

# Mountain messenger

December 18, 2021

Vol. XXXVIII, No. 51

The Weekend Newspaper for the Greenbrier Valley - Lewisburg, West Virginia

## Ronceverte Stocking Giveaway set for December 24



The Ronceverte Stocking Giveaway will be held on Friday, Dec. 24 at 2 p.m. at Island Park in Ronceverte.

To keep up a longtime Ronceverte Tradition, the Ronceverte Volunteer Fire Department will hold the annual Christmas Stocking Giveaway on Dec. 24 at 2 p.m. at Island Park (with Santa). This year we filled 1,000 stockings with oranges, apples, cracker jacks, candy bars, soda, popcorn balls, and of course, a small toy.

Tentatively, the event will be a drive-thru giveaway like last year due to Covid numbers. Cars will enter on Monroe Avenue and drive-thru to line up in double lines in front of Shelter #1 then exit onto Rt. 219.

Lineup will start at 1:30 p.m. Every person in the cars will receive a stocking. This is subject to change if Covid numbers improve. If so, we will line up as in the past so the children can get out to see Santa and enjoy Christmas music and some hot chocolate.

This is made possible by community donations and fundraising by the Ronceverte Fire Department. If you would like to donate to this cause, you can bring donations to Peoples Bank in Ronceverte or mail it to: RVFD Stocking Fund, PO Box 35, Ronceverte, WV 24970.

## Greenbrier County finishes precincts, maps pending release

By: Adam Pack

The Greenbrier County Commission met Tuesday, Dec. 14 to discuss, among other business, the recent redrawing of the voting precincts in the county.

With the redistricting of the state by the legislature earlier this year, counties all over West Virginia must now examine their voting precinct maps to determine whether or not they comply with state laws and regulations on voting.

The house districts in Greenbrier County have been changed significantly in this redistricting process, with the county split into three parts. With a western, central, and eastern portion, the new lines leave some precincts straddling two different house districts. This violates state law, and it falls to the County Clerk Robin Loudermilk to redraw those lines.

At Tuesday's meeting, proceedings began with a public hearing on the possible changes to the magisterial district, precincts, and polling place locations.

Clerk Loudermilk finalized her maps on Dec. 13. Twelve new precincts had to be created. All new precincts were made by merging existing precincts, leaving no new precincts created.

The changes include: the elimination of Precinct 50, which will now be included with Precinct 65. Voters of the former Precinct 50 will now vote at Rainelle City Hall. A new precinct has been created in Ronceverte; Precinct 22 will now be made up of Precincts 21 and part of Precinct 24. That Precinct will vote at Ronceverte Baptist Church.

Loudermilk's map contains a standard deviation of roughly 3 percent, which is well under the 5 percent maximum her office was allowed.

Magisterial lines were not moved at all, and further See "Precincts" Page 3

## Details released for Greenbrier Valley Family Activities Center

By Sarah Richardson

The City of White Sulphur Springs discussed details for the incoming Greenbrier Valley Activities Center at their latest meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 13, at City Hall. Mayor Bruce Bowling said they are still fundraising for the project, and are eager to meet their goals.

The council unanimously voted to approve an ordinance establishing the committee/board for the center, which will oversee and manage the initial construction phases of the project. There are a total of seven seats on the commission, with Mayor Bruce Bowling acting as the presiding officer. The other six seats are filled by Greenbrier Valley Community Foundation Executive Director Anne Bowling-Tuckwiller, WVSOM President James Nemitz, Thomas Crabtree, Dan Evans, Maggie Hutchison, and Warren May.

City Council also voted to approve entering a memorandum of understanding with the Greenbrier Valley Community Center on behalf of the new center to help with planning, fundraising, construction, and possible maintenance of the facility.

The new family activity center is a collaboration between the City of White Sulphur Springs, a passionate volunteer board, and the Greenbrier Valley Community Foundation, together with support from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. Their vision is "to

Greenbrier Valley the healthiest community in West Virginia" and attract new residents and businesses to the area.

The new facility will be located at Dick Gunnoe Memorial Park, between the parking lot and the football field, which will be bumped away from the parking lot to make room for the new building. The 25,000 square foot structure isn't the only addition to the park, however. Plans are underway for outdoor basketball courts, a new playground, outdoor pickleball courts, an accessible fishing trail off of the jogging path, an outdoor deck and activity area, and a new bicycle obstacle course located between Greenbrier Avenue and Howards Creek.

The new activity center building will have space for basketball, softball, soccer, volleyball, tennis, batting cages, a running track, table games, and bicycling. It will also have a lobby space for afterschool programs, educational classes provided by WVSOM, community health training, and more.

These plans aren't the only recent health-conscious additions to the park, as the Community Wellness Center and swimming pool opened earlier this year with exercise equipment, locker rooms and changing rooms for the pool, and more.

In other news:

- Council approved an American Rescue Plan (ARP) Committee, who will help distribute funds allotted from the government designated as "recovery funds," such as the recent funding awarded to the city for stormwater and roadway repair. The Committee is

See "Activities Center" Page 3

## Nature's Way

By Karen Cohen on page 4



create a modern investment in the health of our community encompassing mind, body, and spirit," with a goal to "make the

## New boutique brightens up downtown

By Adam Pack

Lewisburg has been quite the place to start a new business as of late, and with the vibrant art and culture scene here in town, boutiques and fashion retailers are a given. Therefore, it is no surprise that Cat & Kate Boutique is the newest addition to the downtown shopping district.

Owned and operated by the mother daughter team of Kate and Kitty (affectionately known as "Cat"), Cat and Kate stocks fine clothing, accessories, diamond and handmade jewelry, gifts, decorations, and more.

After maintaining two seasonal stores at The Greenbrier alongside her mother, Kate Kuelish explained, "We really wanted to get somewhere permanent with a storefront in this beautiful part of town, and the opportunity came up and we decided to go for it."

The transition from seasonal to permanent has not been all that much trouble, either. "Donna Terry, the former owner of this property, which was previously High Country Gallery, has been so amazing throughout this whole process and made it so easy for us."

While already being as local as one can get, located conveniently across from City Hall at 937 Washington Street West, Cat and Kate doubles down with a commitment to conscientious business practices. "Everything we sell is either made in the U.S. or sustainably produced, and in most cases our products are both."

If the cold has you weary of shopping out and about this Christmas, Cat and Kate's has the option to purchase from a fully shoppable website, but adds a touch of down home hospitality as well. "With any purchase, we do free local delivery right to your door." That website is www.shopcatandkate.com.

Cat and Kate are more than happy to have your business as well as hear from you. They can be reached by phone at 304-646-5445 and found on instagram under the handle "shopcatandkate."



Cat & Kate Boutique newest addition to the Lewisburg downtown shopping district

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Today's Rock

## PICK OF THE LITTER

### MONIKA

Monika is a three-year-old female pit bull terrier mix and weighs 70 pounds.



### BARRY

Barry is a four-year-old male domestic shorthair.



These and other animals are available at the Greenbrier Humane Society, located at 151 Holiday Lane off of Rt. 60 West in Lewisburg. They are closed Sunday and Monday, and are open from 11 a.m. through 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Their cat adoption fee is \$65 and covers spay/neuter surgery, first kitty vaccinations, rabies vaccine, de-worming, toe nail trim and flea treatment.

Their dog adoption fee is \$85 and covers spay/neuter surgery, first dog vaccinations, rabies vaccine, de-worming, toe nail trim, flea bath and flea treatment.

They also offer donation-based spay/neuter vouchers, and clinics are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. They use a lot of vets in the area but the clinics fill up fast! Fill out an application to help prevent animal overpopulation! Call 304-645-4775 for more information.

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## EZPass discount program: Turnpike reminds drivers to renew - updated fee schedule released

Beginning Jan. 1, 2022, drivers who took advantage of West Virginia's E-ZPass Single Fee Discount Plan will be able to renew their plans for one year for \$26.25. If a patron has a valid, unexpired credit card on file, the E-ZPass will be renewed automatically. The E-ZPass gives drivers of the West Virginia Turnpike unlimited use of the Turnpike for an annual fee.

On Jan. 1, 2022, the cash toll for Class I passenger vehicles will be adjusted to \$4.25 per toll booth as provided for in legislation passed by the West Virginia Legislature.

The legislation creating the West Virginia E-ZPass Single Fee Discount Program provides for periodic adjustment of rates. The Parkways Authority thus included periodic inflation adjustments in its June 2018 schedule of tolls and discounts, including a five percent inflation adjustment in the cost of the West Virginia E-ZPass Discount Program for Class I passenger vehicles every three years, and a 1.6 per cent per year inflation adjustment in cash tolls every year, rounded to the nearest quarter, starting on Jan. 1, 2022.

Under the adjusted fee schedule, passenger cars, pickup trucks, motorcycles and passenger vans will pay \$4.25 per mainline toll booth beginning Jan. 1, 2022. Cars or

See "EZPass" \_ Page 9

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# Briefly

## Christmas Cantata

The 2021 Community Christmas Cantata is set for Dec. 18 at 8:30 p.m. in the Chapel of The Greenbrier and Dec. 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of First Baptist Fairlea. As in the past, the cantata is under the direction of Jeff Bryant and will feature a live orchestra accompanying the choir. To receive more information on this year's cantata or a full list of safety protocol measures to be followed, please email FBC's church office at fbsharp@gmail.com or call 304-645-3533.

## American Heritage Music Hall, Inc.

located at 496 Island Park, Ronceverte, is open to the public, all welcome, handicap accessible. Listeners and tourists welcome. Admission \$7 Tuesday nights, \$10 Saturday - Audience provides food. Doors open at 7 p.m. Jam & Dance every Tuesday 7 to 10 p.m. Friday New Year's Eve Dance on Dec. 31 will also feature Ivan & the Outlaws from 7 to Midnight. The Music Hall is available for weddings and parties. For more information call the Music Hall at 304-645-4667; Bill Evans at 304-392-6079; Grace Poe at 304-992-5852.

## 100th Birthday Invitation

Clayton Tyree will celebrate his 100th birthday on Jan. 9, 2022! A birthday party in his honor will be held at the Dutch Haus Restaurant on Sunday, Jan. 9 from 1 to 4 p.m. All are welcome. No presents, please. In lieu of presents you may bring a donation or something the Animal Shelter can use.

## Activities Center

Continued from Front Page

made up of Karen Wise, Mark Gillespie, Kathy Glover, Barbara Wooding, Jeff Morris, and David Dillion. There are 11 project ideas being reviewed currently, and the committee welcomes community input and feedback for projects. Some areas that the funds may be used for include those dealing with project safety, city revenue replacement, and other areas, pending review.

• Council voted to approve two \$1,000 Youth Funding Applications, one for WSS Pee Wee Basketball and one for Spa City Soccer.

## Precincts

Continued from Front Page

action by the commission will be taken when it next meets, with the presentation of Loudermilk's map and a vote on the approval of her changes.

The Commission was very appreciative of Clerk Loudermilk's efforts, especially the ability to not add any new voting precincts.

That meeting will be Dec. 28, at 10 a.m., and the public is invited to attend.

## Public Meetings

### Gbr. Co. Farmland Protection Board

will meet Thursday, Dec. 9 at 10:30 a.m. at 804 Industrial Drive, Suite 5, in Maxwelton. The public is invited to attend. Call 304-520-3221 for more information.

### Rainelle Town Council

meetings are held every second and fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Rainelle City Hall. The public is invited to attend.

### Lewisburg City Council

will meet Tuesday, Dec. 21, at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall, 942 Washington Street West. Also available via teleconference. For information on how to participate on ZOOM contact Lewisburg City Hall at 304-645-2080 by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 21. On the agenda:

- Visitors' reports: (5-min. limit per subject not agenda)
- Approval of Minutes - Nov. 16, 2021 regular session
- Ordinances:
  - Ordinance 296, Kortas rezoning, 1329 Jefferson St. North - RI to OR, 2nd reading & public hearing
  - Ordinance 297, Richards rezoning, 1347 Jefferson St. North - RI to OR, 2nd reading & public hearing
  - Ordinance 298, Rogers Holdings rezoning, 1315 Jefferson St. North - RI to OR, 2nd reading & public hearing
  - Ordinance 299, Weikle/Brachenrich rezoning, tax map 15, parcel 118, Greenbrier County deed book 414, page 673 - RI to OR, 2nd reading & public hearing
- Resolution:
  - Resolution 489, WVDOH grant for South Lafayette Street Sidewalk project
- Proclamation:
  - Volunteer of the Year 2021
- Communications from Mayor White
  - BZA reappointments
  - Parks Commission appointments
- Communications from City Manager Hill
  - Invoice for Goldman Associates, Enc.
- Communications from City Council Members
- Communications from Boards and Commissions
  - Planning Commission report
    - Preliminary Plat, Wal-mart property, 1976 Jefferson Street North, Wal-bucks
    - Minor Subdivision, 1976 Jefferson Street North, Wal-mart to Wal-bucks
  - Parks Commission report
- Communications from Chief of Police Teubert
- Communications from Fire Chief Thomas
- Communications from Council Committees:
  - Finance Committee:
    - Finance Committee report
    - Arts & Humanities Funding - Shanghai Parade Committee
    - Schleiff Construction LLC - change order no. 3 City Hall repairs
    - Schleiff Construction LLC - pay request no. 4
    - Pay scale change
    - Tyler Lemons - salary increase
  - Public Works Department:
    - Report from Public Works Director Legg

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## For the Record

### Deeds

The County Commission of Greenbrier County to The City of White Sulphur, Lot No. 81, Atkinson Place Addition, White Sulphur District

The County Commission of Greenbrier County to The City of White Sulphur, Lot No. 49, Atkinson Place Addition, White Sulphur District

The County Commission of Greenbrier County to The City of White Sulphur, Lot No. 48, Atkinson Place Addition, White Sulphur District

The County Commission of Greenbrier County to The City of White Sulphur, Lot No. 83, Atkinson Place Addition, White Sulphur District

The County Commission of Greenbrier County to The City of White Sulphur, Lot Nos. 125 and 126, Atkinson Place Addition, White Sulphur District

The County Commission of Greenbrier County to The City of White Sulphur, Lot No. 127 and 128, Atkinson Place Addition, White Sulphur District

The County Commission of Greenbrier County to The City of White Sulphur, 7,250 Sq. ft., Atkinson Place Addition, White Sulphur District

The County Commission of Greenbrier County to The City of White Sulphur, Lot No. 87, 88, 89, and 86 Atkinson Place Addition, White Sulphur District

Michael L Meadows and Leonard L. Meadows and Mildred Meadows to Jeffery W. Lushbaugh, 1.68 Acres, Lewisburg District

George H. Lynch, Michael C. Lynch and John L. Lynch to Christopher Massey and Sanra Massey, 3.61 Acres, Lewisburg District

Tanya M. Wheatley (Stollings) to Kenneth J. Myers, Parcel 1- 0.999 Acres, Parcel 2- 80,000 Sq. ft., Anthony Creek District

Greenbrier Corporation, Inc. to Robert Cosman and Carol Cosman, Lot No. 3, Sunset Ridge Subdivision, Lewisburg District

Donna Nickell Family Trust to Robert Cosman and Carol Cosman, Lot No. 19, Sunset Ridge, Lewisburg District

Boulder Bluff and Greenbrier Valley Land Company to Clarence E. Proctor, 2.029 acres, Irish Corner District

Bobbie Lee Collart to Victoria Lynn Casey, 8.79 Acres, Lewisburg District

## Greenbrier County

### Magistrate Court Convictions

Michael Wayne Massie, Orient Hill, unauthorized acts with regard to wildlife without license or permit, NCP, fine \$30

Jeslyn M. Teeter, Frederick, MD, driving too fast for roadway conditions, GP, fine \$5

Quailynn Roshay Bass, Ronceverte, violation of a protective order, NCP, fine \$250

William T. Damerel, North Chesterfield, VA, speeding, GP, fine \$5

Caron Childress, Charmco, passing in no passing zone, GP, fine \$50

Elijah D. Friend, Lynchburg, VA, speeding, NCP, fine \$28

Cody Darren Dolin, White Sulphur Springs, fail to electronically register a deer, NCP, fine \$20

Darren Lawrence Fisher, Lewisburg, violation of Protective Order, NCP, fine \$250

Chad Bradley Loudermilk, Rupert, burning during prohibited hours, NCP, fine \$100

David E. Deal, Alderson, domestic battery, NCP, fine \$75, jail 60 days credit for 1 day served - remainder suspended and placed on 12 months unsupervised probation

Tearsa R. Keatley, Lewisburg, speeding, NCP, fine \$20

John Anthony Martin, Frankford, 1) no vehicle insurance, NCP, fine \$200; 2) no operators, fine \$20

## Greenbrier County nabs third place WVDEP Clean County and Clean Community award

*Applicants are judged on their implementation of, and dedication to, beautification and cleanup efforts and programs*

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) has announced the winners of its 2021 Clean County and Clean Community awards. The awards are given through the WVDEP Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan's (REAP) Make It Shine program.

Applicants are judged on their implementation of, and dedication to, beautification and cleanup efforts and programs.

The Clean County award is given to counties who have developed and implemented a comprehensive environmental program. Cash prizes are awarded to top achievers to help fund their continued efforts.

The three recipients of the Clean County award are:

- Randolph County (\$2,000 first place award)
- Berkeley County (\$1,000 second place award)
- Greenbrier County (\$500 third place award)

The Clean Community Award is presented to communities who have worked to keep their environment clean and who have participated regularly in REAP programs. Communities designated as Make It Shine Communities will receive two road signs to place in their community.

This year's Clean Community award winner is the City of Huntington, which will receive a \$1,000 grand prize and a glass award.

REAP's motto is "Keeping West Virginia Clean and

Green." It was created in 2005 and strives to clean up West Virginia and rid the state of litter. The program empowers citizens to take ownership of their communities by providing technical, financial and resource assistance in cleanup and recycling efforts. Make It Shine is a program under REAP that focuses on volunteer cleanup efforts and rewards towns and cities for proactive approaches to keeping their communities clean.

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## Greenbrier Cleaners becomes Greenbrier Valley Cleaners under new ownership

Ryan and Kristen McClung are excited to announce that they have taken over ownership and management of the local dry cleaners, Greenbrier Cleaners, which is now Greenbrier Valley Cleaners. They are still at the same convenient location on 219 in Fairlea, across from the Dodge dealership. They will offer the same services: dry cleaning, sheets, blankets, comforters, and wash and fold of your everyday laundry. They are looking for a seamstress to add alteration services. Please come in, drop off your laundry, and meet the new manager Joe Terry. Be on the lookout for new business hours. They look forward to continuing to serve the Greenbrier Valley with their cleaning needs.

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# OPINION

## Nature's Way

By Karen Cohen

Master Gardener/Photojournalist/Artist

### Herbaceous

I cannot recall ever saying the word herbaceous out loud. Have you? It's a long word, an adjective with almost all of the vowels. Let's say it now together. Herbaceous. Books about gardening often throw around the term. It's defined as relating to herbs in the botanical sense, characteristic of an herb, not woody, having the texture and color of foliage.

Smells will be described as herbaceous. We cook with herbs not just for the added flavor but the obvious aroma. Fresh mint, chopped dill, French tarragon, all have distinct odors that stimulate our appetites. What would spaghetti sauce be without oregano and basil?

Tastes can be compared to being herbaceous. Aromatic beverages such as beer, wine, tea, and coffee are some examples that have herbaceous "notes." Product labels will advertise jasmine, chamomile, or tobacco for example as flavor attributes. One that makes me smile is the taste described as leather. I personally have not tasted leather. It does have a very strong smell, fresh leather, but I have yet to gnaw on a shoe or a belt so I still am not sure about that one. My dog could no doubt easily identify that one!

Herbaceous plants are leafy and soft. They die down to the roots every year and if all goes well, they pop back up in the spring, depending on temperatures and climate. While herbs are herbaceous, there are other plants that we don't eat which are in this same category. Ferns, grasses, and forbs. There's another term I just learned. Forbs are defined as an herbaceous flowering plant. A sunflower is a forb as are daylilies, milkweed and even clover. Forb is a Latin term meaning pasture or fodder, but I am not going down the Latin road; I prefer to stick with simple names that I have grown up with and can pronounce!

Perhaps you have an herbaceous wreath hanging on your front door this time of year for the holidays. Maybe you have an herbaceous flower garden that you created just for the fragrances. We have a 10 x 3 foot boxed garden in which we grow our herbaceous herbs right outside our kitchen door. The river trail has herbaceous sections where azaleas, wild orchids, and trilliums pop up annually.



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## The Mountain Messenger

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Look around you and see how easy it is to identify the different forms of plant life. Here in West Virginia, there is an abundance of wild and cultivated growth everywhere we look. Blue chicory still rises up on roadsides along with daylilies. Dandelions are still collected for making wine and tea. And the conical bulb that is king in West by gosh Virginia, is, you guessed it, RAMPS. It's herbaceous.

*(Karen Cohen is a Master Gardener, photojournalist, DJ, and explorer. You can reach her at: [natureswaykaren@gmail.com](mailto:natureswaykaren@gmail.com))*

## The Back Pew

By Stephen Baldwin



**EZ PASS.** If you purchased an EZ Pass back in 2018 when the road bond passed, it is time to renew it if you choose. The annual price is \$25 for a renewal. Tolls are increasing, so two trips on the turnpike will pay for the annual pass. If you travel the turnpike at all, I highly recommend getting the EZ Pass to save yourself a lot of money. You can renew via your online WV Parkways account or by calling the Parkways Authority at (304) 926-1900. (Online will be much faster.)

**BROADBAND.** Several local counties continue to operate broadband councils. These councils are doing important work-mapping areas with and without coverage, advising county commissions, and highlighting the economic need for affordable, reliable internet. And I firmly believe the counties undertaking this work will begin to see results this winter as the Economic Development office rolls out funding and expansion projects. Broadband is not a silver bullet, but it is a prerequisite for business, education, and entertainment in today's world. We've got to have it; plain and simple.

**DEMOLITION FLOOD PROGRAM.** Last fall, flood survivors from Rupert called me to say they received denial letters from the "clearance and demolition" program for flood relief. They were all previously approved. The more I looked into the situation, the less I understood. The more questions I asked, the less the answers added up. Under questioning from me this month about why the program was so far behind, they admitted that the program was under investigation. I am now working to find out why it's under investigation, by whom, and most importantly how we can get help for all the folks who were promised a demolition of a flooded property.

**CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE.** In our state, there is one way to report suspected child abuse - call a central hotline. The employees at the hotline then filter through calls and send the ones they believe have merit to local Child Protective Services employees. When five children died tragically last year, the community wondered if there were warning signs. According to testimony from retired trooper Mike Spradlin at a hearing last week, there were calls to the hotline about the children that were never referred to CPS or law enforcement. They were filtered out by staff at the call center. While we cannot bring those children back, we can honor their memory by ensuring it never happens again. I will be introducing legislation to reform the call center process to ensure the safety of children. Many thanks to the dozens and dozens of people who have reached out to share their stories in the past two weeks. I am hopeful we can make positive changes.

**CHILD & ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES.** Our CPS system is at a "breaking point," according to new Commissioner, Jeff Pack. I believe the root issue is that we do not properly value our child and adult protective service workers. They are underpaid, overworked, and under-resourced. 27 percent of all CPS positions are currently vacant across WV. The starting salary for CPS is \$29,000. It's a traumatic and intense job. We must increase pay, hire more folks so caseloads are manageable, provide new technology to ease paperwork, and

attack the root issues driving abuse and neglect - poverty and substance abuse.

**SESSION BEGINS JANUARY 12.** With the legislative session upcoming, folks are asking what topics they should expect to see on the agenda? I expect to see another attempt at income tax elimination, a funding formula for higher education institutions, a reduction in the coal and severance taxes, efforts to privatize PEIA, consideration of a 5% public employee pay raise, small business capital investments, unemployment reforms, and possibly vaccination requirement changes. It also wouldn't be a legislative session without a slew of socially divisive bills meant to rally the fringes. Be on the lookout for those, but as I've cautioned in the past... don't get too upset about them. Most are introduced just to score political points and will never see the floor for a vote.

**STUDENT OPPORTUNITY.** Would your child or grandchild like to serve as a page in the WV Senate? I welcome all students (public, private, and homeschool) from Fayette, Greenbrier, Monroe, Nicholas, and Summers to serve as a page for me this year. To sign up, just call 304-357-7959. Leave your name and number. We will be in touch in January to arrange it.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS.** Last but certainly not least, my family and I are wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas and happy holidays. After the last two years, let's all hug our loved ones a little tighter this year and enjoy each moment as a blessing from above.

That's the view from the back pew, where it is my privilege to serve you.

*(Senator Stephen Baldwin is the Minority Leader and a local pastor. Reach him at 304-357-7959 or [stephen.baldwin@wvsenate.gov](mailto:stephen.baldwin@wvsenate.gov). Follow him on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram @BaldwinForWV)*

## Commentary

### AG Morrissey urges caution with package deliveries

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrissey reminded holiday shoppers to exercise caution when having packages delivered to their homes.

Packages arrive at doors more frequently during the Christmas shopping season due to the popularity of online purchasing. Thieves have been known to pilfer packages from porches, so it is important for consumers to take precautions.

"Online shopping continues to grow in popularity because it is so convenient," Attorney General Morrissey said. "This has also led to a growth in thieves stealing unattended packages. Thieves will prey upon any opportunity, so it's important to not let them steal your joy this season."

Consumers should consider having packages shipped to their workplace or to a trusted neighbor's house instead of allowing gifts to be left unattended at home. Consumers can also opt to have their packages shipped to a local post office for pickup.

Consumers should always require a signature to verify receipt. Video doorbells also have become increasingly

## Letter to the Editor

### Free speech in Alderson?

The most recent Alderson Town Council meeting on December 9th was mostly a business-as-usual meeting. Minutes were approved, updates on projects and budgets were given, and local seasonal items were discussed. Not until the end, did the tone of the meeting change.

Council member Charlie Lobban opened discussion on the status of the pending charges recently brought against Mayor Copenhaver. Lobban acknowledged that the criminal charges against the mayor had not been heard and that the mayor is innocent until proven otherwise. And by that standard is not required to resign as mayor. However, Lobban appealed to the mayor and other council members, that for the sake of the town and its image, perhaps Copenhaver should step aside until the court proceedings are complete. Lobban emphasized that his request was not for the mayor to step down or resign; it was simply for him to step aside. Councilman Lobban's motion was rejected. However, another point of discussion was raised by another member of council regarding the mayor's circumstance and any further talk of it.

Council member Doris Kasley reiterated to her colleagues and all in attendance that the topic of Mayor Copenhaver's situation and him retaining his position had been discussed previously. She also recognized that the people of Alderson had been given time to voice their opinion. It was her contention that the matter had been discussed adequately by council and the public and therefore did not need to be talked about anymore. Doing so would be a waste of time and a diversion from the more important business. She made a motion that no further discussion be allowed in future meetings. The motion was passed with Councilman Lobban being the only member voting against the motion. So, in essence, the citizens of Alderson are prohibited to voice their concerns about their current mayor.

I have been to previous meetings in which some of the citizens showed their displeasure toward the mayor and council and did so loudly and out of turn. The attendees were angry and therefore voicing their concerns. The crowd was boisterous and often way out of order. And this happened on more than one occasion. Therefore, I can somewhat understand how the members of Alderson's Council may have grown weary of hearing about the mayor. I can also understand that citizens disrupting a meeting and taking up time for other items is counterproductive. What I cannot understand is council's approval to restrict any citizen from speaking about the mayor, the town's image, and any topic that Council deems as unworthy.

The Alderson Council has decided that anyone wishing to speak or voice a concern of the mayor and/or the image of his pending criminal charges portrayal, is prohibited from doing so. As I understand it, according to the motion passed, if a person signs up for their allotted five minutes to speak and it is determined by the council that the topic is about the mayor, the speaker will not be allowed to speak. Also, if I heard Mayor Copenhaver correctly, the council could strike a speaker from the list if it is any topic that they wish not to hear. As I stated before, this motion was approved by all members except for Councilman Lobban.

Restricting the speech and the right to speak on any level seems a dangerous precedent. People may not express themselves in a manner that the governing body considers appropriate but denying their entitlement to speak goes against our basic rights as citizens. If a speaker becomes profane, out of order, or threatening, then that speaker should be gavelled out and/or removed. But suppressing the right of the general populace to speak on any topic is dangerous and could possibly have a reverse effect. People need to be heard and will demand to be heard. So, attempts to quiet them is seemingly ill conceived. The Alderson Council might as well announce to it citizens to "sit down - don't talk".

If it is in the Alderson Council's authority to prohibit, vet, edit, or restrict free speech at their proceedings, then that ruling should be revisited. If there is no such edict that grants that authority, then Council needs to reassess the motion presented by Council member Kasley. It is my hope that Council has it within their means to reexamine and rectify their last declaration. Although Alderson is a small town, restricting free speech by any means is a large matter.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Lawrence H. Reinhold  
Alderson*

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## Church Bulletin

### Gingerbread House building at House of Prayer Church

The House of Prayer Church will host a community event at 807 Tuckahoe Road in White Sulphur Springs. Come out and make a gingerbread house for Christmas on Saturday, Dec. 18, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact 540-915-2844 with questions. All are welcome.

### 100th Birthday Invitation

Clayton Tyree will celebrate his 100th birthday on Jan. 9, 2022! A birthday party in his honor will be held at the Dutch Haus Restaurant at the Elks Country Club on Sunday, Jan. 9 from 1 to 4 p.m. All are welcome. No presents, please. In lieu of presents you may bring a donation or something the Animal Shelter can use.

## MRV Works is making a positive change in our community

The Meadow River Valley Association launched MRV Works (a volunteered initiative) in the summer of 2021.

Its inaugural event, a group clean-up of the Meadow River Community Park in Charmco, was a great success!

The program is seeking to connect interested volunteers with community projects. Volunteers are matched to fit their particular skill set. If you have a project idea that makes the

community cleaner, safer and more desirable, contact Dara Vance through the Greenbrier Valley Economic Development. Volunteers can call the corporation's office number at 304-497-4300 ext. 6, or email Dara at dara@meadowriver.org to volunteer. Anyone interested in discussing partnership opportunities for future cleanup projects may contact Amy Truesdale directly at 304-497-4300 ext. 222.

## CLUB & CHURCH

### Greenbrier Valley Bike Club 2021 'Bikes for Kids'



President Liz Wickline (left), Vice President LT Ball, Treasurer Susan Mitchell, club member Glenn Freeman and Greenbrier Fitness member Kim Kowalkoski

Members of the Greenbrier Valley Bike Club have been busy collecting donations and purchasing bicycles for children age 2-12 as their annual "Bikes for Kids"

Christmas project. A project that this club holds dear to its heart is now in its eighth year. Each year, the club purchases as many bikes as possible with the amount of dona-

tions received. The bikes are then gifted to area Greenbrier Valley youth through the local Toys for Tots program.

### Local Delta Kappa Gamma Chapter holds meeting

The Alpha Gamma Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma met at Food and Friends in Lewisburg on Saturday, Nov. 20. President Lucy Bell called the meeting to order and welcomed the following members: Treasurer Nancy Bostic, Vice-President Mary Sue Burns, Secretary Pam Echols, Barbara Holesapple, Donna Jackson, Katy Montgomery, and Sharon Vance.

A very important part of the meeting was a memorial service to Nancy Ratliff, who passed away in the summer of 2021. Nancy, a 50-year member of Delta Kappa Gamma,

devoted 33 years to the education of Monroe County students and had an illustrious career serving in many capacities.

Billie Hutenspiller was also recognized for currently being a 50-year member of Delta Kappa Gamma. She taught at Lewisburg and Smoot Elementary Schools before receiving a law degree and practicing law in Lewisburg. She currently resides on the family farm in Smoot.

Items of business included selecting a college student, an education major, to receive the \$550 scholarship established by the Alpha

Gamma chapter in honor of Nancy Ratliff; collecting coats to be distributed to students in Pocahontas County; assigning members to standing committees; and accepting the treasurer's report. President Lucy advised all members to submit write-ups of their community service.

Tabled items included installation of new officers and induction of new members Alicia Wayne and Julia Williams.

The next meeting is scheduled for Mar. 19, 2022.

## Ladies of Henning Church of God hold Christmas celebration

The Ladies of the Henning Church of God met in the fellowship hall on Tuesday, Dec. 7, for their Christmas celebration. Each member enjoyed delicious appetizers. Carole Spencer presided and Marsha Merritt led in prayer.

Dyan Hefner brought the devotion, "Leave Room for The Cream," with scripture reference Psalm 46:10. She said some people like their coffee with a little cream and others like a little coffee with their cream. Sometimes your server forgets and does not leave room for cream and everything splashes out. This can be just like people that never say no to doing things and eventually nothing is left. They send many Christmas cards, spend money buy-

ing many gifts, returning gifts, and competing with the neighbors for Christmas decorations. They have no room for rest, to visit, to unload, and have no room to be in the presence of God. The cup of your soul can be filled to the brim. Sometimes we drink the bitter cup. God's grace is always available. Don't fill your cup to the brim. Rest in his presence and make time. Make sure to leave room for the cream and let Jesus speak to your heart this season.

All of the other reports were dismissed due to the Christmas celebration.

Carole reminded the group of activities of the church. Christmas caroling will take place Dec. 8 and 15, and candles and carols on Dec.

12. The group will be serving the Maxwelton Ruritans on Dec. 16. Sunday morning, Dec. 19, is the gift exchange, and that evening at 6 p.m. will be an adult play and a children's play.

The project for next month will be to bring items for the Family Refuge Center. The group exchanged their secret pal gifts. The next meeting will be Jan. 11. Carole Spencer dismissed in prayer.

Attending were Alice Coff, Angie Scott, Barb Seldomridge, Carole Spencer, Cindy Fleshman, Carol Spencer, Donna Scott, Dyan Hefner, Joan Vance, Kim Brookman, Marsha Merritt, Marty Burns, Patty Owens, Pauline Perkins, Peggy Seldomridge, and Pastor Robert O. Hefner, Jr.



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**Barry Bruce**  
(304) 340-3131  
barry.bruce@wvhouse.gov

**Todd Longanacre**  
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todd.longanacre@wvhouse.gov

**KEEP YOUR LEGAL ADS IN GREENBRIER COUNTY**

# A Look Back



Photos courtesy of Greenbrier Historical Society.

**By William "Skip" Deegans**  
 These two undated photos show the first and second Presbyterian churches in Ronceverte. The initial Presbyterian church was or-

ganized in 1881 as an outpost of Lewisburg's Old Stone Church by Dr. M. L. Lacy. The first elders were J. A. Coffman, E. L. Kramer, D. W. Weaver and F. P. Syden-

stricker. The first deacons were W. W. Brackman and Quinn Morton. The original church building was used jointly by the Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and Baptists

until 1923 when the second, and present, Ronceverte Presbyterian Church was dedicated. The total cost of the new church was \$86,564.95 (about \$1.4 million in

today's dollars).  
*Sources: Ronceverte Presbyterian Church 100th anniversary pamphlet, 1925 building committee report.*

## OBITUARIES

### David Lee Wallace



**Alderson-**David Lee Wallace, 79, passed away Monday, Dec. 6, 2021, at the Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital in Roanoke, VA.

He was born June 26, 1942, in Clayton, WV, a son of the late Otis E. Wallace and Theda R. (Aliff) Wallace.

After graduating high school, he proudly served his country in the United States Navy. David was employed at the Ford Motor Company, where he served as a factory worker with 32 years of service. He will be remembered for his love of golfing, bowling, hunting, and trout fishing, but most of all, the love for his friends and family. David was a member of the Alderson Lions Club and a devout member of the Flat Mountain Missionary Baptist Church.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his loving wife, Carol Joyce (Tomazic) Wallace.

David is survived by his brother, Paul E. Wallace and wife Dianne, of Medina, OH; his nieces, Cheryl Hamrick, of Brunswick, OH, and Carrie Connel, of Chaska, MN; his nephews, Paul Wallace, Jr., of Medina, OH, and Mike Wallace and his wife Kata, of Doylestown, OH; as well as several loving great-nieces and great-nephews.

In keeping with his wishes, David will be cremated, an interment will be held at a later date Holy Cross Cemetery in Cleveland, Ohio.

Condolences and memories may be shared with the family online at [www.lobbanfh.com](http://www.lobbanfh.com)

### John C. Martin

John C. Martin, born May 26, 1942, to Margie Baker Martin and Charlie Martin of Vago.

John passed on Dec. Friday, 10, 2021 at the Greenbrier Health Care Center in Fairlea.

John was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Joy Freeman Martin; his brother, Havlyn Kenneth; and his sisters, Euva Mae Dixon and Violet Marie Winger.

John retired from The Greenbrier Hotel.

At his request, there will not be a memorial service. John requested his ashes to be scattered at Watoga and his wishes will be honored.

Thank you to all of the faithful, caring staff at Greenbrier Health Care and Greenbrier Valley Medical Center.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg is in charge of arrangements.

Please send online condolences by visiting [www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com](http://www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com)

### James Edward McCarty

**Asbury-**James Edward McCarty, 76, passed away Thursday, Dec. 9, 2021 at Greenbrier Health Care Center.

Born Apr. 3, 1945 at Renick, he was a son of the late Mason Edgar McCarty and Lulu Estella Bailey McCarty.

James was a master carpenter while working in New Port News, VA, and was a talented cabinet maker. He was also an Army Reserves veteran.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia McCarty in 2006; and brothers, Virgil, Ralph, Roy, Clinton and Mike McCarty.

Those left to cherish his memory are his children, Leslie Cain, Robert Cain, Lee Cain, Daniel Cain and Christopher Cain; his brothers, Mason McCarty, Lee McCarty and Howard McCarty; grandchildren, Christina Given, Savanna Keese, Daniel Cain, Lynn Rice, Marvin Cain, Jessica Cain, Tabitha Scott, Darlene Benoit and Willis Cain; and great-grandchildren, Anthony, Hannah, Christopher, Maddelyn, Haley, Skylar, Landon, Adam, Aiden, Adalynn, Antwon and Crysta.

Funeral service was held on Wednesday, Dec. 15, at West Point Baptist Church, Asbury, where Pastor William McCarty officiated.

Burial followed in the Asbury Methodist Church Cemetery.

Family and friends were received one hour prior to the service on Wednesday.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg is in charge of arrangements.

Please send online condolences by visiting [www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com](http://www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com)

### Alicia C. Saunders



**Rector, PA-**Alicia C. Saunders, 49, passed away peacefully at her home in Rector, PA on the morning of Monday, Dec. 13, 2021 following an extended illness.

She was born Apr. 28, 1972 in Roanoke, VA, to Gail A. Whorrell and Thomas J. Saunders.

Alicia grew up in Baltimore, MD, attending Baltimore City College (HS) and graduating from

UMBC with a degree in theater. After a year of pre-med studies at Goucher College she later graduated from The University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and began practicing medicine in NYC as an obstetriciangyne cologist at Mt. Sinai Hospital on the Upper East Side. Alicia was loved by her patients and enjoyed a thriving career as a physician. The family later moved to their vacation home in Pennsylvania for the duration of her illness.

Alicia was passionate and involved in every aspect of living a full life. She loved cooking, holiday gatherings with her family, reading, and traveling. She was a planner and adventurer and always had new ideas to share. She was a member of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, and the Grace Episcopal Church in Brooklyn, NY. Her faith in Christ's love was strong. Her spiritual

home on earth was Renick, WV, where she spent summers and family time throughout her life.

In addition to her parents, Gail and Paul Bartlett of Baltimore, MD/Renick, WV and Thomas Saunders and Elizabeth Lewis of Baltimore, MD, she is survived by her loving husband, Alan R. Convard; sons, Malcolm Mobley of Brooklyn, NY, and Austin Convard of Rector, PA; stepsons, James and Alexander Convard of Pittsburgh, PA; and one grandson, Atreyu Convard. Also surviving are her siblings, Dr. Christopher Saunders (Rachel) of San Diego, CA, Gabriel Saunders (Saba) of Baltimore, MD, and Jeanette Clarke (Derek) of Baltimore, MD; stepbrothers, Daniel Bartlett (Fletcher) of Baltimore, MD, and Benjamin Bartlett (Heyward) of Charleston, SC. She is survived by beloved aunt and uncle, Yvonne and John Laven-

der of Bolton Landing, NY; special niece, Irene Saunders and nephews, Jude and Elliot Clarke, and several close cousins, nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles, sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law; her grandmother, Nancy Lewis of Buffalo, NY; and her former husband, Joshua Mobley (Mireille) of Pittsburgh, PA.

Funeral Service will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 18, at the Spring Creek Presbyterian Church in Renick with Rev. Stephen Cort officiating. Burial will follow in the Morningside Cemetery.

Family and friends may call Friday, Dec. 17, from 2 until 4 p.m. at the Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg is in charge of arrangements. Please send online condolences by visiting [www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com](http://www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com)

## NEW RESIDENTS WANTED BY: Greenbrier Greeters

If you have recently moved to this area, please contact us for a free welcome visit. We would be glad to share gifts and information about the area, provided free by local businesses and professional services.

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- Grassroots Church • Greenbrier Bowling & Rec. Center • Greenbrier Recycling Center
- Greenbrier Valley Brewing Company • Greenbrier Chevrolet Buick
- Greenbrier Chiropractic Center-Dr. Timothy Pence • Greenbrier Medical Arts Pharmacy
- Greenbrier Valley Medical Center • Greenbrier Valley Theatre
- Greenbrier Valley Veterinary Hospital • The Heart Center-Thomas W. vonDohlen, M.D.
- Knight Henderson-American National Insurance
- Lawrence J. Ickes, CPA, A.C. • Lewisburg United Methodist Church
- Lewisburg Veterinary Hospital, Inc.-Dr. Mary Ann Mann
- Mary Kay Cosmetics-Erica Buzzard • Mountain Messenger
- Olive + Shea Natural Nail Studio • Post Net • Premier Bank • Robert C. Byrd Clinic
- Sandy Epling-State Farm Insurance • Seneca Trail Animal Hospital
- Shuck Memorial Baptist Church • S.J. Neathawk Lumber
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# Local Realtor speaks to Richlands Ruritans



Lucy Refsland, club treasurer (left); Steve Harris, club president; Paul Grist of Grist Real Estate Associates; and Jack Tuckwiller, club secretary

The Richland Ruritan members met at the Calvary Methodist Church on the Midland Trail East on Oct. 13 to hear a presentation on the real estate market in the Greenbrier Valley by Paul Grist of Paul Grist Real Estate Associates.

Grist's presentation included a set of handouts which documented the market overview. This overview defined the state of the real estate market in the Greenbrier Valley and in Greenbrier County. Using the handouts, he noted the unusually

low inventory of homes for sale which is causing home prices to increase. One factor in this condition is the large number of people moving into the area from out of state. Many people are now working from home and do not have to live in the city in which they work. They are looking for a small community with features that make it attractive to raise children. In particular, people from New England are choosing the Greenbrier Valley at a place to live. One drawback to the residential

outlook is the need for a stronger internet and cell phone service. Improvements in these services will lead to a greater influx of potential home buyers.

In Ronceverte the issue of the water supply is a handicap to stronger growth. This matter is a subject for local government action.

On the eastern side of the county, the recent strong growth in White Sulphur Springs is a positive factor in county growth.

The past flooding in western Greenbrier County has set back, but not stopped, a strong local community improvement effort.

In the club business meeting, it was noted that member dues to the National Organization will increase by \$4 next year. The membership tabled a discus-

sion of future fundraising efforts until the new officers take charge in January 2022. The club's annual Christmas Social was held on Dec. 8 at the Dutch Haus restaurant.

The Richlands Ruritans club meets on the second Wednesday of each month for a dinner meeting at the Calvary Methodist Church on Midland Trail East. The Ruritan Civic organization is a national network of clubs working together for a stronger America. The Ruritans' focus is to support community services in small towns and rural communities across America. The Ruritans were founded in 1928 in Holland, Virginia and celebrated their 93rd year last May. The Richlands Ruritans Club provides scholarships to local college students and 4-H campers, and maintains Tuckwiller Park.

## Dear Recycle Lady,

**Dear Recycle Lady,**

Last week you said sponges contain microplastics that are hazardous to humans. What about cellulose sponges? Are they safe to use, and are they recyclable?

*Use Cellulose Sponges*

**Dear Use Cellulose Sponges,**

Congratulations on your choice to use cellulose sponges instead of sponges made of plastic. Since they are made of coniferous wood and cotton fibers, they are safe to use. Cellulose sponges are more durable than the other kinds of sponges. Although they are not recyclable, they are 100% biodegradable and sustainable. Sponges should not be used to wipe up raw egg, raw meat or other substances that contain bacteria. Cellulose sponges can be cleaned with an antibacterial soap or by putting them in the microwave or dishwasher.

**Dear Recycle Lady,**

I just received a beautiful Christmas card that came in an envelope lined with gold foil and tissue paper. Can this envelope be recycled?

*Love Christmas*

**Dear Love Christmas,**

Envelopes with gold foil liners and tissue paper are elegant, but not recyclable. There are facilities in large cities that can recycle these envelopes, but the local Recycling Center doesn't have the capacity to do so.

**Dear Recycle Lady,**

The box that my Amaryllis Christmas flower came in seems to be made of shiny cardboard. Can it be recycled?

*Love the Flower*

**Dear Love the Flower,**

Yes, shiny cardboard can be recycled with regular cardboard. Many other products come in shiny boxes, such as toothpaste, cosmetics, OTC supplements, and some frozen foods. If the box has a lining or is waxed, it can't be recycled. If you think a box might be waxed, run your fingernail down the side of it. If wax comes off, it is not recyclable.

Good News: IKEA has announced that they will be phasing out plastic packaging for all their products and will be completely plastic-free by 2028. Last year, the Swedish retailer stopped using single-use plastics in its stores and restaurants. Well done, IKEA!

Have questions about recycling, or interesting information about recycling? Send questions or requests to recyclelady@greenbrier-swa.com. Dear Recycle Lady is sponsored jointly by the Greenbrier Recycling Center and Greenworks Recycling.



## Get crafty - Learn to quilt!



Are you interested in learning to quilt or improving your quilting skills? Jennifer Toler offers quilting classes for adults of all skill levels. Jennifer started teaching classes in the early 1990s with a Sampler Lap Quilt class. Her first class had two students who had never sewn on a machine before. Both completed their quilt tops, then finished them with a long arm quilter.

Jennifer first began sewing as a little girl after seeing a red and white "Drunkard's Path" quilt made by a neighbor.

She started on a treadle sewing machine (foot-powered), making home projects. Jennifer continued her love

of sewing while raising her family, improving her skills, and learning the new tools and techniques available today. Now that her children are grown, and her husband is retired, she loves having time to share her knowledge with others.

Classes are limited to 12 students and are held at the Rupert Church of God. The cost is \$30, which includes lunch. Students need to provide their own sewing machines, tools (scissors, cutting mat, rotary cutter, thread, etc.) and fabric.

Contact Toler via email at jennifer-toler@gmail.com, or call 304-667-7371.

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1	2	4	3	7	8	5	9	6
6	8	9	5	1	4	7	3	2
3	5	7	2	9	6	1	4	8
9	6	1	4	3	7	8	2	5
8	3	5	9	6	2	4	7	1
4	7	2	8	5	1	3	9	6
5	1	3	7	2	9	6	8	4
2	4	9	1	8	3	9	5	7
7	9	8	9	4	5	2	1	3

**SCRAMBLERS**

1. Sharp 2. Please: solution  
3. Kale: 4. Crase: Today's Word  
CHEAP

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A M E Z I N O H C H R D E S E R V E  
L I M E A K I N I P A P A L G A E  
M E S S I A V A M A D E I T C O U N T  
S A B L U G N U A R O N P E A S  
V A L S E I M P O R M P T U S E  
A B U T S A M B A C Y P E T  
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## EZPass

continued from Page 2

trucks pulling a trailer and motor homes will pay \$5.25. Motor homes pulling a trailer will pay \$6.75.

Larger trucks will pay between \$6.75 and \$25.25 depending on the number of axles on the vehicles.

Discounted commercial E-ZPass plans are also available.

For Class I passenger vehicles, the E-ZPass Single Fee Discount Plan has been a great deal.

"Prior to this program, an E-ZPass could cost \$300-plus a year for access to all three main toll plazas," said West Virginia Parkways Authority Executive Director Jeff Miller. "We absolutely encourage all Class 1 passenger vehicle drivers to take advantage of the E-ZPass Single Fee Discount Plan."

Gov. Jim Justice announced the E-ZPass Single Fee Discount Plan in 2018 to give eligible drivers of the West Virginia Turnpike an opportunity to save on the cost of tolls. The previous year, West Virginia voters approved the sale of \$1.6 billion in highway bonds as part of Governor Justice's Roads To Prosperity highway construction and maintenance program. As part of that program, tolls on the Turnpike were raised from \$2 to \$4 per passenger car for cars without this West Virginia E-ZPass. The program was set to include a five percent increase in the cost of the West Virginia E-ZPass discount program for Class I passenger vehicles every three years.

For frequent Turnpike drivers who selected the option of saving money with the E-ZPass, the cost dropped. Drivers recognized significant savings. "As a frequent driver of the Turnpike myself, I experienced that reduced fee as the lifting

of a burden," said Miller. "As a young college student, I had to shoulder that burden, but now when the \$0.00 flashes each time I drive through I know the burden has been lifted for drivers who rely on the Turnpike every day."

"The benefits of the West Virginia E-ZPass program far exceed the cost, particularly compared to any other national toll discount program that exists," Miller said. "After just two round trips on the West Virginia Turnpike, the E-ZPass pays for itself. The Governor's visionary idea for this program will pay dividends long into the future."

As an incentive to join the program, about 180,000 people who signed on early for the E-ZPass Single Fee Discount Program had unlimited use of the Turnpike for three years, at a flat rate of \$24. Those who joined after January 2019 paid \$25 a year.

Anyone renewing or signing up for the West Virginia E-ZPass Single Fee Discount Program for Class I passenger vehicles after Jan. 1, 2022 will now pay \$26.25 a year.

Not only has the program saved West Virginians money, but by issuing new bonds supported by net Turnpike toll revenues, it has also provided funding for other road projects in the 10 counties surrounding the West Virginia Turnpike.

Three years into the program, West Virginia is reaping the economic rewards. With over 75% of tolls collected paid by out-of-state and commercial drivers, the program has funded \$595 million in highway projects in those 10 counties.

In 2018, the Parkways Authority approved an initial bond sale of \$172 million to help the West Virginia Division

of Highways pay for projects in Fayette, Greenbrier, Kanawha, McDowell, Mercer, Monroe, Nicholas, Raleigh, Summers, and Wyoming counties, as authorized by state law.

In June 2021, the Parkways Authority sold its second issue of toll revenue bonds. Investor response was so strong that the sale was able to generate \$423 million in bond proceeds, \$90 million more than had originally been planned.

That money is now being used to pay for 23 separate projects in the 10 counties surrounding the Turnpike. Those projects include:

- The complete replacement of 15 different bridges.
- Construction of the four-lane Coalfields Expressway.
- Major upgrades and construction on Beckley's Z-Way project.
- Reconstruction of MacCorkle Av-

enue in Kanawha City.

• Construction of the RHL Boulevard connector to alleviate traffic congestion on Jefferson Road and Corridor G in Kanawha County.

To get an E-ZPass, or to renew an existing E-ZPass, visit [www.wvturnpike.com](http://www.wvturnpike.com). Drivers may also apply in person at the West Virginia Parkways Authority E-ZPass Customer Service Center, 3310 Piedmont Road, Charleston, West Virginia 25306, or at the Beckley Customer Service Center located at 12 Pikeview Drive, Beckley, West Virginia 25801.

If a patron has a valid, unexpired credit card on file, the E-ZPass will be renewed automatically. The E-ZPass Single Fee Discount Plan is good for one year after signing up, so if drivers sign up in March, their E-ZPass will be good until the following March.

## Local Realtors awarded

During the 2021 Coldwell Banker Stuart and Watts Real Estate annual Christmas Dinner held at Lewisburg Elks Country Club on Dec. 9, Tom Johnson, owner/broker, presented very deserving awards to several of his professional team of realtors.

Top Selling Awards: Robert Bittinger, Jr., Dianna Perdue, Stacie Cornett, Sheila Touchstone, Linda Turner, Josh White, Tara Waugh, Derek Houchins, Keith Shaver, Margaret Harrah, Dena Smith, and Robert Berchtold

Rookie of the Year Award: Josh White

Million Dollar Club: Tara Waugh Johnson provided the current 2021 office totals and announced that they have sold a total of 335 properties

with nearly \$59 million in sales. With 20 days left in this year, he estimates that the complete totals will increase. Johnson said his team of realtors are devoted to the service of their clients.

"In every facet of our industry, we set the standard for innovation, expertise and support. Our state-of-the-art technology, the strength of the brand's global network and an empowering culture of excellence keeps us as the dominant source of real estate service in the Greenbrier Valley." Johnson further stated he is very proud of their teamwork as they are the number one real estate service of the Greenbrier Board of Realtors MLS in sales, listings and transactions. The Coldwell Banker brand is the #1 most-visited real estate brand online.

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# DINING & entertainment guide

## Dutch Haus Restaurant

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### SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters with each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Acute **HARPS**

Charm **ELAPSE**

Salad **LEAK**

Rude **SCARS**

**TODAY'S WORD**

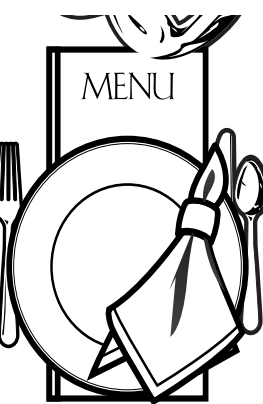
\*He must be considering marriage — he's started taking me to restaurants.\*

## Super Crossword ENGLISH QUINTET

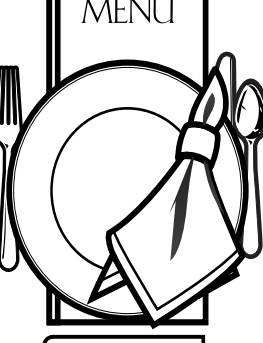
- ACROSS**
- 1 Tribal carving
  - 6 Beatle Ringo
  - 11 Depict with bias
  - 15 Ellipsoidal
  - 19 Earthy tone, to a Brit
  - 20 Magazine release
  - 21 Irene of "Fame"
  - 22 Central point
  - 23 He played Jim Dial on "Murphy Brown"
  - 26 Kazan with three Tonys
  - 27 Carp in a garden pond
  - 28 Football's Manning
  - 29 "— my way!" ("Scram!")
  - 30 Cathedrals' main areas
  - 31 Necklace of 12-Down
  - 32 Strong product-selling influence
  - 36 Toon skunk Le Pew
  - 39 Nonstick cookware brand
  - 41 Ending for priest
  - 42 In-favor vote
  - 43 Partly joking
  - 46 Shabby hotels
  - 51 Striped stone
  - 52 "Are you — out?"
  - 53 Currency of Belgium
  - 55 Dormant
  - 56 Able to feel
  - 58 Taking a rolling pin to
  - 62 Period
  - 63 Add- (extras)
  - 65 Brings a civil action
  - 66 Snare loops
  - 67 What the Australian Open is played on
  - 72 Druids, e.g.
  - 75 Bum soother
  - 76 Bruins' Bobby
  - 77 Purpose
  - 80 Black Protestant denom. since 1821
  - 84 Have coming
  - 87 Green shade
  - 88 Blood-related
  - 89 Daddy
  - 91 Pond buildup
  - 92 Expected saviors
  - 95 Gave a worthy effort
  - 97 —ray Disc
  - 98 Long-headed antelope
  - 100 Florence's river
  - 101 Pod items
  - 102 Franz Liszt piano piece in 3/4 time
  - 108 Purpose
  - 110 In regard to
  - 111 Conga relative
  - 112 Standoffish
  - 113 Animal kept in the house
  - 116 Feudal VIP
  - 117 Crossing during a journey
  - 122 Balladeer Burl
  - 123 Green shade
  - 124 Ho-hum feeling
  - 125 Volunteer's offer to be sent
  - 127 Male tabbies
  - 128 Regards as
  - 129 Sequence
  - 1 found in this puzzle's nine longest answers
  - 1 Tick follower
  - 2 Eight, in Madrid
  - 3 Bangkok resident
  - 4 Fumble
  - 5 Rumble
  - 6 "Yes, yes!" in Mexico
  - 7 "For shame!"
  - 8 "Just — suspected!"
  - 9 Bit of hearsay
  - 10 Reprimands
  - 11 Actors Baio and Wolf
  - 12 A Hawaiian Island
  - 13 Work unit, in physics
  - 14 Sound of a crying baby
  - 15 Ryan of "Love Story"
  - 16 Swedish vehicle make
  - 17 Ta-ta, to Tati
  - 18 Most minor
  - 24 Aristocratic
  - 25 Numbered hwy.
  - 30 Scholastic sports org.
  - 31 Some turns and jobs
  - 32 Principal
  - 33 Standoffish
  - 34 Tarp material
  - 35 "I didn't know that!"
  - 36 Period
  - 37 Avid
  - 38 First strategy
  - 40 Buddy
  - 44 Viking locale
  - 45 E-address
  - 46 Plaster painting
  - 47 Archie Bunker, e.g.
  - 48 Hubbubs
  - 49 Model binder
  - 50 U.S. Open units
  - 53 Sewing case
  - 54 Beehive State college team
  - 57 Bodily trunk
  - 59 Ed of "Roots"
  - 60 Habitué (to)
  - 61 Negative conjunction
  - 64 Neat piles
  - 67 Visibility reducers
  - 68 DiFranco of song
  - 69 Pre-coll., in education
  - 70 Pluralizable word
  - 71 Appointment to holy office
  - 72 Oahu tree
  - 73 French gal pal
  - 74 Tiara stones
  - 77 Have a tiff
  - 78 She divorced Donald
  - 79 Intersects
  - 81 Bible book after Micah
  - 82 Tax form pro
  - 83 Went to town on
  - 85 Plant pouch
  - 86 Run off to tie the knot
  - 90 Cuzco locale
  - 93 "Likely story!"
  - 94 "Thrilla in Manila" boxer
  - 95 Spoke indistinctly and softly
  - 96 Put one's finger on, say
  - 98 "R.I.P." sites
  - 99 City in Alaska
  - 102 Legitimate
  - 103 Superior to
  - 104 Sophia of "Two Women"
  - 105 Froth-filled
  - 106 Pious song
  - 107 "Common Sense" writer Thomas
  - 109 Aleppo locale
  - 112 Possible reply to "That so?"
  - 113 Hungarian sheepdog
  - 114 Kellogg's waffle brand
  - 115 Holier-than- —
  - 117 Blast source
  - 118 — Grande
  - 119 Dir. from Little Rock to Chicago
  - 120 Juicy Fruit, e.g.
  - 121 Bullring yell

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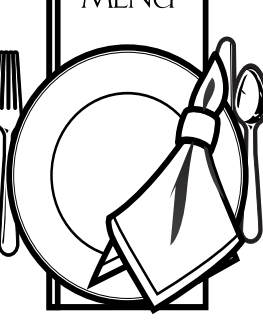
### PUZZLE ANSWERS PAGE 8



THEATER 8  
**MOVIES**  
 Showtime: 7:45 pm  
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THEATER 8  
**MOVIES**  
 Showtime: 7:45 pm  
 R



## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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		8			4	1			
	4			6		7			
		7			5				9
9			8						2

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Mustache is added; 2. Glasses are removed; 3. Boots are different; 4. Pocket is added; 5. Pants are different; 6. Buttons are missing.

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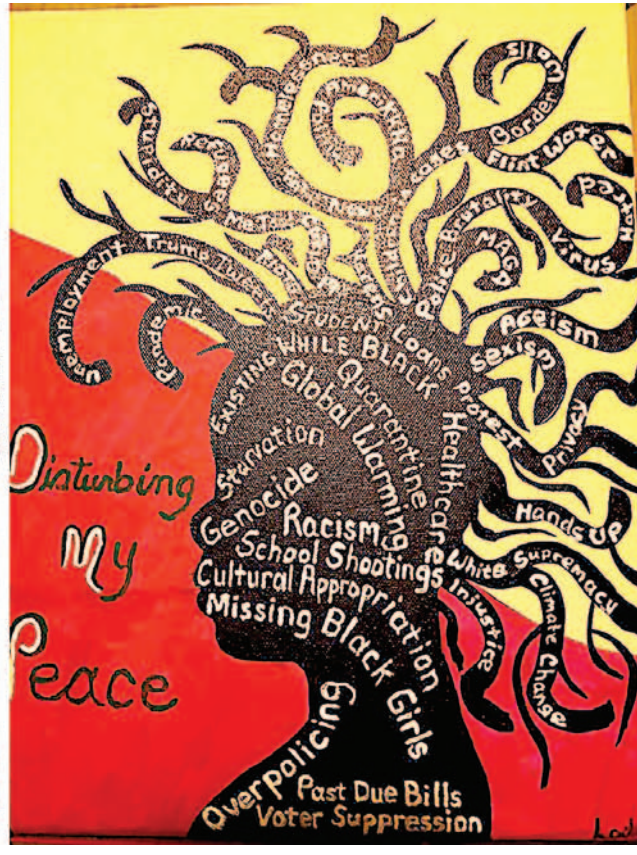
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# STEPPIN' OUT



Art by Jamal Hoskins (left), Robbie Moore, and Lady D

## Carnegie's January/February/March exhibits to feature African American artists

Carnegie Hall's January/February/March Exhibits open Friday, Jan. 7, at 5 p.m. Carnegie Hall features three rotating galleries, which display the works of regional artists. Celebrating February's Black History Month, the January/February/March Exhibits feature works by African American artists Jamal Hoskins (Old Stone Room), Doris Fields (Lobby Gallery), and Robby Moore (Museum Gallery). Receptions for each exhibit will begin at 5 p.m. in conjunction with Lewisburg's First Fridays after 5.

The Museum Gallery (formerly the West Virginia Music Hall of Fame Exhibit) features art by Robbie Moore. Moore was born and currently works in Beckley, West Virginia. He graduated with a Bachelor of Art degree in Studio Arts, with a painting concentration, and a minor in Theatre from Concord University. He began professionally exhibiting artwork in 1999 and in 2004, he co-founded Treehouse Arts Ensem-

ble, an arts organization dedicated to producing original fine and performing art in West Virginia. He currently serves on the Board of Directors. Moore has curated many art exhibitions in West Virginia and Ohio; many in unconventional spaces. He is also a professional theatrical director and has worked professionally as a scenic designer/artist, costumer, actor, technician and marionette puppeteer. From 2011 to 2016, he was a resident studio artist at Tamarack, an Arts facility in Beckley, where he became a juried artist in 2008. Moore is also a member of Beckley Art Center.

Jamal Hoskins is featured in the Old Stone Room. Hoskins is a multimedia artist from Glen White, West Virginia. His show at the Hall features famous portraits such as Kobe Bryant, Bob Marley, and Larry Bird.

The Lobby Gallery will showcase the art of Doris Fields (also known as Lady D). Lady D is a visual artist specializing in fabric

and canvas paintings. Her art features mostly afro-centric and social justice themes. Fields was born in the coalfields of Cab-in Creek, West Virginia and is known as "West Virginia's First Lady of Soul." She has six CDs to her credit; including her newest and most recently released, "Disturbing My Peace." Lady D has be-

come well-known for her original one-woman stage play titled, "The Lady and the Empress," scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 20, at 7 p.m. at Carnegie Hall, is based on the life and music of blues legend, Bessie Smith. She has also written a spin-off to "The Lady and the Empress" called "Bessie's Blues," an abbreviated version of

the original show. She has also authored one book of poetry, "Appalachian BluesSpeak."

The exhibits are free and open to the public, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and run through March 25. For more information, please visit [carnegiehallwv.org](http://carnegiehallwv.org), call 304-645-7917, or stop by the Hall at 611

Church Street, Lewisburg.

Carnegie Hall programs are presented with financial assistance through a grant from the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History and the National Endowment for the Arts, with approval from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts.

## Carnegie Hall adds new Appalachian Heritage Series to Spring 2022 classes and workshops

As part of its commitment to lifelong learning, Carnegie Hall continues to offer a wide range of classes and workshops to enlighten and inspire learners of all ages. These unique learning opportunities are taught primarily in small group settings at the Hall. The Spring 2022 Classes & Workshops options are now available just in time for the holidays.

The Spring Classes & Workshops have something for everybody, and this year Carnegie



Mike Costello (left) of Lost Creek Farm teaches traditional sausage making. Carnegie Hall will offer From Farm to Table: Traditional Sausage Making with Lost Creek Farm on Apr. 8 and 9.

Hall is offering the new Appalachian Heritage Series of workshops. This series is designed to introduce new students to old traditions by experiencing a hands-on opportunity to learn about Appalachian arts and crafts. Students learn to keep Appalachian roots alive by learning through the arts with Carnegie Hall.

"We realized that a series focused on this region's contributions and talents is a perfect fit for our Classes & Workshops curriculum," according to Carnegie Hall Education Director Harmony Flora. "We are excited to offer a wide range of Appalachian arts and

craftclasses that will not only teach students new skills, but will make sure these traditions continue to flourish for generations to come."

Individual classes and teaching artists include Soap Making with Tommye Rafes, From British Isle Ballad to Appalachian Folk Song with Mary Dailey, Leather Working with Luke Davis, Needle Felting the Farm Family with Karen Leland, Weave a Footed Basket with Kathy Talley, Quilting A Table Runner with Kathy Talley, Making Appalachian Medicinals with Jan Darrah, From Field to Table: Traditional Sausage Making with Lost Creek Farm (two-day workshop), Salt Rising Bread with Genevieve Bardwell and Susan Ray Brown, Preserving the Harvest: Canning and Drying Apples with Kathy Tally, and Hand Building Clay Traditional Face

Jugs with Sean O'Connell. Times and prices vary.

To enroll and for a complete list of the Appalachian Heritage Series or other classes and workshops visit [carnegiehallwv.org/classes-and-workshops](http://carnegiehallwv.org/classes-and-workshops). You may also pick up a Classes & Workshops brochure at 611 Church Street, Lewisburg.

Scholarships are available thanks to the generous contributions of the Mary B. Nickell Foundation, the Seneca Trail Foundation, and the United Way of Greenbrier Valley.

Carnegie Hall is a nonprofit organization supported by individual contributions, grants, and fundraising efforts such as TOOT and The Carnegie Hall Gala. The Hall is located at 611 Church Street, Lewisburg. For more information, please call 304-645-7917 or visit [www.carnegiehallwv.org](http://www.carnegiehallwv.org).

## Christmas at the Fair's last day is December 23

The State Fair of West Virginia will close Christmas at the Fair, its Christmas Light Drive-Thru experience on Thursday, Dec. 23. The show will run from 6 to 8 p.m. and is open to the public.

"December 23rd will be the last day that Christmas at the Fair is open," State Fair CEO Kelly Collins stated. "We've enjoyed seeing families return each night and are looking forward to what next year has to hold."

Christmas at the Fair is available to the public for donations only and begins at the livestock gate on Rt. 219 North just past the horse barns. Patrons are asked to follow traffic patterns and turn off headlights when driving through the show. Mobile donations are accepted

via Paypal at <https://bit.ly/3oj0sMi>.

"Our sponsors have been extremely supportive of this event," Collins stated. "We could not have done this without them."

Major sponsors for this event include: Greenbrier Physicians, People's Bank, First Energy, Lost World Caverns, Avia-gen Turkey, Gayle Mason CPA, Bank of Monroe, Monroe Insurance Group, Red Oaks Shopping Center, Aggie's and Vest, Martin & Jones, Flanagan's Barber Shop, Manic Espresso, Pocahontas Memorial Hospital, Jerry and Linda Clemons, Meadows and Wilson Dentistry, Caring Acres Farm, Long Farm, Lowe's, David M. Moore Real Estate Law, and the Greenbrier Valley Airport.

For more information and a full calendar of events, please visit [www.statefairfwv.com/christmas-at-the-fair](http://www.statefairfwv.com/christmas-at-the-fair).

Follow the State Fair of West Virginia on Facebook @statefairfwv, Instagram @statefairfwv, TikTok @statefairfwv, and Twitter @SFVW. #ChristmasAtTheFair #SFVW

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# SCHOOL



## Students engineering their future at Greenbrier West High School

When you walk into the Cavalier Sweetshop at Greenbrier West High School, it's immediately apparent Angela Leef's Career and Technical Education (CTE) students are going places. The shop is highly professional; students wear names

tags, have job titles and take their duties seriously. A tour around the shop reveals a full array of production and printing equipment, which the students build, maintain and use to produce high-quality products. If you need invita-

tions, business cards or announcements, they can custom design and print them. Need a part or prototype designed and printed in 3-D? They can do that, too. They can engrave on just about anything from wood or metal to food. They even have vinyl cutters! Not only are Mrs. Leef's CTE students learning highly marketable technical skills, but she also helps them obtain industry certifications and master resume writing and interview skills. She's working hard to

give talented young people the foundation to be successful right here in the Meadow River Valley. To support the Cavalier Sweetshop or place an order, call 304-438-6191 or email Angela Leef at ALeef@k12.ev.us.

## Real estate pre-licensing class planned at NRCTC

Prepare for a career in real estate at New River Community and Technical College. The college is offering a 90-hour real estate pre-licensing class at the Greenbrier Valley Campus in Lewisburg starting Jan. 18, 2022. The 10-week class will be held Tuesday through Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m. Upon completion of the course, students will be equipped to take the West Virginia Real Estate Licensure Examination. The cost is \$500 plus the cost of the book, and registration is required by Jan. 7. Visit [www.newriver.edu/community](http://www.newriver.edu/community) for information on upcoming classes or register for the course or contact Gloria Kincaid (304-793-6101, [gkincaid@newriver.edu](mailto:gkincaid@newriver.edu)). New River CTC's Workforce Education Division provides community education classes and employable educational opportunities including noncredit courses, workforce development programs and customized training.

## WVSOM students gain insight into leading industries in the state



The industry that is most synonymous with West Virginia is coal mining. In 2020, the state was the second-largest coal producer in the nation, accounting for 13 percent of the total U.S. coal production, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. But the lumber and timber industry has proven to be just as stable as mining in West Virginia. That's why the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine's (WVSOM) Rural Health Initiative (RHI) program hosted an event related to construction - an industry in which lumber often plays a vital role - for medical students who are interested in learning more about rural medicine. The program hosts events throughout the year as an effort to offer students firsthand knowledge about industries that affect the health of West Virginians, including environmental exposures that could cause injury or disease in the state's rural workforce. "We hope these events will enhance the rural experience of our RHI student doctors and facilitate connections to West Virginia patients with many different backgrounds and jobs," said Rebecca Thacker, RHI program coordinator. "In addition

to being eye-opening to the various lifestyles and safety concerns of the rural workforce, these field experiences are often powerful reminders of the need to support a patient's body, mind and spirit." The RHI program's most recent industry event focused on barrels, buildings and barns. Nineteen students spent the start of an autumn day visiting the Great American Barrel Company in White Sulphur Springs, where they toured a facility responsible for creating whiskey barrels in the heart of Appalachia. They then visited a new home construction site where they learned from owner Robert Vass about the materials used for construction, the process of building a house and different features of the house. The economic impact of the construction industry in West Virginia and common occupational injuries associated with construction workers were also discussed by employ-

ees. Students finished the day visiting the "boneyard" of Mark Bowe, a local businessman who works in the timber framing industry, where Bowe's company stores old barn lumber for future restoration projects. Students received a colorful discussion of Appalachian folklore and home remedies versus professional medical care. Alfredo Wong, a RHI student in WVSOM's Class of 2022, said the event gave him an inside look at different industries and he appreciated the chance to speak with locals in those industries. He said Bowe offered a piece of wisdom that he will always remember: Find out the history and background of a person and you will find out why they do the things they do. "This is true in everyday life, but more so when you are taking care of patients," Wong said. "In medicine it is important to know a patient's history, and a big part of that is their work, as it's the place where they spend most of their time. Rural Health Initiative events give us that opportunity." Savannah Keffer, a third-year student in the RHI program, said being able to hear from people firsthand about their industry is invaluable. "By doing events like this we are able to add tools to our toolbox that may help us connect with patients in the future. Even if we are able to remember just a little bit, that may spark conversation that leads to a patient relaxing and actually telling us what's wrong. Events like these are crucial for those of us who are planning to practice medicine in a rural area," she said. Keffer said that visiting the barrel factory was a highlight of her day. "I have lived seven miles from the factory since it has been open, and I never knew how impressive it is, including the technology that was designed to protect workers. Barrel making used to be a very dangerous job, but now, technology has revolutionized the process and saved quite a few arms and fingers in the process," she said. Currently 40 WVSOM students participate in the RHI program. Industry events in previous years have included coal mining, poultry, agriculture and logging and timber.

## NRCTC honors Dr. David Perkins

New River Community and Technical College and the New River CTC Foundation will honor former college president Dr. David Perkins at a dedication ceremony on Tuesday, Dec. 14, at 2 p.m. in the Greenbrier Hall Auditorium. "Not only was Dr. Perkins the first president of New River CTC, but he was also a vocal advocate for the creation of a statewide community and technical college system in West Virginia. He played a vital role in obtaining approval of the legislation establishing the West Virginia Community and Technical College System," explained College President Dr. Bonny Copenhaver. The entry way at Greenbrier Hall in Lewisburg is being dedicated to Perkins for his service to the college.



President Emeritus Dr. David Perkins

Perkins was an educator for 45 years beginning as a teacher in the Greenbrier County school system and ending his full-time career as the first president of New River CTC in 2004. He is a graduate of West Virginia Wesleyan College, where he earned a B.A. in history. He received his M.A. in history from Marshall University and his doctorate in education, with a specialization in community college education, from Virginia Tech. He completed additional graduate level courses in history, education and research at West Virginia University. The New River CTC Foundation awards more than \$125,000 in student scholarships each year. For more information, contact 304-929-6734 or visit [www.nrctcf.org](http://www.nrctcf.org).

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