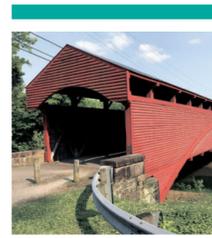


# TIMES WEST VIRGINIAN

SERVING MARION COUNTY AND NORTH CENTRAL WEST VIRGINIA FOR 158 YEARS



**LOCAL**  
Help plan the 2026  
Barrackville Covered  
Bridge Festival

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**SPORTS**  
Huskies send Shady  
Spring packing in  
Class AAA action  
in Charleston

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THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

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**TAX CREDIT IN ACTION**

## Marion County gets starring role in new Netflix hit movies

By ESTEBAN FERNANDEZ  
TIMES WEST VIRGINIAN

FAIRMONT — It's been a good day for Bob and Jeff Tinnell from Allegheny Image Factory.

Two of their films, "Gaslit by my Husband" and "The Bad Guardian," hit two of the top five spots on Netflix since Sunday. Everyone from the actors to the network is pleased, Bob Tinnell said.

"Waking up this morning to be No. 1 and No. 4 in the country was not something we saw happening," Bob Tinnell said. "And so that kind of threw the whole day into an uproar."

Calls of congratulations have been rolling in all day, he said.

It's big news for the Fairmont based film company, who shot both movies in the Marion County area. "The Bad Guardian," which was shot in Mannington, Shinnston and Fairmont, tells the story of a woman fighting to free her father from a greedy court-appointed guardian. "Gaslit," shot mostly in Fairmont, tells the true crime story of a woman who discovers things aren't what they seem after she's attacked in her home by a masked intruder.

Both movies were initially produced for Lifetime, before migrating to Netflix.

Bob Tinnell said to have both movies occupy such a large footprint in American media consumption is validation for the company. He said it sends a message that not only is Allegheny Image Factory producing quality films, it's also promoting the state of West Virginia on multiple

SEE FILM, PAGE 2A



"The Bad Guardian"

SUBMITTED PHOTO

**2026 LEGISLATURE**

## Bill funnels Juul settlement funds to smoking, vaping cessation program

By LORI KERSEY  
WEST VIRGINIA WATCH

CHARLESTON — A bill completed during West Virginia's 2026 regular legislative session would allocate some of the state's \$7.9 million settlement with vaping device company Juul toward anti-smoking and vaping efforts.

Health advocates are calling on Gov. Patrick Morrisey to sign it.

House Bill 5691 would be a one-time allocation of \$2.9 million from the state's settlement with Juul toward youth tobacco prevention and prevention programs. The bill passed 88 to five in the House of Delegates and unanimously in the Senate.

Juul settled with the state for \$7.9 million in 2023 over allegations it marketed products to underage users, according to reporting by the Associated Press. Gov. Patrick Morrisey settled the lawsuit as the state's attorney general at the

time. According to the attorney general's office, the company has paid the state about \$3.3 million to date.

Doug Hogan, government relations director for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, said the nearly \$3 million would be a "vital investment" and could have a generational impact in the state.

"West Virginia really has the opportunity to address the youth tobacco epidemic here in the state," Hogan said. "Middle and high school students are using these products — almost 28% of high schoolers are using these products, and that is extremely alarming, especially when you consider that in West Virginia about 37% of the cancer deaths can be traced back to cigarette smoking and tobacco product use. So this is vitally important."

Hogan said there are lots of programs and resources available, including the youth anti-smoking and vaping programs

Raze and CATCH my Breath.

"There are several fact-based, tried-and-true programs that we know work when it comes to prevention, and we know that work when it comes to helping people become successful in their attempts to quit using these products," Hogan said. "And so all those will be at the disposal of the program as they look to invest the Juul funds and get the maximum return on that investment."

According to a 2025 report from the American Lung Association, West Virginia has the highest adult smoking rate in the country, at 20.4%, and nearly the highest number of new lung cancer cases, at 76.3 per 100,000.

The state put approximately \$306,000 toward smoking cessation efforts in 2026, plus another \$1.3 million in federal funding, earning it an F grade

SEE BILL, PAGE 4A

**FIRST AMENDMENT**

## Judicial candidate challenges rules prohibiting speech

By ESTEBAN FERNANDEZ  
TIMES WEST VIRGINIAN

FAIRMONT — A Wheeling-based attorney is trying to loosen what restrictions judicial candidates must adhere to regarding public speech during elections.

Martin P. Sheehan, who is running for the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, filed a complaint against the West Virginia Judicial

Investigative Commission and Commission Counselor Teresa Tarr.

Sheehan's complaint argues that rules set forth by the West Virginia Code of Judicial Conduct violate his First Amendment rights during election campaigns. He also argues those rules are unenforceable due to a decision laid out by the U.S. Supreme Court in a 2002 case dealing with a similar issue.

"The way campaigns work now is, I can say I've got this many years of experience and I've done this thing and I prosecuted and defended, won this case in the past or I argued for this principle of law," Sheehan,

SEE SHEEHAN, PAGE 2A

**GAS PRICES**

## W.Va. feels pain at the pump

By RILEY MCCOY  
CNHI WEST VIRGINIA

BECKLEY — With gas prices continuing to climb, residents are feeling the pinch at the pump — but how they explain rising gas prices varies as much as the prices themselves.

Some blamed the war. Others focused less on cause-and-effect and more on the strain the increase placed on already tight household budgets.

Those split reactions formed the center of a community snapshot Monday, when residents shared their opinions in a series of street interviews. The conversations showed not just frustration over fuel costs but a deeper divide in how local residents interpret the forces behind them.

Tamara Curry, who said she is from Greenbrier County, did not treat the rise in gas prices as a problem on its own but as a symptom of a bigger issue.

"Yeah, the gas prices are super high right now and the war sucks," Tamara Curry said. "I hate this. It's already enough, like with groceries and everything else, bills and then now gas."

In Curry's view, the increase was tied not only to war but to the broader strain of inflation and everyday living costs already pressed on

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**REMEMBRANCES**

Cora Hull

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**GOOD MORNING**

William Oliver

Thank you for being our customer!

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# Busy Bee Band & Honeybees

## Follies 2026

### 52nd Annual Production March 26-29, 2026

March 26, 27 and 28 @ 7:30 PM  
March 29 @ 2:30 PM

Tickets for Follies 2026 can be purchased online this year for your convenience! You can visit <https://www.ticketor.com/busybeeband>



Scan to choose your seats and buy tickets immediately