playing of Taps on her cornet. The garland then retired to the Post headquarters on Barren Run Road for a second ceremony honoring those local veterans who have passed in the last twelve months. Mr. Miller delivered a heartfelt prayer, the House Guard displayed their M-1's for a second twenty-one gun salute, and Taps was delivered by Post Trustee Jerry Ward.

See "Legion" on page 5

Local Residents Granddaughter wins Prestigious Award



2022 Sophie Kerr Prize awarded to English Major and Poet
Teddy Friestline

George and Decca Friestline of New Martinsville and Ker and Ruth Ann Walborn, formerly of New Martinsville are very proud grandparents of their granddaughter Teddy Friestline for being awarded the prestigious 2022 Sophie Kerr Prize awarded to an English Major and Poet.

Teddy is the daughter of David Friestline and Amy Jo Walborn of St. Both 1980 graduates of Magnolia high school. The Sophie Kerr Award is the nation's largest undergraduate literary prize, valued at over \$68,000 this year.

Teddy L. Friestline of Greenville, SC has been awarded the 2022 Sophie Kerr Prize, which is valued at \$68,292 this year. Their award-winning portfolio consists of poetry and academic essays focused broadly on gender identity and presentation, religious topics, and literature, among other topics.

See "Awards" on page 2

Sean Maxwell to Perform at St. Ann's Episcopal Church

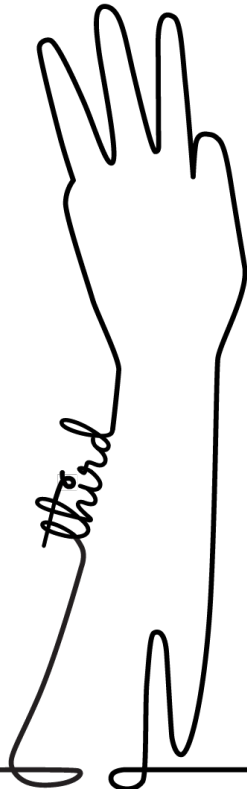
Sean Maxwell will perform at St. Ann's Episcopal Church on Sunday, June 5 at 7pm.

This concert is free and donations will be appreciated. Maxwell will present a harpichord recital of Portuguese music of the late Renaissance and Baroque periods. Following the recital, there is a photo presentation of the city of Porto and a discussion of early music in the Iberian Peninsula.

Maxwell is a native of New Martinsville, WV, but has been active as an organist and harpichordist in Austria since 2015. He has held positions in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston (USA) as well as with the Orchestra of the St. Cecilia Guild of Sacred Music Study (Amstelveen, Bunningsherberg, Monastery (Amstelveen) and the Core Liturgica Universitatis (Portugal).

See "Maxwell" on page 2

The Wetzel Chronicle



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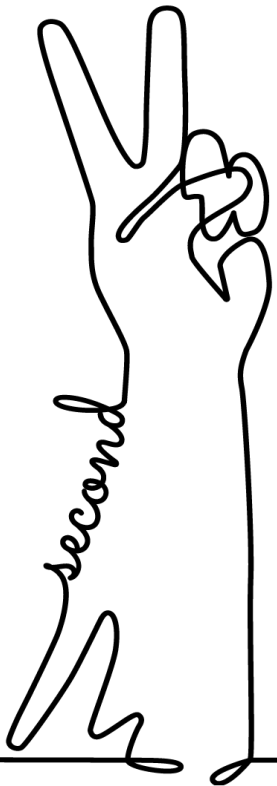
Editorial



GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Division 3

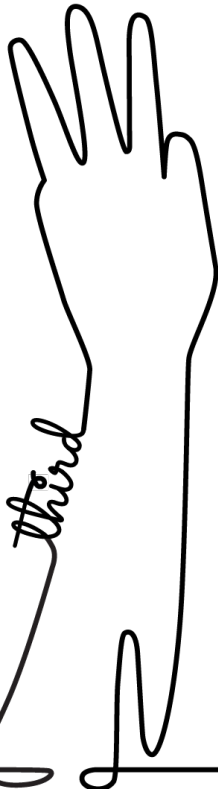
Second Place





Feature: A legacy of service 1B

The Times Record & Roane County Reporter



Commissioners, sheriff at odds over staffing

By JIM COOPER
Editor

Roane County Commissioners and Sheriff Brian Hickman continue to butt heads over law enforcement staffing. Commissioners Andy Corkran, Merin Shamblin and Randy Whited declined for a third time last Thursday to hire a deputy recommended by Hickman. Whited, the commission president, again did not carry over insurance costs for the department. The county's current insurance provider, W.V. Way, recently presented three options for coverage in the coming fiscal year, one with Deputy Mike King

ROANE COUNTY COMMISSION

included and two with King included that have varying deductibles. King is still on the county payroll despite being involved in shootings that have cost the risk pool more than \$1.5 million, with at least one more case pending. He is not working regular shifts for the county. The plan meeting King would cost \$91,418 with covered persons involving King's actions subject to a \$25,000 deductible.

An option covering King with a \$50,000 deductible would cost \$109,073 while another with a deductible of \$100,000 would cost \$72,208. The county's coverage lapses on June 30. Whited said the county has yet to receive bids it solicited from three other potential insurance providers. As they had done twice previously, commissioners tabled Hickman's request to hire another officer. Don D'Agostino, a retirement enforcement officer and member of Spencer City Council, stressed the need to have officers in local schools, citing the Tri-As school shooting earlier that week.

The local school positions were unfilled during the recent school year. "I asked the sheriff of Roane County to make sure that was covered," Whited said. "There's not enough manpower." D'Agostino said "That's doable." Whited countered, "Shamblin and Corkran agreed with Whited. That's (Hickman's) call," Corkran said of personnel assignments. Hickman, who was not at the meeting, has said he would like to fill the school slots but not at the expense of reducing patrol.

Whited expressed frustration with Hickman, mentioning the purchase of dash cams more than a year ago that have yet to be installed in law enforcement vehicles. "The money's there and then it's not utilized," Whited said. "It's like beating your head on a wall." Commissioners have retained outside legal counsel from the Ripley firm of Harris & Holmes regarding the insurance issue. Whited said he hoped the quotes for coverage would be available by the next commission meeting, set noon on Thursday, June 9, after which a decision is expected. **▶ STAFFING / 7A**

Roane records 37th virus death

By JIM COOPER
Editor

Roane County has recorded another death associated with the COVID-19 virus. The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources announced the death of a 77-year-old male last Thursday. The listing was part of the DHHR's ongoing reconciliation with official death certificates. Roane has now totaled 37 deaths since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020. The number of active cases in the county dropped from 10 in this week. The infection rate, one of two indicators of virus threat, dropped from 20.87 to 16.70 for Roane while the percentage of positive tests per 1,000 also fell, from 1.97 to 7.04.



The numbers kept Roane in the yellow level on the DHHR's virus threat map this week. Thirty-five of the state's 55 counties were in the lowest risk, green level, two more than last week. Neighboring Kanawha County remained among 30 counties a step up to yellow. There were 2,181 active cases reported Tuesday for the state, down from 2,236 at the same time last week. There have been 3,256 total cases reported for the county during the pandemic. Stateside, the total number of cases reached 51,265. Deaths with the virus were listed at 6,948.

Principals to get pay raises

By DAVID HEDGES
Publisher

Principals will be getting pay raises under a proposal approved by the Roane Board of Education. The measure passed 3-2 last Thursday, with board president Jeff Mace, vice president Greg Boggs and James Mims in favor and Davis Harper and Eileen Richardson opposed. "We need to find a way to give everyone a raise," Harper said. Mace said it was "one step of a multi-step approach." Earlier this year Superintendent Dr. Richard Duncan proposed a plan to provide raises for all school employees, but board members feared that there was not enough revenue to pay for it down the road, after federal COVID funds were spent. Duncan said the increase that was approved would make Roane more competitive with principals' pay in nearby counties. "It puts us in the mid-range compared to our neighbors," Duncan said. Principals in Roane County are paid what they would earn as a teacher, which takes into account education level and years of experience, with a supplement based on each school's enrollment. With enrollment on the decline, those supplements have been falling. Daily supplements, which will replace supplements based on enrollment, will be \$4 for the high school principal, \$42.50 for other principals and \$31 for assistant principals. **▶ PRINCIPALS / 3A**

FOCUS ON EDUCATION



A gaggle of geese, including four goslings, take a gander at the cool waters of a Spencer lake stirred by a fountain.

FAMILY OUTING

JIM COOPER / SPENCER NEWSPAPERS

Three charged with using drugs in park

By DAVID HEDGES
Publisher

Police arrested three people for allegedly using drugs including methamphetamine at a Spencer park, including a homeless woman facing a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver. Roane Sheriff's Deputy Ben Goodson was the first to arrive

at Griffith Park in response to a call at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 21, that claimed three people were "shooting up" at the city-owned park on Fifth Street in the Alford area of Spencer. Goodson said in his complaint he was "very familiar with the park, the traffic and the things that go on there." A Spencer city police officer arrived a short while later and State Police also would get in-

involved in the case as charges were filed. Goodson said he observed two groups at the park, including a young mother with two small children under a pavilion. The other group included a woman and two men at a picnic table on the other side of the playground. On the table, along with food, bags and trash Goodson said he saw a smoking device and other drug paraphernalia in

plain view. He conducted a search of the three people and a small purse and backpack, he said, were in the area where the woman, identified as Cheryl Mathewson, was sitting. Inside the purse and backpack Goodson said he found two small bags of what appeared to be marijuana, a glass jar with a large bag of marijuana, scales,

▶ DRUGS / 7A



DEATHS: 6A
Darwin "Doodle" Hunton, 78
Claude Herbert Lane, 85

WEATHER
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TWO SECTIONS



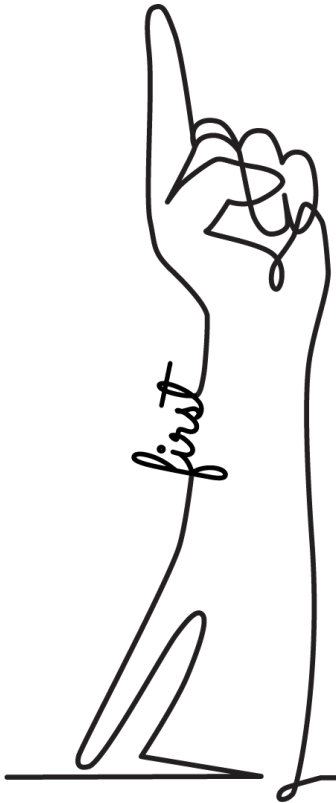
Editorial



GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Division 3

First Place



Wednesday, July 6, 2022

Hampshire Review.com

Romney, WV • \$1.05/issue

Hello, Hampshire! From Makenzie Watts, Capon Bridge



Linda Bogner, Roanoke, Ind. Thanks for subscribing

Valley Health eases visiting rules Details, Page 8A

'At the forefront' Security tech, improvements for new schools put student safety first



An occasional article on how technology is changing education in Hampshire County

EMMA JUNE GROSSKOPF Review Staff
These days, there's more to school security than the simple operation, "do the doors lock?" In the wake of school-related violence nationwide, the 3 new elementary schools will have student security as a top priority.

When the committee of community members gathered a couple years ago to develop a Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan, the need for improved student security was high on their list for the new schools. Some of the old buildings had visibility issues, doors in bad shape and other issues in desperate need for a safety makeover.

Superintendent Jeff Pancione described some of the safety features planned for the new schools, including keyless entrances — an advancement that Augusta Elementary already utilizes, he said, but will be brought on for all the new schools.

Other site design elements that promote security in the new schools will be visibility configurations: windows and parent parking. The receptionist will have full view of the waiting area and vestibule, Pancione explained. "It'll be the same at every school."

The receptionists will see all school visitors, both before they enter the building and once they reach a building's mainstay. When it comes to windows, the original designs and discussions with the architects from McKinley included large windows in classrooms, but for budget and security reasons, the school board elected to shrink the windows' surface area. "It's 2 by 6 and 1 stone," Pancione said — the board saves money with smaller windows, and there's less visibility into the classrooms from the school exterior. Additionally, the locations for bus

PROGRESS

Bids in for work to prep North Central school sites

Page 8A

Housefire highlights volunteer challenges

JIM KING Review Staff

ROMNEY — A fire that started in an outbuilding last Wednesday afternoon ended up consuming a home and 3 to 4 acres, drawing fire companies from 3 counties.

Years ago, this incident would have been handled with 4-5 departments. Romney Fire Chief G.T. Parsons noted on the company's Facebook page: "Today it took almost 2 complete counties worth of fire departments to gather enough manpower to fight the multiple structures and brush fire. The alarm was sounded shortly before 2 p.m. June 29 for the fire on Stony Mountain Overlook Road, which lies east of Gray

See HOUSEFIRE page 7A in



ROMNEY FIRE CO. Facebook The fire on Stony Mountain Overlook drew fire crews from 3 counties.

Hampshire County FAIR 65 years July 25-30

MAKE YOUR PLANS
► Fair board puts finishing touches on schedule. 4A
► Will your pie win a blue ribbon? 4C
► How and what to enter this year. Page 6C

Tiny houses could shape tourism here in a big way

EMMA JUNE GROSSKOPF Review Staff

HANGING ROCK — There's a large trend that's just sweeping counties just like Hampshire.

A large, itty-bitty trend — tiny houses. They're just what they sound like: these livable structures are smaller than your typical house, and give folks an opportunity to lead a life-style without as much "stuff." They're usually no bigger than 600 square feet, and can be as small as 100 square feet. So "tiny" is an apt description, and it's a trend that has



reached the borders of Hampshire County. "It's really starting to boom in this area," said David Bradford, with Bradford Mullins Excavating. "We've actually had different builds here within Hampshire and Morgan counties."

One of these builds is just getting started: Stephanie Santos and her family, who reside

just over the Virginia border in Lake Holiday, bought about 40 acres off Dilson Run and are looking to create a tiny home community. Santos and her husband Patrick have been involved in real estate flips in the past, she explained, "but we were wanting another creative outlet." Their goal, she said, is to have 3 or 4 of these tiny homes

STEPHANIE SANTOS

The bottom half of the 1st house was delivered in late June.

Each one will have a hot tub.

"They'll just be something fun for groups to rent," Santos said.

"We're honestly targeting younger groups, people to come and see, get out and get an escape and create these

See SMALL page 7A in

Lexi shows 'Spirit'

Teen lands in top 5 at pageant

EMMA JUNE GROSSKOPF Review Staff

One of the faces of pageantry in Hampshire County is a blonde, grinning one: Lexi Whetzel, last year's Outstanding Teen winner at the county fair's pageant, represented her home at the state level a couple weekends ago in Martinsburg.

Lexi, 13, ended up placing in the top 5 in the Miss West Virginia Outstanding Teen competition on June 25, which she said surprised her. "I was happy," she said, recalling the moment when she knew the pageant results. "I only thought I was going to make top 7."

The Romney teen (and EMS cheerleader) won the talent award for the couple titles for her jazz dance, and even came away with the pageant's "Spirit Award."



KRISTEN WHETZEL Facebook

Romney teen Lexi Whetzel landed in the top 5 at the state teen pageant in Martinsburg on June 25.

"All the contestants choose who wins the Spirit Award," Lexi said. "It's sort of like who's the nicest, or the friendliest."

Her mom Kristen added, "That kind of like Miss Congeniality."

See LEAN page 7A in

Romney 'green' grant targets storm runoff

JIM KING Review Staff

ROMNEY — The town will get a little greener, and maybe a little drier, with a new \$118,555 infrastructure grant.

Romney received the 4th-highest amount of 13 projects being funded in the Chesapeake Bay watershed by the federal EPA and the Chesapeake Bay Trust. The funds will pass through West Virginia's Department of Environmental Protection.

In all, just over \$1 million is going to "Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns" programs in the Mountain State, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. "These projects, led by communities and local organizations, will serve as a model for the entire region," said Alana Hartman, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Potomac Basin Coordinator, while helping to

See GRANT page 7A in

THE ABORTION DIVIDE

OUR COLUMNISTS COMMENT

CHRISTIAN REJOICE
A third option?

ENDURANCE
Attorney General's opinion, special session likely 3A

Throw down

Pottery studio wheels into Romney Co-op

KENIA TEEZ Review Staff

ROMNEY — The folks at the Hampshire County Co-op are at the wheel, and they're bringing pottery to town — hopefully by late fall.



Risartia Julie Cook is one of the leaders with this project, and will teach pottery lessons for those who are seeking something new and stimulating. Kids and adults alike can learn the fine arts from that comes with pottery making.

The group is planning for an open community kiln as well, where the seasoned potter can skip the classes and finalize their creations in the Romney studio.

They have toyed with the idea of a studio for 2 years, said Co-op chairman Dave Martin.

The discussions got serious 6 months ago, when they reclaimed their vigor, rolled up their sleeves and began the

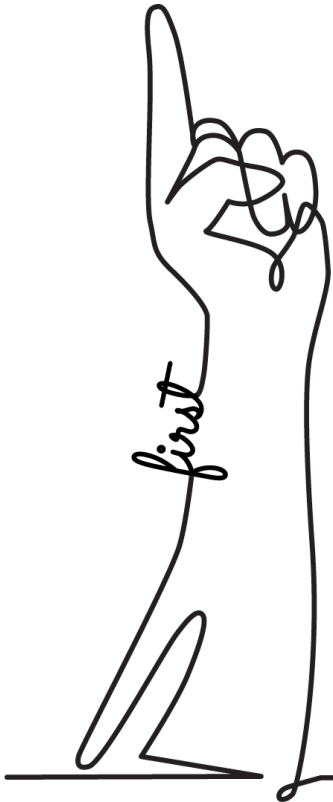
The back room of the Hampshire Co-op has been broken into a studio and kiln room and a classroom.

process officially, and construction is now underway.

Planning the logistics behind such an endeavor requires careful thought. "It's just volunteers, and there aren't many of

See THROW page 7A in

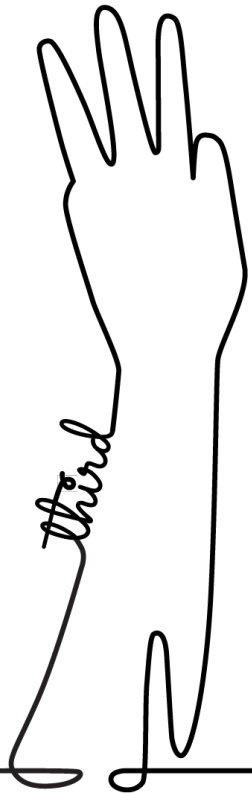
Hampshire Review



GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Division 2

Third Place



Editorial

WEST VIRGINIA Press convention 2023

Bluefield Daily Telegraph

Third



A town hall meeting hosted by Mountain State Justice was held at the Mercer County Courthouse to discuss and provide resources for the residents at Shadow Wood, Elkview and Gardner Estates for the recent mobile home lot rent rate increases.

Looking for legal answers: Frustrated mobile home owners seek solutions to lot rent hikes

By GREG JORDAN
Mercer County courtroom
Frustrated residents of mobile home parks who learned recently that their lot rents were going up just in time for winter and Christmas packed a Mercer County courtroom Wednesday to hear about potential options. About 100 people filled all the benches in one courtroom and even filled the jury box as they came to hear information from attorneys with the non-profit law firm Mountain State Justice and Legal Aid of West Virginia about what might be done to address the dramatic rent hikes that could force some of them to consider the expensive option of moving their mobile homes.



Concrete may be poured for the center pier of the Grant Street Bridge by the end of next week.

Center pier work on Grant Street Bridge in Bluefield moves ahead

By CHARLES BOOTHIE
Concrete may be poured for the center pier of the Grant Street Bridge by the end of next week. Bluefield City Engineer Kerry Stauffer told members of the City Board Tuesday progress is being made after some delays related to having "track time." Since the bridge crosses Norfolk Southern's tracks, details of when work was stopped in May after "soft rock" was discovered underground which made the initial plans to anchor pilings for the central pier unworkable. Stauffer said at the time engineers submitted a plan for Brayman Construction, the contractors building the bridge, to use cast-in-place concrete in which to anchor the pilings. However, the change of plans had to be approved by Norfolk Southern's engineering consultants. Since the bridge crosses the NS tracks in several weeks. The bridge work was stopped in May after "soft rock" was discovered underground.

Miyares, Allen, Kilgore take ride on Spearhead Trail system



Staff photo by Jessica Nazzo
Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares, former Virginia Gov. and U.S. Sen. George Allen and former Attorney General Jerry Kilgore when they visited the Trailhead ATV Resort near Boissevain to ride on the Spearhead Trail system.

Social Security payments set for big increase

NEW YORK (AP) — Tens of millions of older Americans are about to get what may be the biggest raise of their lifetimes. On Thursday, the U.S. government is set to announce how big a percentage increase Social Security beneficiaries will see in monthly payments this upcoming year. It's virtually certain to be the largest in four decades. It's actually spending, and thus where Washington adjusts Social Security benefits to keep up with inflation, or at least with one narrow measure of it. Plenty of cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) accompanies the move, known as a cost-of-living adjustment or COLA. Critics say the data this government uses to set the increase doesn't reflect what older Americans are

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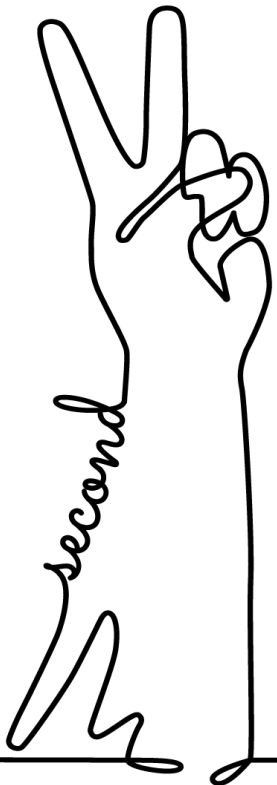
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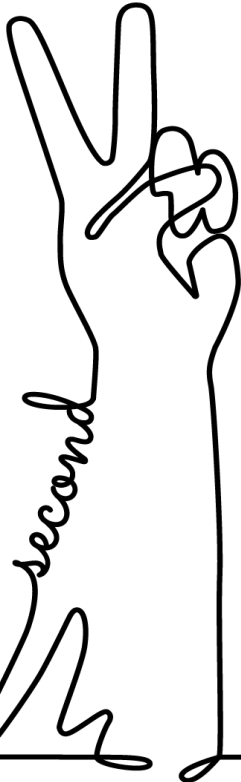
GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Division 2

Second Place



The Weirton Daily Times



<p>WEATHER  TODAY: Showers with a high of 72 and a low of 60. WEDNESDAY: Showers with a high of 81 and a low of 58.</p>	<p>Hearing on Jan. 6 riot is set  See Page 2A</p>	<p>OVAC All-Star game held  See Page 1B</p>
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The Weirton Daily Times

VOL. 94 NO. 302 TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022 \$1.25

Justice giving second thought to gas tax holiday

By STEVEN ALLEN ADAMS
 Staff writer

Speaking during his first-of-the-week virtual briefing with reporters at the Capitol Monday morning, Justice said officials in the Governor's Office and legislative leaders are still working out the details on a special session agenda and it's likely a special session of the Legislature will be called.

But a short-term gas tax holiday or some other form of financial relief for state taxpayers could be an agenda item, Justice said he would release more details during a virtual briefing later this week.

"I've done a lot of thinking about maybe a gas tax holiday," Justice said. "I do think that if we can help our folks, and I believe there is surely enough room to be able to help. I do think that is something that maybe, especially with families right now thinking about going on vacation and things like that, that if there is a way to help a little bit for maybe one month and take a one-month holiday, I don't think it would be detrimental to us from the standpoint of our ability to do all the good stuff in regard to Democratic members of the Senate and House of Delegates first called for a 30-day gas tax holiday in March one week after the end of the 60-day legislative session using surplus tax collections to replenish the state road fund to cover the lost tax revenue. The state collects 25.7 cents per gallon of gas. According to AAA, the average price for a gallon of gas



IT'S ABOUT PRACTICE — Participants in Monday's Weirton United Way Golf Classic take a few practice swings on the putting green of Williams Golf and Country Club prior to the start of the fundraiser event.

Weirton United Way hosts 40th Golf Classic

By CRAIG HOWELL
 Managing editor

WEIRTON — It was a smaller field of participants this year, but representatives of the Weirton United Way are still hopeful this year's Golf Classic will have a big impact on the 2022 campaign.

The 40th Weirton United Way Golf Classic took off Monday morning at Williams Golf and Country Club, bringing together 15 teams representing area businesses and civic organizations.

"It's a low turnout, but given we had a late start, we're really happy," United Way Board President Doug Gianni Jr. said shortly before teams hit the fairways.

Gianni expressed his gratitude for everyone who stepped forward to play in this year's classic, many of whom he noted, are regular participants who understand the importance of the Weirton United Way's fundraisers.

"Everybody here realizes they're here for the United Way and the agencies we support," he said.

Joyce Lytle, 2022 campaign chair, agreed, saying the support from the Weirton community was overwhelming. She applauded Gianni for his leadership leading up to the event, especially as the Weirton United Way currently is without a director.

"Watching Don take the lead has

Names of Brooke fire victims released

By WARREN SCOTT
 Staff writer

WELLSBURG — The names of the individuals killed in a fire that destroyed a house at 59 Monarch Drive on Thursday have been released by Brooke County officials, though it's still not been determined what caused the blaze.

The Brooke County Sheriff's Department has identified the two men killed in the fire as Alan Smith, who lived there, and Mickey Hunter of 2701 Charles St., Wellsburg.

Brooke County Sheriff Rich Beatty said Dennis and Marjorie Kellar, a husband and wife living in the home, continue to receive treatment at an area hospital for burns they sustained in the fire.

Other officials reported the pair were transported by medical helicopter after fleeing from their home.

The sheriff said bodies of the two killed remain at the state medical examiner's office and the source of the fire hasn't been determined.

Beatty earlier noted damage from the fire was extensive but officials with the state fire marshal's office had ruled out an explosion.

Franklin Community Fire Chief Gerald McGain said the house collapsed before firefighters could enter to extricate the two men.

Firefighters from Franklin

Structures along Allegheny Creek set to be razed soon

By WARREN SCOTT
 Staff writer

FOLLANSBEE — On Monday, Follansbee Councilman at large John Casinelli said plans call for a house at 531 Allegheny St. to be razed in the near future while city officials are still working to determine rate increases needed to support upgrades to the city's water treatment building that stands over the creek at 531 Allegheny St. He said the two-story brick structure is expected to be removed later this summer.

Both buildings were acquired by the city through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's buyout program. The program's purpose is to prevent the federal agency from paying multiple times for damages sustained by flood-prone properties.

But the move also helps reduce the risk of flood from the creek, which flows through a culvert extending under state Route 2 to the Ohio River.

A building in the creek of debris and trash, combined with heavy rainfall, has resulted in extensive flooding from the creek, which flows through a culvert extending under state Route 2 to the Ohio River.

But the move also helps reduce the risk of flood

A blessing
 The Salvation Army in Weirton has a new way to help those in need, thanks to the efforts of the 2022 class of Leadership Ohio Valley. As part of the requirements for the program, the 14 participants were tasked with organizing and implementing a service project to benefit the community, choosing to construct a blessing box to store non-perishable food items at the Salvation Army's headquarters on Cove Road. The box was dedicated Sunday afternoon, and according to Capt. Gene Hunt, would be filled with food items Monday.



Craig Howell

<p>INSIDE</p> <p>Tacks placed on Panhandle Trail a worry See Page 6A</p>	<p>QUESTION OF THE DAY</p> <p>Today's question: Are enough mental health services provided in local schools?</p> <p>Monday's question: Have you made adjustments to your personal spending?</p> <p>Log onto weirtondailytimes.com before 9 p.m. today to cast your vote.</p> <p>Yes: 60% No: 20%</p>	<p>INDEX</p> <p>16 Pages, 2 Sections</p> <p>Classified 6-6B Community 7A Comics 4B Notices 2A Local News 6A Lotteries 2A Opinion 4A</p> <p>Police reports 6A Sports 5-3B Puzzles 4B Advice 5-3B</p> <p>Barcode: 144373020</p>
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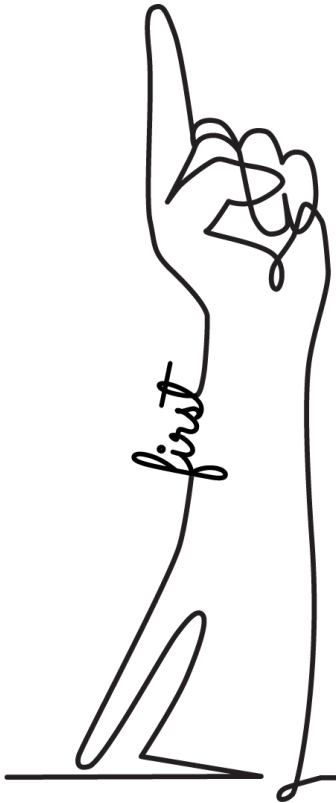
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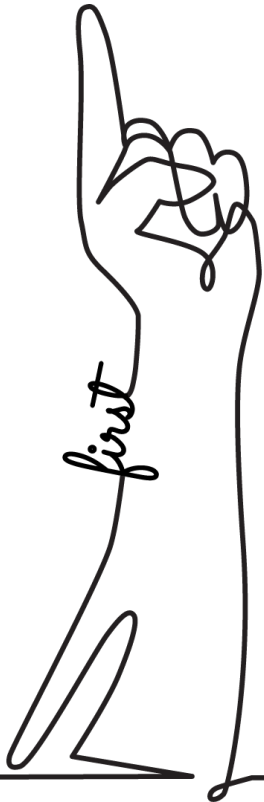


GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Division 2

First Place





The Inter-Mountain

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Vol. CXXX, No. CCXVII



PERFORMANCE
Axe Women of Maine show skills in Elkins City Park. **Page A8**

PREP FOOTBALL
Philip Barbour goes to OT with East Fairmont. **Page A2**



Elkins, West Virginia

Serving central West Virginia since 1892

Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022



The Inter-Mountain photos by Anthony Gaynor of the 84th Mountain State Forest Festival Queen Marie Fluke during the coronation ceremony Friday on the campus of Davis & Elkins College.

CORONATION

Caroline Marie Fluke crowned Queen Silvia LXXXIV

By Brad Johnson
Executive Editor

INSIDE

Additional photos from coronation. **Page B1.**

ELKINS — Queen Silvia LXXXIV of the 84th Mountain State Forest Festival was finally crowned on a sunny afternoon Friday, after two years of cancellations due to COVID-19. Caroline Marie Fluke, of Beckhams, received her crown from W.Va. Department of Agriculture Commissioner Kent Lounsbury at the Citizens Bank of WV Amphitheater on the campus of Davis & Elkins College. "Maid Silvia, it is no my pleasure to place upon your head this symbol of royalty," Lounsbury said as he crowned Fluke, leading to cheers from the crowd of hundreds of people attending the coronation. See **QUEEN** on Page A6



Maid Silvia Caroline Marie Fluke begins her descent down Coronation Hill before receiving her crown and becoming Queen Silvia LXXXIV of the Mountain State Forest Festival.

Voters have opportunities to amend W.Va. Constitution

By Steven Allen Adams
For The Inter-Mountain

CHARLESTON — While weighing the pros and cons of candidates on the ballot in November, voters also have the opportunity to make changes to West Virginia's Constitution, including three amendments that would give the Legislature more authority.

Four constitutional amendments are on the ballot when voters head to the polls. The amendments give more freedom to religious institutions, limit the hands of lawmakers to reduce or eliminate certain taxes, provide greater oversight of education policy and clarify the separation of powers between branches of state government. The Legislature puts constitutional amendments on either special election ballots or coinciding with a primary or general election by passing House or Senate joint resolutions. Resolutions must pass the House of Delegates and Senate with a two-thirds majority vote in both bodies before being placed before voters, where a simple majority is needed for the amendments to be adopted. Amendment 1 would add language to the Constitution stating courts have no authority or jurisdiction to intercede or interfere in or interfere with impeachment proceedings of the House of Delegates or the Senate. Amendment 1 would also clarify that no judgments rendered by the Senate in an impeachment trial can be appealed or reviewed by the judicial branch. See **AMEND** on Page A7

MSFF Grand Feature Parade line-up released

ELKINS — The 84th Mountain State Forest Festival's Grand Feature Parade will kick off at 1:30 p.m. today in downtown Elkins. The parade route will begin at 12th Street and Davis Avenue. The following is the parade lineup: See **PARADE** on Page A7

Karen Knotts speaks during Distinguished Guest Dinner

By Kay Kille
Staff Writer

ELKINS — A celebration of the return of the Mountain State Forest Festival after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the coronation of the 84th MSFF's Distinguished Guest Dinner Thursday evening at the Phil Gainer Community Center. "It's been a thousand and one days since our last Distinguished Guest Dinner," Robbie Morris, Director General of the 84th MSFF, told the assembled audience. "It has been a challenge but we have persevered and we have gathered once again to celebrate our beloved Forest Festival." A moment of silence was then observed for John Zabo, who passed away in 2021. "John was affectionately known as 'Mr. Forest Festival' and always attended the Distinguished Guest Dinner," Morris said. "He was a member of what the Forest Festival is all about. You may love the Forest Festival as much as John, but not more." Morris asked his first-time director general has been eventful to say the least. "It's a tremendous honor to serve as the Mountain State Forest Festival Director for now," he said. "I've held the title for three years, canceled two and held one." Morris have asked me this week is that really good or bad, and my answer has been yes." See **DINNER** on Page A3



Robbie Morris, Director General of the 84th Mountain State Forest Festival, speaks during the Distinguished Guest Dinner Thursday evening at the Phil Gainer Community Center.

Today's good news: Downtown Festival performance entertains, page A8

TODAY: Partly Sunny	INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION
HIGH 52°	22 PAGES, 3 SECTIONS
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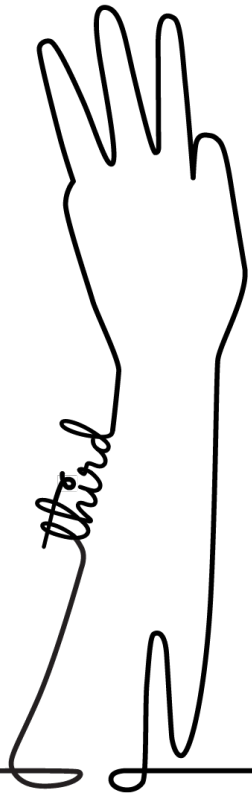
Good afternoon, Jerry Ellison Thank you for subscribing.

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GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Division I

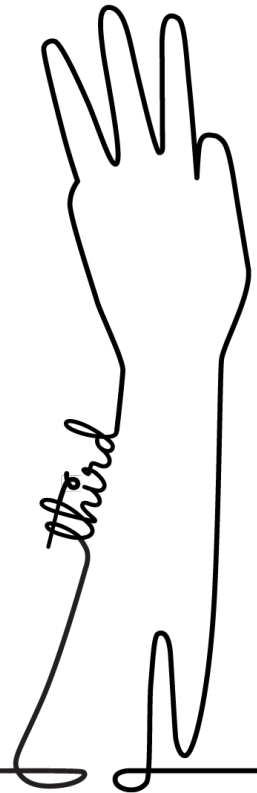
Third Place



Editorial



The Herald-Dispatch

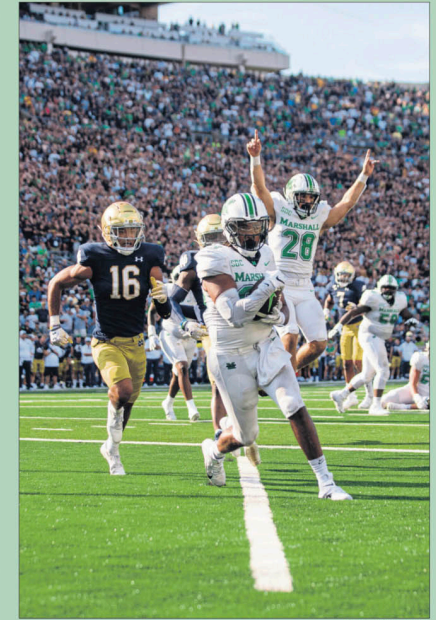


SANDFEST
A local sand sculpture contest brought unique sand creations to Marshall University Saturday.
Story on page 2A



BOB HUGGINS
WVU basketball coach Bob Huggins was inducted into the College Basketball Hall of Fame.
Story on page 1B

MARSHALL 26, NOTRE DAME 21 SHOCKER IN SOUTH BEND



Marshall tight end Devin Miller (81) catches a touchdown at the 10-yard line. Marshall, 26-21, on Saturday at Notre Dame Stadium in South Bend, Ind. For game coverage and more photos, see Sports on page 2A or go online at www.herald-dispatch.com

Manchin's big energy deal draws pushback

By KEVIN FREKING
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats desperately needed the vote of Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia to get their signature legislative priority across the finish. So they did what Washington does best: They cut a deal. To help land his support for a bill hailed by advocacy groups as the biggest investment ever in curbing climate change, Manchin said he secured a commitment from President Joe Biden and Democratic leaders to move a permitting streamlining package for energy projects through Congress before Sept. 30, the end of the current fiscal year.

Now the climate bill is law, and Manchin is ready to collect. But key Democratic constituency groups are lining up against the proposal, calling it bad for the country and the climate. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and dozens of House members agree.

The fissure could complicate the party's efforts to keep the focus on this summer's major legislative victories going into the November midterms elections, which will determine which party controls the House and the Senate. More immediately, the divide is testing the ability of Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., to keep enough Democrats in line to avoid a partial government shutdown at the end of the month.

Schumer is pushing ahead. He said last week that he would attach Manchin's preferred measure to must-pass legislation that would keep the federal government running into mid-December.

To win over skeptics, some Democrats are stressing that Manchin's proposal to streamline environmental reviews for energy infrastructure projects would be good for renewable energy, too.

A summary of the proposed legislation has been circulating among Senate Democrats in recent days and was obtained by The Associated Press. It states that the package being developed is key to meeting climate goals by developing interstate transmission lines that will transport electricity from Midwestern wind farms, for example, to major East Coast cities.

"Unfortunately, today these higher voltage, longer lines across multiple jurisdictions are not getting built," the summary said.

SEE BUDGET 1A

Patriot Day ceremony to mark anniversary of 9/11 attacks

HUNTINGTON — Sunday marks the 21st anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States, when hijackers flew airplanes into the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon near Washington, D.C., and crashed into a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Sept. 11 is now recognized as Patriot Day across the U.S. in memory of the nearly 3,000 people killed during those attacks. The day serves as an opportunity to "honor the memory of the innocent victims we lost and carry on the legacy of the selfless heroes who served our Nation on September 11

and in its aftermath," according to a proclamation from the White House. Locally, the annual Patriot Day ceremony will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday at Spring Hill Cemetery in Huntington, where local officials, first responders, military veterans and others will gather to pay their respects and honor the victims of the 9/11 tragedy. The event will also feature music. The ceremony at Spring Hill Cemetery will be set against the backdrop of the Healing Field, a

patriotic vigil organized by the Greater Huntington Park and Recreation District that features American flags in honor of the victims of the 9/11 attacks. The Healing Field also recognizes the lives lost in the 1970 Marshall University plane crash and memorializes veterans of the armed forces and lost loved ones. Flags in the Healing Field will be on display until they are taken down Tuesday, Sept. 13. Workers make final adjustments to American flags at the Greater Huntington Park and Recreation District, preparing the Healing Field for visitors on Tuesday at Spring Hill Cemetery.



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TRI-STATE WEATHER HIGH 82 LOW 61 Mostly cloudy and humid with a shower, T storms MORE ON PAGE 13A VISIT US ONLINE VISIT US ONLINE VISIT US ONLINE

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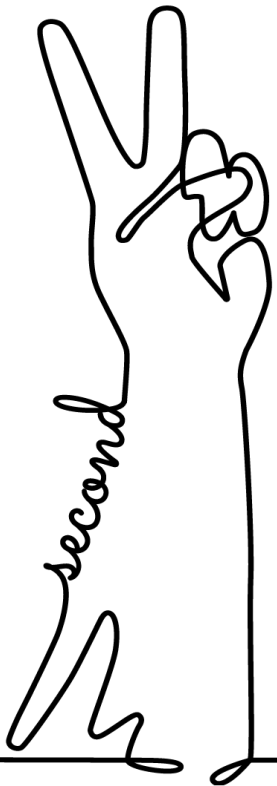
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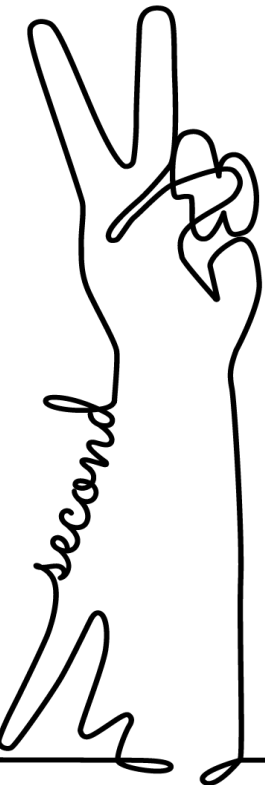


GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Division I

Second Place





The Register-Herald

THE WEEKEND.



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Black History
Lessons learned from the slave church gallery of a Lewisburg church.
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BECKLEY, WEST VIRGINIA REGISTER~HERALD.

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As political pressure builds, teacher vacancies double

Legislature dictating classrooms leads to burnout possibly more than low pay



Alli Woodson, left, and Mackenzie Hart do a lesson in the second grade class of Myrna Mayo, center, Friday afternoon at Crescent Elementary School.

Guidelines mask clarity

By Josephine E. Moore

As several states move to loosen Covid guidelines in light of the resounding wave of Omicron cases, schools are going under similar protocol reviews, especially in regard to mandatory mask wearing. In West Virginia, school officials are being given mixed signals from state and local leaders, which makes navigating a complicated issue that much more challenging. Since lifting the statewide mask mandate in June 2021, Gov. Jim Justice has left it to local communities and school boards to decide their own policies in regard to masks.

Low pay and politics have caused the number of vacancies for certified teachers in West Virginia to nearly double since 2015, school and education officials across the state are reporting, said David Price. In 2015, there were around 600 vacancies statewide, Price reported, compared to 1,196 in 2021, according to recent West Virginia Department of Education statistics.

Price said the loss of teachers who are certified to teach a subject to students has been a trend for several years and that the number of students entering the field of teaching is on the decline as well. West Virginia Education Association President Dale Lee and Raleigh County Education Association Co-President John Quisenberry said low teacher pay and publicly motivated attacks on public education, including bargeborne and unnecessary legislation, are chasing teachers from the field. "It's getting a lot easier," Quisenberry said Thursday. "We've got a problem recruiting new teachers, attracting them, but also retaining them." "We're losing them." "What worries me is that a lot of teachers that feel like it's a calling, rather than a career, those are a lot of the teachers that are leaving, some of the best."

Child abuse laws are not prevention focused

NON-VERBAL KIDS GREATLY AFFECTED

By Emily Allen

Five years ago, Berkeley County parent Amber Pack justified braving on her 5-year-old daughter's arms. Pack's daughter is nonverbal, and at the time, she was in her school's special education program. Pack suspected something was wrong when her daughter seemed more scared of getting on a school bus in the mornings, so she sent her daughter to class one day with a secret recording device. "I think it happens way more than anyone knows about because people who target children with special needs, they know they're not able to come home and say what's happened," said Pack, whose family received an undisclosed civil settlement in 2020 from the Berkeley County Board of Education. Amid this and other high-profile cases of West Virginia school employees abusing students, lawmakers are pushing new measures

LABORS OF LOVE

Owner of a new Beaver bakery, Kenzie's Kakes and Coffee, credits her mom's steady support.



Kenzie Kenzie began baking when she was just 11 years old. The Beaver resident recently opened the new location of her Kenzie's Kakes.

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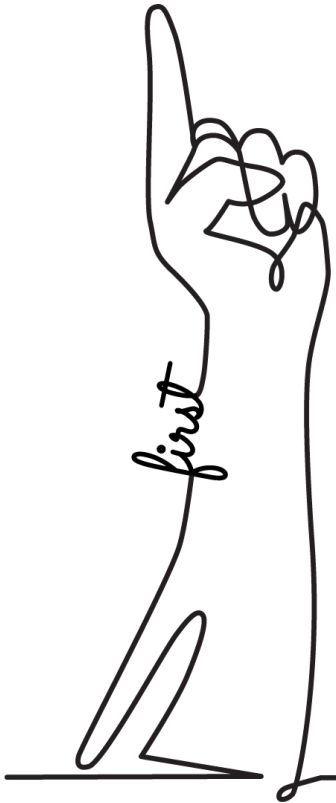
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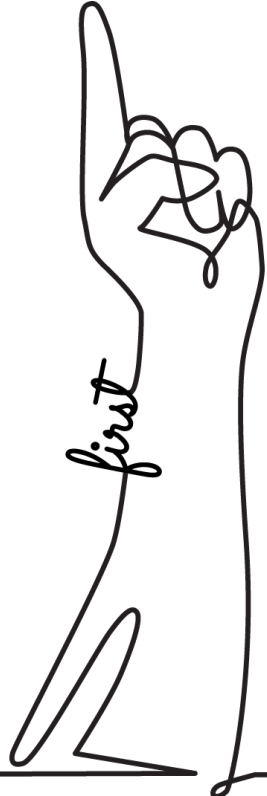
GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Division I

First Place



Charleston Gazette-Mail



COUPON SAVINGS UP TO \$190 THIS WEEK • \$6,141 THIS YEAR

Sunday Gazette-Mail

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2022 • A PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING NEWSPAPER



The results are in! See who's Best In the Valley 2022 — Inside



Artist Jesse Corlis perches on a stepladder to paint an expanse of sky while Emily Gerratt, 15, who designed the mural, kneels to paint images of passengers arriving at Gassaway's rail depot in the early 20th Century.

The Art of History

Mural offers glimpses of Gassaway's past, allows artist to reconnect with hometown

By RICK STEELHAMMER

GASSAW — It might not be the biggest or most lucrative project muralist Jesse Corlis has tackled, but when he learned a 75-foot mural was being commissioned in his taxation-county hometown, he jumped at the chance to do the work. "So many small towns across West Virginia are drying up," said Corlis, who now lives in Cross Lanes. "People are moving away, leaving homes and buildings vacant and abandoned. But Gassaway seems to be holding on. This project gave me the chance to come back home and be a part of the town again. I consider it an honor."



Mural artist Jesse Corlis and Emily Gerratt, who conceived the mural's design, discuss painting technique while working on 'Days of Gassaway.'

Once-grand Charleston mansion up for auction

By GREG STONE

The house got out of control. "I wanted to buy a house," Shelly Calisot said. "I was talking to some people who said it would be better to build one. I didn't expect it to be that big, but it was." Spanning 10,000 square feet, the European-style mansion at 6 Quarry Ridge sat empty for four years and, according to Calisot, had been poorly cared for in the few years prior. Now, it awaits a most humbling fate. At noon Nov. 3, the Pyre Auctions will sell to the highest bidder the once-grand mansion, complete with substantial grounds, swimming pool, tennis court and circular driveway.



Decay competes with the grandeur of the former Calisot mansion overlooking the Capital in Charleston.

BLACK LUNG

'Dragging out so long'

Review board delays leave miners, families in limbo on black lung disease benefits claims

By MIKE TONY

It's been six months since an administrative law judge found Sam Perdue was entitled to federal black lung benefits. To extract that ruling, 73 years after he filed his benefits claim, Perdue had to mine coal for 29 years and be subjected to 12 chest CT scans, five pulmonary function studies, four arterial blood gas studies and three benefits claims. Plus two autopsy reports.

Perdue died in December 2018 after returning home following knee surgery. He was 73. Two years already had passed since True Ridge Coal Company appealed a Division of Coal Mine Workers' Compensation district director's approval of Perdue's claim.



Rabbt Victor Urecki speaks at the prayer vigil for Ukraine.

Ministry battles to aid refugees fleeing strife

By JOE SEVERINO

Seven years ago, West Virginians of Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths gathered with the sole goal of helping refugees resettle comfortably in the United States.

In October 2015, Syrian refugees continued to seek shelter across the globe as the country's government attacked its own people. Heartbreaking images emerged of Syrian people as they braved harsh conditions to seek asylum. These images led local faith leaders to take action.

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LIFETIME OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

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Calvin Creek Quilt Cooperative 2017-2016
Kanawha County Library Foundation Board of Directors 2015-2012
St. John's Episcopal Church Board 2012-2014
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Ministerial Association 2011-2014

Kanawha Valley Historical and Preservation Society, Inc. Board of Directors 2012-2010
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Legal Aid Society of Charleston Member, Board of Directors 1994-1996
WV Youth Symphony Board of Directors 2008-2013
WV State Bar 1992-1999
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District 52 EAST KANAWHA
2010-2014



NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



Sports, Page 18

Hello, Hampshire! From Bruce Jewell, Slainsville



Margaret Herriott, Winchester Thanks for subscribing



Senior center kitchen needs overhaul [details, Page 44](#)

HISTORY IN FLAMES

Fire destroys iconic Romney landmark

12 companies battle blaze, shutting down U.S. 50, draining water reserves

WVSDB goes virtual this week

EMMA JUNE GROSSKOPF Review Staff
ROMNEY — A massive fire swallowed the WVSDB Administration Building whole Saturday morning, destroying an integral piece of the community's history.

The fire was reported at the unoccupied building just after 6 a.m., and crews were on site within minutes to battle the blaze that, once it began, raged until Saturday afternoon.

Flames engulfed the building before 7 a.m., burning hot and fast, with flames and smoke visible to the majority of the town and surrounding areas.

The building dates back to 1846, and Saturday's fire rendered it a total loss. No one was physically injured, but it left the once-beautiful landmark as a charred shell. Students had gone home Friday, so no one was on the campus at the time of the blaze.

Romney businesses picked up however they could as crews fought the flames Saturday morning. Sheets, 7-Eleven, McDonald's, Subway, Dominos, Italian Tonic and Fox's all combated food, drinks or supplies to the companies that responded to the fire. There were over 12 fire trucks on the scene, and over 100 firefighters.

A dozen companies responded to the Romney fire and combined their efforts in quelling the blaze — Romney, Springfield, Augusta, Capon Bridge, Lewis and Slainsville from Hampshire County, Moorefield from Hardy, and Burlington, Fort Abby, Fontana, New Creek and Ridgely from Mineral.

U.S. 50 through Romney was closed to all day after. The remains of the building's Doric columns.

ASHLEY MCCASLEY HANSEN Ashley's Photos



Augusta Fire Company

Flames shot through every opening Saturday morning at the height of the fire at WVSDB's Administration Building.

THREE PERSPECTIVES ON THE EPIC LOSS

ROY KANDEL, DC

What mean these stones



DEL RUTH ROWAN, GA

A dream destroyed



KITTY MARAGE, NC

Helpers and heroes



JIM KING Review Staff
Judge Carter Williams' attorney says a new charge against his client is "nothing shocking or really new."

"It's good to get anything and every thing out on the table," Mike Brown said Friday, 7 days after the latest filing against the 22nd Circuit judge was made public.

The Judicial Investigation Committee postponed a hearing for Williams last week when it filed a new, single count of judicial misconduct arising out of a pair of inci-

deuts at the Moorefield Walmart, where Williams left the store without paying for items.

The commission charged Williams on Feb. 14 — just 4 days after it learned of the incidents — with violating 5 points of the Code of Judicial Conduct and 3 points of the Rules of Professional Conduct for lawyers.

The charging documents allege that on Aug. 18 of last year — after he was already under investigation for misconduct stemming from a conflict of interest —

See [JUDGE](#) page 7A



The day after: The remains of the building's Doric columns.

NOW AND NEXT

Gov. sends in horde of investigators

No word yet on cause, cost

Justice promises state will rebuild

EMMA JUNE GROSSKOPF Review Staff

ROMNEY — The blaze razed the WVSDB administration building Saturday is now under the microscope in an ongoing investigation that has brought teams from both the state and national level to Romney.

The fire, which was called in shortly after 6 a.m. Saturday morning, brought the State Fire Marshal to the scene almost immediately.

"Within an hour of the call, we received a call about the fire. I had investigators start this way," explained Ja-

son Balbic, the State Fire Marshal's chief investigator here at the scene starting Saturday.

Investigators' assistance didn't just arrive from Charleston, Balbic said. A national response team of ATF certified fire investigators (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives) were boots on the ground in Romney as well to aid in gathering information about the cause of the blaze and the extent of its damage.

See [HORDE](#) page 7A

MORE PHOTOS



Page 8C

Judge faces new charge over shopping

JIM KING Review Staff
Judge Carter Williams' attorney says a new charge against his client is "nothing shocking or really new."

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See [JUDGE](#) page 7A



Rich Rogers

RICH ROGERS

1958-2022

The 'consummate' wildlife pro

JIM KING Review Staff

Rich Rogers was so entwined in Hampshire County's great outdoors that most folks never figured him to be native of New York City.

Born and raised in the Jamaica neighborhood of Queens, he shook his city roots to become arguably the pre-eminent wildlife biologist in West Virginia.

Rich Rogers died unexpectedly of an early morning heart attack last week. He was 63.

"The citizens of West Virginia, the state's wildlife resources, and the wild-

life profession across the nation were well served by this fine gentleman," said Paul Johnson, chief of the Division of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Section in his official statement. "Rich Rogers was the consummate wildlife professional."

Then, he added this personal note: "Rich was a dear friend. I will miss his honesty, knowledge and strong commitment to the state's natural resources and the people we serve. Rich made a real difference, and he left us in a better place."

Honesty, commitment and a passion for

See [PBO](#) page 7A

Cases decline as 3 more die with Covid-19

JIM KING Review Staff

Along with declining cases of Covid-19 here, a few numbers remain stubbornly out of line.

The county reported just 8 new cases Monday, the 90th day out of the last 10 that the number has

been in single digits.

That with 25 active cases in Hampshire County, 4 are hospitalized, all unvaccinated.

And the Health Department reported 3 new deaths from the virus last week.

Last Wednesday, we learned of the death of a 57-year-old Spring

field woman and an 86-year-old Romney woman. A day later, the

passing of a 71-year-old Poas

woman who was hospitalized

See [COVID](#) page 7A

Our toll

25 Active

4 in hospital

89 Deaths

5,181 Cases

firmed

Hampshire Review