



Shepherd is off to an impressive start going into Week 4



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JCS Adult Education program gets state award

BY AINSLEY HALL
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CHARLES TOWN — Jefferson County Schools’ Adult Education program received the Adult Learning Center Innovation Award at this year’s West Virginia Adult Education Conference.

It won the award for using the JCS Mobile Classroom to reach communities with high enrollment but low attendance to make it easier for students to learn.

Since the Adult Learning Center in Ranson caught on fire and was torn down, the JCS Adult Education team has been finding new ways to reach students. Instructors Vanessa Clay and Beth Ayling were trying to come up with ideas, when Clay decided they needed a bus. They reached out to the district to see if they could use the JCS Mobile Classroom and started visiting neighborhoods with a high need.

“The first thing we did was give them a shot at a practice test,” Clay said. “Most students don’t even realize how much they know and usually pass the test. We wanted to give them the opportunity to try in a low risk environment.”

“They don’t have to sign up or think about it,” Ayling added. “They just have to do it. It helps reduce anxiety leading up to testing.”

Clay created a program that used information to locate where the highest concentration of students could be found. Using that information, they decided where they wanted to go. Their first stop was Fox Glen, where they sat with individuals to show them how long it would take for them to reach their goal.

See **AWARD**, Page A2



Journal photo by Tabitha Johnston

West Virginia Poet Laureate Marc Harshman gives the Scarborough Lecture in the Robert C. Byrd Center on Thursday night.

W.Va. Poet Laureate Harshman accepts Appalachian Heritage Writer’s Award

BY TABITHA JOHNSTON
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SHEPHERDSTOWN — West Virginia Poet Laureate Marc Harshman gave a lecture on the “Poetry All Around Us,” after accepting the 2024 Appalachian Heritage Writer’s Award in the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History & Education on Thursday night.

For Harshman, the award was one of many he has received for his literary accomplishments over the years, including from the Smithsonian Institution, the Children’s Book Council, the Parents’ Choice

Foundation, the Junior Library Award, the Weatherford Awards. He has also received a number of fellowships, including the West Virginia Arts Commission Fellowship in Poetry in 2000, the Fellowship in Children’s Literature in 2008 and the Ezra Jack Keats/Kerlan Collection Fellowship from the University of Minnesota. Yet, for Harshman, the Appalachian Heritage Writer’s Award proved to be incredibly meaningful to him.

That may have been largely due to the award’s connection with one of his friends, Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt, who founded the Appalachian Heritage Writer in Residence program. Shurbutt, who

retired as the director of the Shepherd University Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities at the end of the last school year, made the trip from her home in Georgia to present the award.

“Hanging around with Marc for the last week and working with him over the past year has been such a joy,” Shurbutt said, before noting that, from now on, each Appalachian Writer in Residence will be selected by her successor, Ben Bankhurst. “I’ve always wanted to go out with a bit of a blast. Doing so with Marc has been a joy for me.”

See **POET**, Page A2

Iranian operatives charged in the U.S. with hacking Donald Trump’s presidential campaign

BY ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Three Iranian operatives have been charged with hacking Donald Trump’s presidential campaign as part of what the Justice Department says was a sweeping effort to undermine the former president and erode confidence in the U.S. electoral system.

The action, coupled with sanctions and rewards for information leading to the accused hackers’ capture, is the latest U.S. government effort to call out what’s seen as Iran’s attempts to interfere in the election by damaging Trump and sowing general chaos. It comes as Iran has also been accused of threatening the lives of Trump and former officials and as US-Iran relations remain especially tense, with Israel fighting Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The three accused hackers were employed by Iran’s paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, which the U.S. government has designated as a foreign terrorist organization. Since 2020, their operation has sought to compromise email accounts of a broad swath of targets, which in addition to the Trump campaign also includes a former ambassador to Israel, a former CIA deputy director, officials at the State and Defense departments, a former U.S. homeland security adviser and journalists, according to the indictment.

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Talk It Out event provides resources for people struggling with mental health

BY AINSLEY HALL
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MARTINSBURG — Telamon hosted the second annual Talk It Out event on Friday at its community house, which raised awareness for mental health and suicide prevention throughout the community.

Several organizations participated in the event, including the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention.

Telamon was created to empower families living in poverty and help them create a better future through education, new careers, affordable housing and more. It is a private, nonprofit organization that was started in 1965 in North Carolina and has continued to grow and expand to serve people in many different states in the country.

Last year, administrative assistant Tasha Edwards started the Talk It Out event as a way to reach out to those struggling with mental health issues. When Edwards lost

her aunt around five years ago, she realized how many people struggle with depression and suicidal thoughts.

Edwards believes there aren’t enough resources to provide these people with the support they need, so she decided to start an event where people can find the help they need.

“A lot more people struggle with this than many realize,” Edwards said. “I went to my supervisor with the idea of creating an event to provide resources to the community. She told me to run with it, and that’s how this whole thing started.”

Despite the consistent rain throughout the day, Edwards and her team set up tents along Virginia Avenue to connect with people throughout Martinsburg and the surrounding areas. Several organizations prepared games, flyers and other information for people to learn more about what type of help is available to them.

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Submitted photo

Members of the Telamon team worked to raise awareness for mental health and suicide prevention at the annual Talk It Out event on Friday.

The Journal

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TWO-DAY FORECAST

Saturday
81° | 65°

Sunday
71° | 61°

GOOD MORNING

Marilyn Blaylock,
of Hedgesville

Thank You
for subscribing to
The Journal

Award

FROM PAGE A1

It was Regional Adult Education Coordinator John Holmes who decided to nominate the program for the Adult Learning Center Innovation Award. Clay and Ayling attended the West Virginia Adult Education Conference in Roanoke, where they received the award after showing their hard work and dedication to what they do.

“It really meant something to us to be acknowledged,” Clay said. “It showed how well we’ve done considering we started the school year with nothing.”

“We’re always trying to problem solve,” Ayling added. “We love our jobs, and receiving this award shows that all the pain we’ve gone through last year was worth it.”

Clay and Ayling both love seeing how students change and how that impacts not just their lives but the people around them. They are thankful for all their staff members, who all work hard to help adult learners throughout Jefferson County.

“We are so fortunate to



Submitted photo

Jefferson County Schools Adult Education program instructors Vanessa Clay and Beth Ayling with the Mobile Classroom.

have Beth, Vanessa and Emilia leading the Adult Education team,” said Ian Hillman, Jefferson County Schools director of responsive education. “The building in which they operated had a fire in the summer of 2023, wreaking havoc and causing many disruptions. The

team has been flexible and innovative and continuously explores ways to reach adult learners in our community. Using the bus to target areas of need and to remove a barrier for adult learners to begin is just another wonderful example.”

Threats

FROM PAGE A1

Intelligence officials held the briefing at the request of the Trump campaign, according to a U.S. official familiar with the matter. The official, who was not authorized to speak publicly, added that the information presented to the campaign did not include any suggestion of a new threat against Trump and some of the information that was presented to the campaign was years old.

Trump’s campaign has sought to make Iran’s threats a political issue, suggesting Iran considers Democrat Kamala Harris weak on foreign policy. It has mischaracterized some details to falsely suggest Harris’s campaign sought to benefit when Iran hacked into his campaign.

During a speech Wednesday Trump called for a beligerent response to Iranian threats. “If I were the president I would inform the threatening country, in this case Iran, that if you do anything to harm this person we’re going to blow your largest cities and the country itself to smithereens.”

Longtime concerns about Iran

Along with Russia and China, Iran has also mounted an extensive online influence operation designed to stoke discord and polarization ahead of the November election, intelligence officials have said.

It has especially targeted Trump, seeing him as the candidate more likely to increase tension between Washington and Tehran. Iranian hackers stole information from Trump’s campaign and sought, unsuccessfully, to interest

news organizations and President Joe Biden’s campaign in the material. There’s no indication that any of the recipients responded.

But U.S. concerns about the threats Iran poses to the U.S. go well beyond this year’s election. Iranian leaders vowed revenge after the Trump administration ordered the killing of Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani in 2020.

In July, authorities said they had received word of an Iranian threat on Trump’s life and boosted security for the candidate as a result. The following month a Pakistani man alleged to have links to Iran was charged in a plot to carry out political assassinations on U.S. soil. Law enforcement did not name the targets of the alleged plot, but legal filings suggest Trump was a potential target.

In 2022 an Iranian operative was charged in a plot to murder former National Security Adviser John Bolton in presumed retaliation for Soleimani’s death.

On Wednesday, Blinken said authorities have been investigating Iran’s threats against “a number of senior officials” including Trump as well as people now serving in President Joe Biden’s administration.

“This is something we’ve been tracking very intensely for a long time,” Blinken said on CBS This Morning.

The National Security Council said in a statement sent to The AP that Iran’s threats against Trump and were prompted by Soleimani’s killing. “We consider this a na-

tional and homeland security matter of the highest priority, and we strongly condemn Iran for these brazen threats,” the council said.

No connection to attempts on Trump’s life

In his speech Wednesday, Trump linked Iran to the recent assassination attempts — “they may or may not involve, or possibly do, Iran.” Authorities have made no such connection.

In the first attempt at a rally in Pennsylvania in July, authorities shot and killed the gunman who shot Trump. Law enforcement officials have said the shooter, Thomas Matthew Crooks, searched online for events of both Trump and Biden, and viewed the Trump rally as a “target of opportunity.” The FBI has said it believes Crooks acted alone.

The suspect in the second assassination attempt, Ryan Wesley Routh, 58, was apprehended following a chase after the Secret Service spotted him lying in wait at Trump’s Florida golf course this month. Routh’s past social media posts don’t easily align with either party, but his views on Trump seemed to sour in recent years. The FBI said Routh wrote a letter detailing his plans to kill Trump.

The Secret Service declined to comment on Wednesday when asked whether they’ve taken actions recently in response to any new Iranian threats against Trump. But the agency has already said that since the July attempt, Trump is receiving the highest levels of protection it can provide.

Berkeley County accident results in fatality

MARTINSBURG — A two-vehicle accident on Friday morning in Berkeley County left one person dead.

According to a press release from the Berkeley County Sheriff’s Department, at approximately 11:30 a.m. on Friday, the department was dispatched to an accident with injuries at the intersection of Business Park Drive and Tabler Station Road in Inwood.

Upon arrival, units located a Toyota Tacoma pick-up truck with a single occupant on the south road-

side with heavy damage. On the northside was a tractor-trailer, which had sustained damage to the underside of the trailer.

The driver of the Toyota Tacoma, identified as Allen Lee Nance, 25, of Martinsburg, was pronounced dead at the scene.

During the crash investigation, led by Sgt. Ritchie, initial evidence indicated that the Toyota was traveling east on Business Park Drive, and the tractor-trailer was attempting to turn left from Knauf Insulation. As

the tractor-trailer entered the roadway, the Toyota struck the tractor-trailer, traveled underneath the tractor-trailer and continued east on Business Park Drive, where it came to rest off the road in the area of the intersection of Tabler Station Road.

Evidence on scene indicated that high speeds may have been a contributing factor to this collision. The accident is currently still under investigation, and no criminal charges have been filed at this time.

Poet

FROM PAGE A1

Shurbutt noted that Harshman’s relationship with her former program began nearly two decades ago. Harshman’s work has appeared in every edition of the Anthology of Appalachian Writers since 2006.

“As I often say here, I’m not sure you’re clearly aware of what a role Sylvia plays in the field of Appalachian Studies,” Harshman said. “There’s nowhere, from north Georgia to the Catskills, that’s not aware of Sylvia’s role in defining the direction and supporting Appalachian Studies throughout the region. And, of course, the work she does here for the Appalachian Writer in Residence program is quite remarkable, and the list of her alumni — of which I am very proud to be one now — is more than impressive.”

The successful children’s book author and teacher then presented the Scarborough Lecture, highlighting the power of poetry and education to change the world.

“What we gain from raising up better readers and writers is that, in doing so, we also raise up better thinkers and speakers. Surely, this might hold for us a more hopeful way forward — a way forward and toward a better climate for public conversation,” Harshman said. “Even soft subjects like mine — it doesn’t get any softer than poetry — can affect real change on the hard realities of both education and our body politic and possess real potential for the preservation of all kinds of places and all that might be.”

Harshman also presented the 2024 West Virginia Fiction Competition awards during the program. Shepherdstown resident D.W. Gregory won first prize with her story, “Moving Day.” Kearneysville resident Jane Ellen Freeman won second prize with her story, “Connection,” and St. Albans resident Megan Darlene Milam

won third prize for her story, “Outrunning Borderline.”

The Judges’ Choice winner was Petersburg High School student Lucy Grove for her story, “To Anybody Listening.” The competition’s four finalist stories were: Harpers Ferry resident Julie Becrat-Shehan’s “Blessed,” Wellsburg resident Alania Cole’s “Fishing Trip,” Martinsburg resident E. Randolph Underwood’s “The Mentor” and Kearneysville resident Olivia Myers’ “The Creek.”

The award-winning works will be printed in the Marc Harshman edition of the Anthology of Appalachian Writers, which will be published next spring.

The program served as the culmination of the 2024 Appalachian Heritage Festival, according to Shurbutt. It was sponsored by the West Virginia Center for the Book, the West Virginia Humanities Council and the Shepherd University Foundation.

Talk It Out

FROM PAGE A1

The event ran from 2-5 p.m. to give middle school and high school students the opportunity to come. Edwards shared that suicide is the leading death for ages 10-24 in the United States, so she wanted to make sure to reach the younger audience. Her goal was to help whoever came to the event and try to break the stigma surrounding mental health and suicide.

“It’s really important to have something like this, because people need to under-

stand it’s not bad to ask for help,” Edwards said. “We want them to know that help is out there, and there are people who care about them and want to help.”

Edwards believes that if one person is helped, the event is worth it. She shared that last year, there was a man who thanked Edwards. He shared that he was thankful for the event, because just the week before, he was struggling. Seeing the resources available and all the people at the event encouraged him.

The Journal

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LOTTERY NUMBERS

WEST VIRGINIA

Daily 3: 3-2-7
Daily 4: 9-2-1-0
Cash 25:
6-11-15-16-20-23

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DAY DRAWING

D.C. 2: 5-1
D.C. 3: 9-2-2
D.C. 4: 4-0-2-5
D.C. 5: 6-3-8-3-5

NIGHT DRAWING

D.C. 2: 0-9
D.C. 3: 5-8-7
D.C. 4: 2-1-4-6
D.C. 5: 3-2-8-7-2

MARYLAND DAY DRAWING

Pick 3: 6-3-7
Pick 4: 9-1-6-1
Pick 5: 1-9-0-6-1

NIGHT DRAWING

Pick 3: 3-5-6
Pick 4: 3-9-2-5
Pick 5: 7-3-7-7-2
Bonus Match 5:
1-6-15-20-26 (16)

PENNSYLVANIA DAY DRAWING

Pick 2: 1-2
Pick 3: 1-1-7
Pick 4: 5-1-9-9
Pick 5: 7-7-9-4-4
Wild Ball: 8
Treasure Hunt:
5-11-12-20-25

NIGHT DRAWING

Pick 2: 7-7
Pick 3: 4-8-0
Pick 4: 9-8-1-1
Pick 5: 5-0-7-9-3
Wild Ball: 0
Cash 5: 10-11-12-17-38

VIRGINIA DAY DRAWING

Pick 3: 2-0-1 (3)
Pick 4: 0-7-7-2 (7)

POWERBALL

Estimated jackpot:
\$243 Million

Next drawing: Saturday

MEGA MILLIONS

Results not in
by press time.

Estimated jackpot:
\$77 Million

Next drawing: Tuesday

NO
administrative fees.
Every cent received
is used to buy
new winter
clothing!

Many Children Wish for a Bike, a Toy
or Electronics.

Some Children Just Simply Need
Warm, Winter Clothing.

29th
YEAR
of service to the
Eastern Panhandle

HELP...

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The fund is neighbors helping neighbors. We are asking readers to donate to the fund, and all the proceeds will be used to buy warm winter clothing for needy Eastern Panhandle children. There are no administrative fees. All the money donated is used to buy warm winter clothing.

How will the children's clothing be purchased?
The **WARM THE CHILDREN FUND** will make all arrangements with local retailers and assign Journal staff and other volunteer shoppers to take the children shopping for their new winter clothing.

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