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A Division of the WV State Building Trades, AFL-CIO | Brad Winans, President | John Epperly, Secretary-Treasurer | Justin Williams, Director

Trades Sponsor 127 Kids with Angel Tree Program

For the third year in a row, the Charleston Building and Construction Trades Council partnered with the Salvation Army for the Angel Tree Program to raise funds and collect gifts for families in need during the holiday season.

This year's event raised the most money and sponsored the most children the partnership has seen in its three-year span.

The trades collected Angel Tree gifts for 127 children in the greater Charleston area, and check presentations were held as well. The gifts collected for the children amounted to more than \$10,000 and the checks presented totaled an additional \$11,850.

In addition to all fourteen construction craft organizations under the Charleston Building Trades umbrella, the donation drive was funded in part by contractor members of the Kanawha Valley Builders Association as well.

Charleston Building and Construction Trades Business Manager Fred Chandler says the annual partnership is very important to them.

"We look forward to working with

the Salvation Army every year. It gives us an opportunity to give back and volunteer to help folks in need around the area," said Chandler. "We appreciate the people in this community and all they have given us. We try to take every opportunity we can

to give back to them."

Officials at the Charleston Area Salvation Army also expressed their gratitude for the ongoing partnership with the trades.

"We at The Salvation Army of Charleston want to share our appre-

ciation for all the trade groups that participated in the outpouring of generosity at the Trades Office Building," said Salvation Army Charleston WV Area Commander Captain Mike Michels.

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Fred Chandler, Business Manager for the Charleston Building & Construction Trades, and Brad Winans, President of the WV Building and Construction Trades Council, present a check to representatives from the Charleston Area Salvation Army.

Labor & Management Group Donates \$15,000 to Huntington City Mission

A \$15,000 donation was given to the Huntington City Mission on Thursday by the Local Labor Management Cooperative Committee (LLMCC) to help support its ser-

vices.

The LLMCC was established by provisions in labor contracts by Huntington Local 317 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

(IBEW) and the West Virginia — Ohio Valley Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (WV-OH NECA) to support the industry and local electricians and to

sponsor programs that support economic and community development.

The committee is funded by contributing contractors based on hours

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Upper Ohio Valley Trades Donate \$6,000 to Soup Kitchen of Greater Wheeling

Members of the Upper Ohio Valley Building and Construction Trades visited the Soup Kitchen of Greater Wheeling to drop off donations totaling \$6,000.

The UOVBTC donated \$1,500, while the Operating Engineers Local 132 donated \$500, the Iron Workers Local 549 donated \$1,000, the Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 83 donated \$1,500 and the IBEW Local 141 donated \$1,500 and the Laborers Local 1149 donated dozens of turkeys to the Soup Kitchen at Thanksgiving.

The donations to the Soup Kitchen of Greater Wheeling are a part of a larger initiative by the Upper Ohio Valley Building and Construction Trades Council to give back to the

local community during the holiday season.

"It means a lot because we treat each other like brothers and sisters," said Eran Molz, president of Ohio Valley Building & Trades. "We're in the holiday season with Thanksgiving and Christmas. There are a lot of families in need in the Ohio Valley."

Representatives from the Soup Kitchen of Greater Wheeling also expressed their gratitude for their partners in the trades.

"I just want to say thank you and for your continuous donations and support. We can't do it without you, so thank you guys," said Baleigh Bobes, a cook at the Soup Kitchen of Greater Wheeling. ■



Pictured are, from left, Kyle Kull from Laborers 1149, Tanner Hull from Plumbers and Steamfitters 83, Caitlin Rodocker of the Soup Kitchen of Greater Wheeling, Kenny Smigle of Ironworkers 549, Eran Molz of the UOVBTC and Operating Engineers Local 132, Kevin Coulter of Ironworkers 549, George Brokaw of Laborers Local 1149, Doug Giffin of IBEW 141 and Justin Gray of Laborers Local 1149. (Photo by Derek Redd)

**Happy New Year from
Affiliated Construction Trades**

Huntington Mission

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worked by Local 317 electricians across contractors within local jurisdiction, according to Tom Braley, president at Pritchard Electric Co. of Huntington, in a letter.

The funds are used to support approved LLMCC initiatives, which include training for current union members.

The committee is composed of three representatives chosen by the local union and three representatives from contractors.

The committee approved the \$15,000 to assist the Mission during the holiday season and upcoming winter months.

The donated funds will help support the Mission's services.

Huntington City Mission Executive Director Mitch Webb said the funds will help supply 7,500 meals. The Mission provides 20,000 meals to clients and the community a month, he said.

Webb said the Mission is grate-

ful for the donation, which will go into its general fund to help pay bills and feed its clients and people in the community.

In the colder months, the Mission has more expenses, such as additional utility bills and more people to feed, Webb said. "This will help us to do that," he said.

Webb said he is grateful for the support of community businesses, organizations and residents.

"Without the help of the community, there is no way we could do what we do here," Webb said.

The LLMCC has donated to the Mission for the past several years.

This year's donation is the most it has been able to give, Shane Wolfe, business manager of IBEW Local No. 317, said during Thursday's check presentation.

Wolfe said the committee is usually able to donate \$10,000. Webb said the committee is a great initiative to bring labor and management

together.

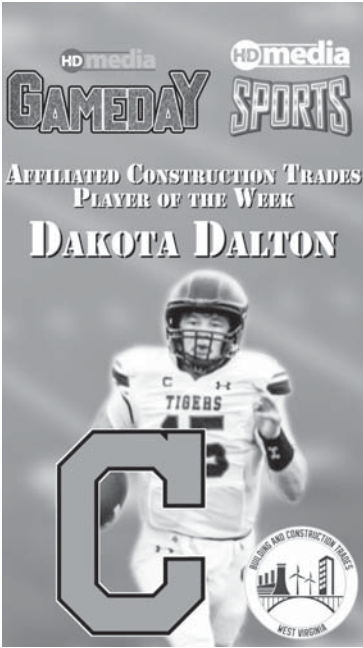
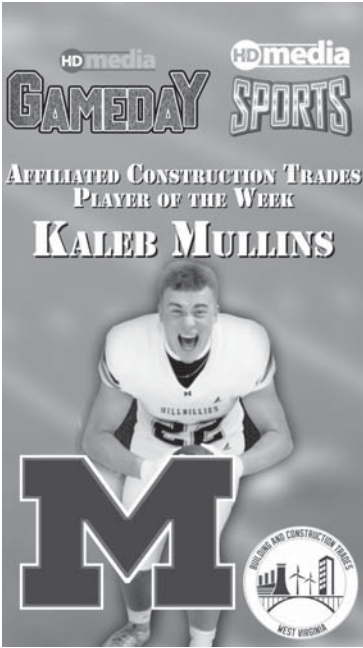
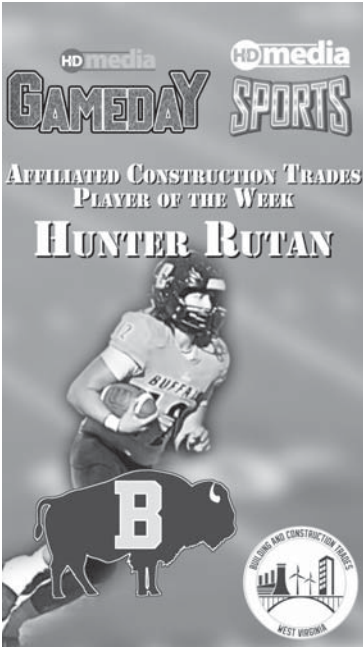
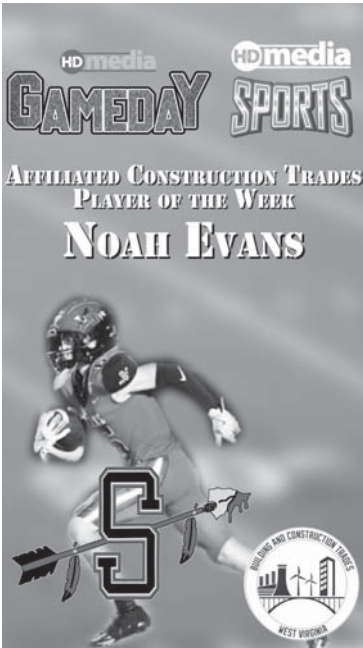
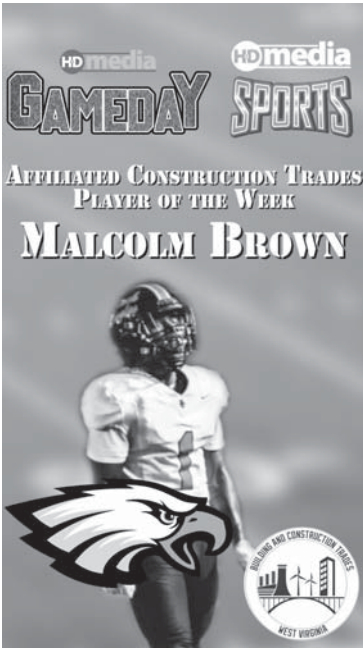
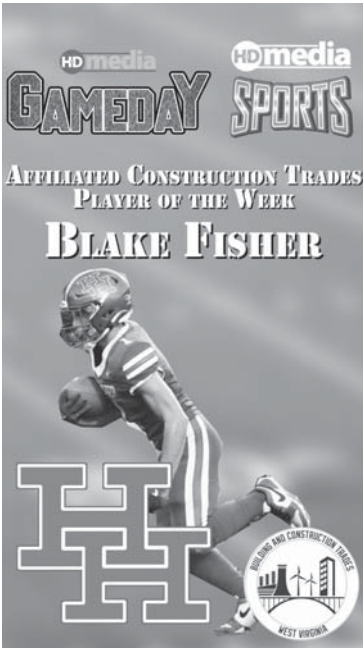
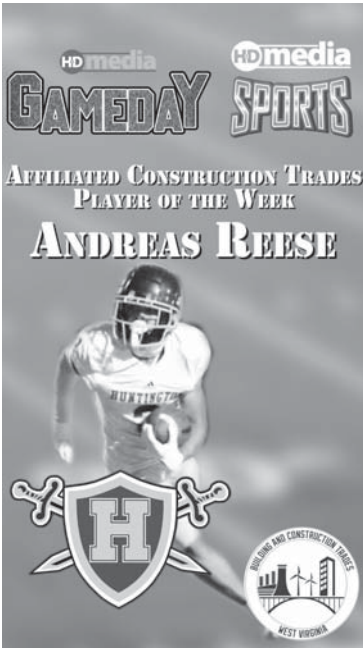
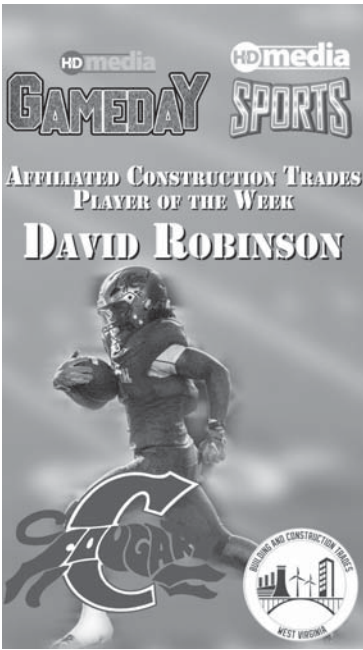
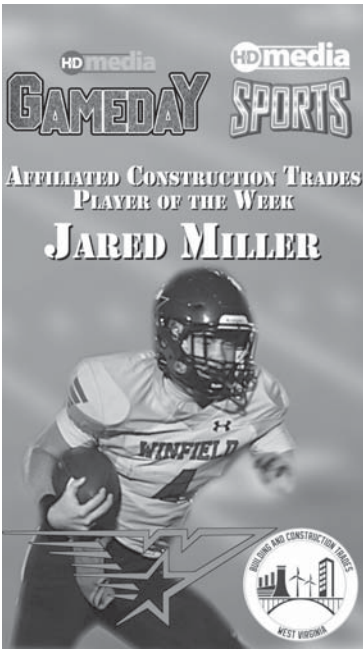
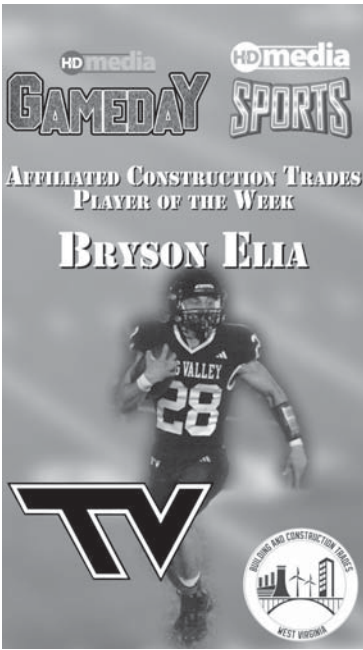
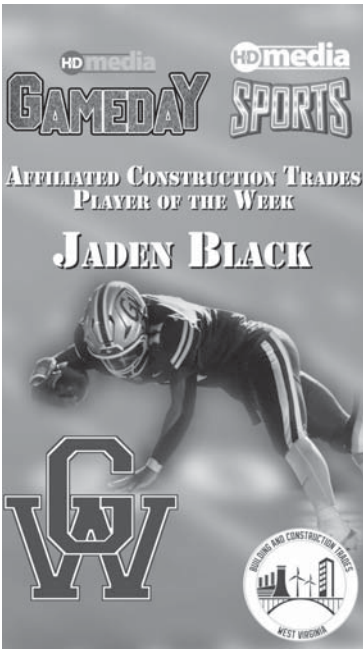
Braley, who joined Wolfe to present the check, said the committee's

purpose is to work together to further the industry and support the work of electricians. ■



[From left] Shane Wolfe (Business Manager for IBEW 317) and Tom Braley (President of Pritchard Electric) present a check to Mitch Webb (Executive Director of the Huntington City Mission) on Thursday, December 4, 2025, in Huntington.

2025 High School Players of the Week



The High School Player of the Week program is part of an ongoing recruitment initiative by the trades to educate young adults about the availability and benefits of construction craft apprenticeship programs.

The sponsorship is in partnership with HD Media, the owner and operator of the Charleston Gazette, the Huntington Register-Herald, and other news outlets throughout the state.

Salvation Army Captain Mike Michels: Laying the Foundation for a Stronger WV

The Salvation Army has always believed that lasting impact begins with strong relationships. Our partnership with the West Virginia Building & Construction Trades, and its affiliate members of ACT, is a shining example of what can happen when organizations unite around a shared mission: serving people and strengthening communities.

Through this collaboration, ACT members have gone above and beyond in their support.

They have sponsored events such as our annual golf tournament, adopted angels in our Angel Tree program to provide gifts for children and families in need, and have actively participated in direct fundraising by volunteering to stand kettles at multiple locations during their dedicated bellringing day.

These efforts have made a tangible difference in our ability to serve those facing hardship in our community.

We are especially grateful to Mr. Fred Chandler, Business Manager of the Charleston Building Trades, for his dedicated service as an Advisory Board Member and as the chair-

man of our Property Committee. Mr. Chandler has been instrumental in coordinating the partnership between The Salvation Army and ACT and its affiliate members, ensuring our collective efforts are as impactful as possible.

His leadership and commitment have strengthened both our organization and the community we serve.

The trades bring not only skill and expertise but also a deep commitment to the well-being of our neighbors. Together, we are building more than structures; we are building hope.

This partnership matters because it reflects the power of collective action. In times of economic uncertainty or natural disaster, the ability to mobilize quickly and effectively can make the difference between despair and recovery.

By working hand in hand, we ensure that vulnerable individuals are not left behind and that opportunities for growth and security are accessible to all.

As we look ahead, our goal is to continue fostering these connec-

tions—because when organizations collaborate, communities thrive.

We are grateful for the trust and support of the Building & Construction Trades, and especially for the leadership of Mr. Chandler and the

dedicated members of ACT.

We are proud to stand alongside them in service.

Together, we are laying the foundation for a stronger, more resilient West Virginia. ■



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Affiliated Construction Trades

600 Leon Sullivan Way
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Angel Tree Program

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"These gifts are substantial in helping us provide toys, clothing, and food to over 1000 children this Christmas season."

The gifts collected will be donated to children and families in the greater

Charleston area ahead of the Christmas holiday.

For more information on how you can donate or volunteer with the Salvation Army, log on to www.salvationarmyusa.org. ■

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Tri-State Trades Christmas Breakfast



John Holbrook, Business Manager of the Tri-State Building and Construction Trades Council, welcomes attendees to the annual Tri-State Christmas Appreciation Breakfast for members, contractors, and end users in Huntington, WV.

Speakers included Brad Smith, President of Marshall University, John Epperly, Secretary-Treasurer for the WV Building and Construction Trades, Mark Douglas, Ohio State Building Trades, as well as other construction industry officials.