

# Mountain messenger

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

## Lewisburg City Council votes 4-2 to remove banners from lampposts - American flags, WV state flags to remain

By Sarah Richardson

Lewisburg City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, June 22, to discuss updating the city's banner policy, sign two proclamations, appoint members to several boards, and agree to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding statewide opioid lawsuit payouts. The crowded meeting was attended by a number of area residents, including a large group of members from Greenbrier Valley Pride (GVP).

Council was presented with two options to update the city's banner policy: One policy stating that banners will only be hung for state and federal holidays, and another which does away with banners altogether. The flag holders on the lampposts will be unaffected, and the city will continue to fly American and West Virginia state flags.

Banners are routinely placed on city-owned lampposts for a variety of reasons including holidays, events, special month recognitions, and more. Any group or individual can submit an application to purchase and fly their own banner design. Until now, the city has reviewed proposed banners on an administrative basis with no written policy in place. With Pride events happening throughout the month of June, Greenbrier Valley Pride President Kelsie Tyson questioned why their application to fly Pride banners in town was denied.

Mayor Beverly White said that city employees held a meeting with their legal council, Tom White, to discuss the banner policy in April. "You're not the first person we've said no to, in fact, you're number four. We have been approached in a way that, I felt, the city was not going to be protected, we couldn't protect anybody. That's why this has come about, to protect all of our citizens."

City Manager Misty Hill said that several banner applications were submitted to the city that employees had "concerns about."

"We already had applications that were brought before us that we reviewed with Tom [White] to deny," Hill explained. "I just wanted to clarify that there were several before yours, Kelsie, that were denied. [...] Once the concerns came before us with Pride we felt that bringing it to council would be the best opportunity to hear everyone because that is the whole point, making sure everyone has the ability to have their voice heard."

City officials did not provide further details about the other banner applications that were rejected.

Hill explained that the city attorney reviewed options for the banners over the last few weeks by speaking with ethics boards and other entities.

Councilmembers spoke at length before taking a vote on the issue, starting with Arron Seams.

"Personally, seeing Pride banners displayed on the city's lampposts last year during the Pride month celebration was inspiring to me as a member of Lewisburg's queer community," he said. He explained he is "frustrated" that there are still gaps in equity and equality within the state and country. "Those gaps protect hate speech and violence, yet they let our most vulnerable fall right through."

He clarified that, "At issue this evening is not whether the city, this council, or the municipal administration is for or against Pride, or for or against our queer community and our allies. At issue is how the city of Lewisburg cannot and should not establish a public platform where individuals may exercise their first amendment expression, and then arbitrate who has access to that public forum, or curate what type of content is displayed."

Seams said that he is in favor of the city discontinuing the ability for individuals and groups to provide banners for the city to display, arguing that if the city codified a platform for public speech, it would then be powerless to deny any individual or group "the right to say nearly anything they can afford to have printed on banners."

He emphasized that he doesn't believe he was elected to council to "codify a mechanism that could be weaponized against residents at most risk of being targeted with hate and violence." His stance to disallow banners, he believes, helps "avoid needlessly empowering and allowing the display of hateful speech and bigoted messaging and symbols in the future."

Seams said he is inspired by local businesses who have chosen to repatriate the Pride banners by flying them in their storefronts and public-facing windows, and concluded with, "I am also proud that Lewisburg is home to the second Greenbrier Valley Pride Parade and Block Party this weekend, and I am proud of this city's history of making actionable change to chip away at the impunity that bigots often enjoy."

GVP President Tyson stated that she has sincere appreciation that GVP is able to be held in Lewisburg, especially with Lewisburg being one of only 15 municipalities in the state that has a LGBTQ-IA+ nondiscrimination ordinance. "I know that flying the Pride banners might feel so miniscule

compared to the water plant, compared to whatever actions you are working towards to have a safe and healthy town and environment. But in a place where there is no representation, it matters. It's crucial. Representation is crucial, and it's fundamentally life-changing."

"You are seen, and you are heard," responded Mayor White. "And I'm glad that we can safely have a block party and parade. What we do is to protect all of you, and that's our goal. Our goal when we do anything is to protect our city and protect our citizens."

Councilmember Sarah Elkins explained her stance, which was to vote to remove banners from the lampposts. "I've done a lot of research since this debate has come before us, [...] I make this motion from a place of seconding what Arron said, that I feel this is the motion that protects the members of this community best."

"Discrimination is never good, regardless from who it's coming from or who's getting it," said Councilmember Franklin Johnson. "The lampposts out there are the city's and we try to give everybody a voice, but at the same time, some voices that want to be heard may not be a good thing." He explained that he doesn't want to see anyone discriminated against, and said that protecting the city is what he believes he was elected to do, and "not afford the opportunity to discriminate, I know what it feels like."

However, two councilmembers felt differently. "I would like to see the banners stay and be regulated," said Councilmember Valerie Pritt.

Also expressing a desire to keep some banners was Councilmember John Little, who explained that legal counsel advised that removing the banners was the "safest" option for protecting the city from "unnecessary litigation, and I think, more importantly, as Arron

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## West Virginia Renaissance Fair prepares for final weekend

By Adam Pack

The West Virginia Renaissance Festival is preparing to wrap up the 2022 season this week. Having run weekends in the month of June, the festival has featured live music, shows, artisans, and entertainment for hundreds from miles around.

The last weekend's theme is "Bacchanalia," a Greco-Roman theme, featuring a toga and masquerade costume contest. Alongside this new theme, the same great acts, music, food, and performances will all be ongoing throughout the day across multiple stages and venues. The public is encouraged to head to the festival and enjoy themselves for the festival's last hoorah of the year.



Last chance to enjoy the West Virginia Renaissance Festival this weekend

## Airport Authority votes for Contour Airlines to serve LWB

By Adam Pack

The Greenbrier County Airport Authority met Tuesday, June 21 to determine, primarily, who will provide flights to the Greenbrier Valley Airport. Lengthy discussions at the authority's last regular meeting centered on this decision, and a packet sent from SkyWest which stated the intention of that airline to rescind their withdrawal and a request to be reinstated on a long term basis at LWB.

Therefore the three options before the authority on Tuesday were to one, remain with SkyWest through the rest of their contract, which expires at Mar. 31, 2023; two, to sign a new long-term multi-year contract; and three, to contract Contour Airlines for Essential Air Service. Brief discussion followed on the topic, at which point authority members Debra Phillips and Tammy Shifflett-Tincher voiced their appreciation for the service SkyWest had provided through the years, but also spoke of their disappointment with SkyWest's initial decision to pull out of LWB's market, as well as understanding for current economic circumstances. After this, the authority unanimously decided that the airport would select Contour Airlines for the provision of Essential Air Service. Contour will begin to take flights to and from Lewisburg on Jan. 1, 2023.

In other news, John McCalmont of Parrish & Partners was on hand to update the authority on their decision to sign on with a new contractor to replace the airport entrance sign along Rt. 219. He urged the authority to accept the new contracting company, Identity America. His recommendation came on the back of a very detailed design concept for the sign, as well as the reality of consistently rising material costs. McCalmont quoted the estimate by Identity at \$72,693 and suggested that the board approve the payment, as well as an additional 25 percent for contingencies. The authority also approved this measure unanimously.

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By Karen Cohen  
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# WVSOM hosts ‘let’s taco ‘bout 50 years’ event to celebrate retirees, employees

The West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine’s (WVSOM) Office of Human Resources hosted its annual Employee Celebration, recognizing seven retirees and distributing 16 awards in five categories to employees for their dedication to the medical school.

This year’s event was a Fiesta Celebration, with the theme of “let’s taco ‘bout 50 years” in recognition of the 50th anniversary of WVSOM’s founding. In addition to award recognitions, employees enjoyed a bingo game, pinatas and a taco and nacho bar.

“We continue to build our reputation as a leader in community programs. Our visibility is increasing and people around the state and country know your work,” WVSOM President James W. Nemitz, Ph.D., told employees. “We have much to be proud of. Our reputation and our opportunities will continue to grow. As we celebrate this moment in time in the 50th year of WVSOM’s founding, let’s be thankful for what we have. Remember we are always stronger together.”

The event recognized seven retirees: Karen Ayers, Connie Baldwin, Celia McLay, D.O., Sherry Phillips, John Reinholt, William Shires and Victoria Shuman, D.O.

The President’s Outstanding Employee Award, given annually to employees identified to the president through a vote by WVSOM faculty and staff as outstanding employees for the current academic year, recognizes exceptional and dedicated service to WVSOM. The goal of the award is to raise awareness of the indispensable contributions made by the employees to the quality, diversity and overall mission of WVSOM. Eleven employees were nominated. They were Crystal Boudreaux, Ph.D., Nick Cornwell, Stella Dodrill, Mike Fowler, Scott Maxwell, Sherri Miller, Heather Pickering, Deb Schmidt, D.O., Danny Seams, Jennifer Seams and Leah Stone. This year’s winners were Nick Cornwell and Mike Fowler.

Two faculty members, Christopher Kennedy, D.O., and Christopher Pankey, Ph.D., received this year’s President’s Outstanding Faculty Award. The award is presented each year to members of the faculty in recognition of their excellence in teaching and commitment to osteopathic medical education.

The Living Our Mission Award recognizes WVSOM staff who exemplify professional excellence, an understanding of and commitment to WVSOM, and a commitment to achieving the school’s mission. This year’s winners were Ryan Booth, Susan Griffith, Mindy McCormick, Tess McMillion, Bobbi Morgan, Heather Pickering, Randy Saunders, Leah Stone, Jill Trent and Todd Trent.

The Statewide Campus Pride Award recognizes an employee in one of WVSOM’s seven Statewide Campus regions who goes above and beyond in their service to WVSOM and to the students they serve. Employees receiving this award are people-oriented, respectful, innovative, dedicated and effective. Megan Meador was this year’s recipient.

The Rising Star Award honors a newly hired employee who has already demonstrated a strong commitment to



WVSOM President James W. Nemitz, Ph.D., pictured with the two winners of this year’s President’s Outstanding Employee Award, Mike Fowler (left) and Nick Cornwell.

the school, an understanding of how their position supports the school’s mission and a commitment to working with others to engage the school’s future. This year’s winner was Shelden Mullens.

The celebration also recognized employees for years of service in five-year increments. In addition to recognizing a number of employees who reached milestones of service, WVSOM recognized six employees who achieved 20 or more years of service as of June 2022. Cindi Knight has worked at WVSOM for 20 years; Andrea Nazar, D.O., and Kevin Williams for 30 years; and Betty Baker, Jeff Dowdy and James Nemitz, Ph.D., for 35 years.

David Beatty, D.O., was honored with professor emeritus distinction during the celebration. The honor of emeritus is granted at retirement in recognition of meritorious service. Two WVSOM faculty received promotions. They were Machelie Linsenmeyer, Ed.D., promoted to professor, and Tuoan Liu, M.D., Ph.D., promoted to associate professor.

Leslie Bicksler, WVSOM’s vice president of

human resources, said the school’s faculty and staff consistently show that they are committed to the success of its medical students.

“Our employees have much to be proud of,” Bicksler said. “They are dedicated to ensuring we provide the best medical education possible. Each employee has an important role at WVSOM, and their passion for doing that job, supporting their colleagues and engaging with our students is evident in all that they do.”

WVSOM currently employs 300 people, 26 of whom have 20 or more years of service.

## Cedric Alder selected for 2022 Sousa National High School Honor Band

Cedric Alder of Caldwell has been accepted for membership with the 2022 John Philip Sousa National High School Honor Band, a highly selective national student concert band that will meet in central Massachusetts this month. Cedric’s parents are Tasha and Jim Alder.

He is a member of the Greenbrier East High School music department where he is a student of his father, Jim Alder, director of bands. Cedric is a drum major for the Spartan Marching Band, 1st chair euphonium in the symphonic band, and bass guitarist in 2nd Block Rock.

The John Philip Sousa National High School

Honor Band will meet in Harvard, MA from June 26 to June 30 with run-out performances in Gardner and Athol, MA on June 27 and 28, respectively. The main concert event will take place on Wednesday evening, June 29, at 7 p.m. in historic Mechanics Hall in Worcester, MA. Mechanics Hall is the site of many performances of the original Sousa Band. The National Honor Band will be conducted by Michael J. Colburn, recent Director of the Butler University Wind Ensemble and former Director of “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band in Washington, DC.

High school band students from all states and territories in the United States who were in grade 9-12 during the 2021-2022 school year were eligible to audition. Mr. Colburn will also be assisted by Guest Conductor Frank L. Battisti, Founder and Director Emeritus of the New England Conservatory Wind Ensemble in Boston.

Acceptance in this honor band is considered to be an important musical achievement of national significance. The 2022 band is comprised of 90 students representing US 25 states coast to coast.



Cedric Alder

e-mail news stories to [news@mountainmessenger.com](mailto:news@mountainmessenger.com)

### PICK OF THE LITTER

#### ROCKY

Rocky is a three-year-old Vizsla mix and weighs 70 pounds. He requires a special food.



#### TUX

Tux is a two-year-old female 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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# Briefly

## Market Days

### in the Meadow River Valley

Every Friday this summer is Market Day in the Meadow River Valley! Located on the corner of 11th and Main streets in Rainelle, the Western Greenbrier Farmers' Market is open from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Stock up on delicious baked goods, fresh produce and local meats. Craft vendors and those selling body products and herbal teas are on hand. And Jamie's Boys Choo Choo is popping up popcorn, so come on out! • Fridays this summer (weather permitting) • 3:30 to 6 p.m. • Corner of 11th and Main Streets in Rainelle

### 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. Dance on Saturday, June 25 will feature Johnny King and Friends, 7 to 10:30 p.m. 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.

### Democratic Women to meet

Greenbrier County Democratic Women will meet Tuesday, June 28 at 5:30 p.m. at Fellowship Hall at Old Stone Presbyterian Church in Lewisburg. Senator Stephen Baldwin will be our guest speaker. Please come out and learn more about our plans, meet Senator Baldwin, and ask questions as we communicate with one another.

### Carnegie Hall Galleries close in July

Carnegie Hall's Art Galleries will be closed during the month of July due to Kids' College, a two-week summer day-camp for 2nd-7th grade children, and for general maintenance. The annual closure will begin June 27 and conclude July 5 with the First Fridays After 5 openings of Shari O'Day Mann (Old Stone Room), Suzanna Robinson (Lobby Gallery), and Steven Hutchins (Museum Gallery). 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)

### Ukulele music coming to the White Sulphur Springs Library

G.R.O.U.P., which stands for Greenbrier River Optimistic Ukulele Players, will be performing at the White Sulphur Springs Library on Tuesday, June 28, beginning at 6 p.m. This motley crew of ukulele lovers plays a diverse variety of songs revealing the versatility of their chosen instrument. Join us for a fun evening with a great group of musicians. This free performance will be followed by light refreshments. Please call 304-536-1171 if you have any questions. The library is located at 344 Main Street West in White Sulphur Springs.

### Alderson Volunteer Fire Department

will have their Fireman's Rodeo on Saturday, July 2 at 7 p.m. in Alderson on the football field.

## One killed, one injured in I-64 crash

On Thursday, June 23, at approximately 6 a.m., members of the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office responded to a single vehicle accident on I-64 near mile marker 176. A westbound pickup truck crossed the median, rolled over and subsequently came to rest on its top on the berm of the eastbound lane.

One occupant was transported to a local hospital for injuries sustained in the accident. The second occupant succumbed to their injuries at the scene. The names are being withheld pending notification of the families.

The accident necessitated the closure of the eastbound lane of I-64 for several hours.

The Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office accident reconstruction unit processed the accident scene. Lieutenant D. W. Hedrick, of the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office, is the lead investigator.

White Sulphur Springs EMS, as well as fire departments from White Sulphur Springs and Lewisburg, responded to the scene. Members of the White Sulphur Springs Police Department provided on scene assistance.

## For the Record

### Deeds

Gilbert L. Merritt and Carla J. Merritt to Cheryl Mansley, Lot No. 16 and 17, Pack Addition, Town of Alderson  
 Kristin Stover and Peter Feltman to Terri Leitch, Lot No. 23, Dogwood Heights Subdivision, Lewisburg Corp.  
 Gregory L. Mills and Tonya L. Mills to Wesley Wayne Demarset, III and Amanda Renee Demarest, Lot No. 3, Otter Creek Development Phase I, Meadow Bluff Dist.  
 Dakota Anderson and Erica Anderson to Frankie C. Martin and Janet M. Martin, Lot No. 159, Lilly Park Addition, Meadow Bluff District  
 Stephanie Davis to Max Chamber Davis, 97.00 Acres, Williamsburg District  
 Brenda Joyce Hardiman Kees to William Lee Hardiman, Lots Nos. 8 and 14, Anthony Creek District  
 Justin Batten and Amanda Breeden-Batten to Richard G. Breeden and Sherry B. Breeden, Lot No. 2, Section 9, Sullivan Addition No. 3, Fort Spring District  
 Judy Landis to Misty E. Berry to Marcus H. Berry and Misty E. Berry, Lot No. 41, Ronceverte Municipality  
 Ruh Roh LLC to My Ruby Slippers, LLC., Lot No. 10, Lilly Park Addition, Town of Rainelle, Meadow Bluff Dist.  
 Kevin Workman and Pamela Workman to Hunter D. Workman and Katy J. Workman, Lot No. 32, Echols Acres, Addition No. 3, Lewisburg District  
 John Miles Kuhn IV and Jo Ann Kuhn to Holly Clark Jr. and Janet Clark, 29.5 Acres, Meadow Bluff District  
 Timothy L. Stover to David Hill, Misty Marie Hill, Alyssa M. Hill, and Madison Erskine, Lot No. 5, Section 2, Graham Addition, City of Lewisburg  
 Davis Arbuckle, James King and James Miller as Trustees of Clifton Presbyterian Church to City of Lewisburg, 100 Sq. Ft., Village of Maxwelton, Lewisburg District  
 Sabrina R. Crump to Dylan J. Cutlip, 3.95 Acres, White Sulphur Corporation

## Public Meetings

### 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.

### Gbr. Co. Farmland Protection Board

meets on the fourth Thursday of each month 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.

## Marriages

James Devaine McKinney IV of Washington, DC to Delaney Caroline McMullin of Washington DC  
 Bruce Edward Alley of Crawley to Kimberly Ann Alley of Rupert  
 Glen Merl Carpenter of Lewisburg to Jennifer Rose Huffman of Lewisburg

## Suits

In Re: The Marriage of: Carl Leon Helmick and Robin Cheryl Helmick  
 In Re: The Marriage of: Kristi B. Godby and Carl Godby

## Banners

*Continued from Front Page*

mentioned, it being weaponized for things that maybe none of us in this room, or certainly not me, would want to see the banners being used for." However, he stated, "I'm not in favor of removing the banners, I'm not in favor of removing the idea of 'government speech.' Our city council should take a stance on what we believe the city stands for. [...] At some point in time we have to decide where our line is, and our line is not removing the banners."

A vote was held, and with four voting in favor of removing the banners and two against, the vote to remove all banners from the lampposts passed.

"The policy that council just adopted is the first formal, written policy the council has had regarding banners," explained Seams. "In the past, it has been done as a discretionary, administrative item, so the banners were never subject to council's scrutiny and approval. When there were multiple groups, with Mayor mentioning that yours was the fourth that approached the city about hanging banners, they were denied and it became clear that 'an unwritten policy is about the worst kind of policy.'"

"The only thing I have leaving here that makes me feel icky is I hate that I'm feeling that Pride, LGBTQ people, and us asking for representation is being combined, and denied, with whatever these other applications were, I'm not sure what hate speech," said Tyson. "While GVP is an organization, and people can take that as political, being a gay person is not political. I'm a person that deserves rights."

"I agree with you," Seams responded. "It does feel icky to take away something because you have a few bad apples. [...] I think that if there was a way to carve out a space for Pride banners to be hung, and it not be illegal, I would certainly vote for that."

Pritt explained, "What it boils down to is that we can't regulate content, and that is unfortunate, because we do know that there is hate speech that is protected under that first amendment right. I don't agree with it, and I wish at this moment in time that we could provide a better solution."

Earlier in the meeting, a proclamation declaring June 25, 2022 as LGBTQIA+ Pride Day in Lewisburg was signed by Mayor Beverly White to a round of applause by attendees. The proclamation states in part: "Research indicates that stigma and discrimination against LGBTQIA+ individuals contributes to adverse health outcomes for LGBTQIA+ adults, such as major depressive disorder, binge drinking, substance use, and suicide, and whereas education and awareness of LGBTQIA+ individuals and the issues they face helps to decrease instances of discrimination, plus helping to combat adverse health outcomes for these individuals."

The document explains that LGBTQIA+ Pride Day helps increase awareness of LGBTQIA+ issues, and supports the availability of services for individuals that belong to the community. June is already recognized nationally as LGBTQIA+ Pride Month.

Council also heard a reading of a proclamation declaring June 15, 2022 as Elder Abuse Awareness Day, which "encourages all residents to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Greenbrier County and Lewisburg seniors."

In other news:

- Jim Rowe and Barbara Elliot were appointed to the library board. Rowe will serve the last two years of Danny Boone's term, and Elliot will serve a five year term. Helen Harless, Margaret Gossard, and Tia Bouman were all reappointed to the Planning Commission for three year terms. Matt Campbell, artistic director at Greenbrier Valley Theatre, was recommended to be appointed to the Planning Commission as well. David Craddock and Donna Johns were reappointed to the Historic Landmarks Commission for three year terms. All appointments and reappointments were approved unanimously by council.

- Council held a roughly hour-long executive session with legal representatives regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that deals with opioid settlement fund distribution within the city. Lewisburg joins "99.9 percent" of other West Virginia municipalities participating in opioid lawsuits and settlements, according to their legal council on the matter. More information on the settlement progress will be released as it becomes available.

## Greenbrier County

### Magistrate Court Convictions

Case A. Hall, White Sulphur Springs, no seatbelt, GP, fine \$25  
 Issac Daniel Mick, Shinnston, violation of protective order (x2), NCP, jail 3 months - suspended and placed on 18 months unsupervised probation  
 Cody Lee Rutherford, Lewisburg, obstructing officer, NCP, jail 30 days - suspended and placed on 12 months unsupervised probation  
 Marilyn Eve Iacovelli, White Sulphur Springs, driving impaired, NCP, fine \$100, jail 5 days - time served  
 Braunna D. Burgess, Marlinton, defective equipment - reg. lights, GP, fine \$10  
 Corey D. Braden, White Sulphur Springs, operation of vehicles with safety belts, NCP, fine \$25  
 Tammy Lou Martin, Renick, failure to yield, GP, fine \$20  
 Matthew Wayne Morgan, Ronceverte, failure to vaccinate or revaccinate dog or cat, GP, fine \$10  
 Blake Andrew Hicks, Caldwell, possession of a controlled substance, fine \$100, NCP, fine \$100, jail 90 days - suspended and placed on 9 months unsupervised probation  
 Thurmond Daniel Loudermilk, Clintonville, 1) driving under the influence of controlled substances or drugs (habitual user), NCP, fine \$100, jail 30 days - suspended and placed on 10 months unsupervised probation; 2) driving while license revoked - DUI, fine \$100, jail 30 days  
 Erin L. Buhmann, Richmond, VA, speeding, NCP, fine \$10  
 Mitchell B. Addison, Norfolk, VA, driving too fast for roadway conditions, GP, fine \$5

## Congresswoman Miller visits WSS, tours Schoolhouse Hotel and Mountain Steer Meat Company

Congresswoman Carol Miller (R-WV) visited White Sulphur Springs to meet with small business owners and visit the Dry Creek Festival. Additionally, Congresswoman Miller joined The Disability Opportunity Fund (DOF) President and CEO Charlie Hammerman for a walk-through of The Schoolhouse Hotel. Formerly White Sulphur Springs High School, The Schoolhouse Hotel is White Sulphur Springs' first full-service boutique hotel. Developed by DOF, it is the first fully accessible hotel in the United States. Congresswoman Miller also toured Mountain Steer Meat Company, a family-owned business that supplies fresh, local, premium quality meat in the community.

See "Congresswoman Miller visits WSS" Page 4



Congresswoman Miller and DOF President and CEO Charlie Hammerman on the roof of The Schoolhouse Hotel

## Mountain Messenger

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# OPINION

## Nature's Way

By Karen Cohen

Master Gardener/Photojournalist/Artist  
KVETCH

Happy Solstice! Summer is here, ah at last! Making their daily appearance are the bugs that bite your legs under the picnic table or fly straight into your pupils when you are walking in the woods. You can actually see them wiggling out of your eyeball to escape. What up with dat? So annoying. By the time late summer rolls around my legs look like I've been in a battle with some kind of varmint which chews on my ankles and calves. I don't feel bugs biting me but when I lay down at night to sleep, my feet begin to twitch with itches. That's when it becomes apparent, the bugs have been nibbling on me for their dinner.

Yes, it's nature's plan that these creatures have some fresh skin and red blood to keep them alive and so we become their unwilling victims. Everything's gotta eat, right? Just as we put chickens in a pot or fish on the grill for our pleasure, what comes around goes around. Don't mind me, I'm just trying not to hate these little no-sees-ums and I refuse to use deet or other toxic bug repellents.

Natural remedies? Please share yours if you have any that really do work. Citronella candles have to be burned to release their smell and it isn't wonderful. Kinda makes me sickish and I stay away from it, just like the bugs. Lemongrass oil is safe as a spray to use even on baby's skin, at least according to the sellers of this oil. Strong scented oils like cinnamon, tea tree or thyme oil can all be added to a spray bottle with water and sprayed directly on your skin. I assume you have lots of skin exposed since it is officially summer and temperatures have climbed to the 80's. Too much wet spray will cause warm liquid puddles to stream down your arms and torso mixing with your sweat and that ends up feeling like bugs are crawling all over you!

If you've ever had ants in your pants, you know those little suckers bite and you end up with itchy welts. I find calamine lotion or tea tree dapped onto bites will take away the itch.

In your house, vinegar added to water can ward off ants, spiders and mosquitos if you spray it around your home's perimeter and entryways. That might be a bit of work. Often the cheap spray bottles I buy at our local box stores end up quitting before the bottle is empty leaving me pumping air. I can testify that I have dumped a one inch thick trail of Borax along my countertops where I find ants gathering. It works. I use this outside, too. It clings to the hairs on their bodies, they find it intolerable and probably deadly.



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With summer here, we have lots to enjoy! Have I neglected to mention any of those things? Well, you know what you like to do and I certainly am not one to entertain thoughts on how you should or should not entertain yourselves, so go right to it. If you run into me at the green-space or at the river, you may notice a heavy peppermint smell, don't mind me, just warding off those evil spirits of summer.

*(Karen Cohen is a Mistress of her Organic Garden and avid nature explorer. Please email comments/tips to natureswaykaren@gmail.com)*

Happy Gardening!

## Commentary

### Importance of PSC Public comment hearings

By PSC Chair Charlotte Lane

The Public Service Commission has scheduled several public comment hearings on various cases for this summer. Most of the hearings are for an electric rate case but there are hearings scheduled for gas and sewer cases as well.

During the pandemic, the Commission was unable to hold public comment hearings in person and relied instead on video conferences, online comments and letters to learn about your concerns. Commissioners Larrick and Raney and I are glad things are getting back to normal and are very much looking forward to seeing constituents in person as we travel around the state.

Public comment hearings give us the opportunity to meet face-to-face with you, the ratepayers. We often ask questions about customers' personal experiences with the utility company. This gives us more insight into the real world problems and issues that customers face. In fact, we have often pursued questions from the bench at evidentiary hearings that stem from information and incidents we learned about during a public comment hearing. So, you see, what you say really does count and is taken into consideration while we strive to balance the interests of the state, the utility and the ratepayers, as the PSC is charged to do.

Our goal is to get as much feedback from the public as possible at public comment hearings. Your input is a critical element in our decision-making process, so the more people we hear from, the better. Most of our public comment hearings are well attended. Some have been standing room only. But we have also had occasions when no one showed up.

Here are a couple of tips to make the most of your time when speaking at a public comment hearing. First, either make notes or write out your comments. This will help you make sure you have included all the points you want to make and that you haven't left out anything important. Remember that the court reporter is recording what you say for the official record, so please speak clearly.

I hope to see you at a public comment hearing this summer.

e-mail

news stories and letters to the editor to  
[news@mountainmessenger.com](mailto:news@mountainmessenger.com)

## Commentary

### It's West Virginia's birthday. Keep the celebration going!

By WV Tourism Secretary Chelsea Ruby

You did it.

For the past five years, the Department of Tourism has asked you to celebrate West Virginia's birthday by sharing your favorite Almost Heaven places and moments on social media. You've responded in a huge way: tens of thousands of posts that have been seen tens of millions of times and showcased every corner of our state.

And it worked! Together, we turned around the state's tourism industry and started setting records. And we've transformed perceptions of West Virginia. Suddenly, our state is one of the hottest tourism spots in the world, making the 2022 top-destinations lists of Condé Nast, TIME, USA Today, Lonely Planet, and Frommer's. No other place on the planet even came close.

When we organized the first West Virginia Day social media takeover, we knew it would make an impact, but wow! We had no idea what amazing results it would set in motion.

The premise is simple: Social media influences most travel decisions. And it gives West Virginia the potential for a big marketing advantage. For one thing, it's visual, and there's no place more beautiful than West Virginia.

For another, it bypasses traditional marketing and lets people who are passionate about something communicate that feeling directly to other people. That's why it's powerful. And no one is more passionate about their state than West Virginians. If that wasn't clear enough six years ago, it certainly is today.

Now let's keep it going. This year we have more than ever to celebrate. America's newest national park, the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve, was a smashing success in its first year, garnering 30% visitor growth and worldwide media attention. This year is sure to set another record.

The travel experience has finally returned to normal after two years of COVID-19 closures and restrictions. West Virginia tourism is fully open for business. Tourism will contribute close to \$5 billion to our economy this year and support 45,000 jobs.

New tourism investment is booming, with more than \$250 million in projects in the pipeline. Just last month, White Sulphur Springs welcomed the Schoolhouse Hotel, the world's first all-ADA compliant hotel. In Fayetteville, a group of three retired school buildings is being transformed into a boutique hotel, modern apartments and townhomes.

Our state parks are completing \$151 million in maintenance and improvements, including a new lodge at Cappon Resort State Park and renovations at every lodge and cabin in the system. Last year's state park visitation set a record, and this year's is on pace to break it.

The state has two new tourism trails to highlight our natural beauty and country roads. The West Virginia Waterfall Trail debuted last week, featuring more than two dozen waterfalls around the state and prizes for visiting them. And the West Virginia Mountain Rides program features the state's most beautiful scenic routes, aimed at attracting motorcyclists and drivers alike. The first official Mountain Ride was launched last month: Seneca Skyway, which starts in Lewisburg and winds through the Allegheny Highlands to Canaan Valley and Green Bank.

The good news goes far beyond just tourism. Nucor, one of the world's leading steel producers, is building a new manufacturing plant in Mason County. Thousands of jobs will be created. GreenPower picked South Charleston as the site for its new facility to make electric-powered school buses. Statewide, unemployment is near a record low. The state's budget has never been in better shape. And Babydog continues to bring smiles to our faces as she travels the state greeting her admirers. Hats off to the leader of this remarkable turnaround, Governor Jim Justice, whose commitment to economic development and tourism is unmatched. Together with the support of the West Virginia Legislature, hundreds of millions of dollars have been invested in tourism over the past several years. West Virginians will benefit from this investment for generations to come.

And, of course, West Virginia is as gorgeous and invit-

ing as always. Summer is upon us. The hills are lush and vividly green. Adventure awaits.

Just in case you need another reason to get out there and enjoy what West Virginia has to offer, we've picked Instagram-ready scenic overlooks in every region of the state where you can snap a postable pic. Students at Nicholas County Career and Technical Center have built Almost Heaven photo backdrops for each site—super-sized wooden swing sets where you can take in the unbelievable views. On June 20, the locations were revealed at [www.wvtourism.com/views](http://www.wvtourism.com/views).

So let's step up to the challenge again this year. Show the world what you love about West Virginia. Celebrate her birthday by visiting your favorite Mountain State spot, taking a picture, and posting it on social media using #AlmostHeaven for all to see. There's no better way to show off your West Virginia pride—and help create West Virginia jobs while you're at it.



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### Congresswoman Miller visits WSS

Continued from Page 3

"The redevelopment of the old high school into the new, beautiful Schoolhouse Hotel symbolizes the revitalization of a community that was devastated by floods six years ago," Senator Capito said. "I'm just so proud of the hard work and collaboration of Charlie Hammerman, Nanci Freiman, Genny Freiman, Mayor Bowling, former Mayor Haynes, and so many others who helped make this a reality. The Schoolhouse Hotel will attract events and visitors from all over the world, enable guests with disabilities to fully enjoy its amenities, and become a source of pride for Greenbrier County for years to come."

"Since our arrival three years ago, Senator Capito has been a staunch supporter of the Disability Opportunity Fund's efforts to reignite economic development in White Sulphur Springs. We are truly honored that she led today's Grand Opening of The Schoolhouse Hotel,"

Charlie Hammerman, President and CEO, DOF, said.

Conceived and developed by The Disability Opportunity Fund (DOF), the Schoolhouse Hotel is White Sulphur Springs' first full-service boutique hotel. The project transformed the former historic White Sulphur Springs High School into a hub for the community and visitors alike. It features 30 uniquely appointed guest rooms, an upscale restaurant and grill, a rooftop bar, and flexible ballroom space for weddings, conferences, and more.

The DOF chose to invest in White Sulphur Springs after visiting the town several years ago and witnessing the closed storefronts and damage left by the 2016 floods. The Schoolhouse Hotel is also believed to be the world's first fully accessible hotel, with every room and public space accessible by wheelchair.

# CLUB & CHURCH

## Western Greenbrier Historical Society installs officers

The First Annual Picnic and General Membership Meeting of the Western Greenbrier Historical Society (WGHS) was held June 15 at the Lewis School in Grassy Meadows, at which time new officers were installed.

The new President is Irma Smith Cadle of Grassy Meadows, who is Chairman and Founder of the Cadle's Historic Preservation Corporation, which hosted the event at the recently renovated Lewis School. She is also a lifetime member of the Historical Societies of both Greenbrier and Summers Counties and serves on the Friends of the Blue Committee of the Greenbrier Historical Society, which is overseeing the restoration of the Blue Sulphur Springs pavilion. She is owner of Grassy Meadows Publishing Company, under which she has published several books document-

ing local history and the schools of Greenbrier County. She is a quilter, crocheter, gardener, researcher, genealogist, historian, and writer.

Bert Cole has agreed to serve as the new Vice President of the Society. Bert grew up in Rainelle and has many friends and relatives in the area. He pursued his business career as an Electrical Engineer in the Richmond, VA, area and currently serves on numerous Boards and Civic organizations. He is a Vietnam-era Veteran, who also got his start in radio while stationed overseas when he took a position with the Armed Forces Radio Network. He later owned and managed an AM/FM radio station in the Richmond area and hosted numerous music, sports, and talk shows. He is an historian, genealogist, author, and public speaker. He will be a great asset to the Society; and

his experiences and talents are very much welcomed.

Karen Richmond Wygal is an historian and accountant, with ten years of experience in the financial world and ten years in information technology. She will bring her considerable experience to the Society as the new Treasurer. She is currently employed at Farm Credit of the Virginias, and lives in Alderson.

The WGHS is a charitable organization working to preserve local history, with an emphasis on the mining and timbering industries and the towns that grew up around those in the western part of Greenbrier County. Your support and donations would be most welcomed. Contact Irma Smith Cadle at 6692 Grassy Meadows Road, Grassy Meadows, WV 24943, or phone at 304-771-8814.

## Church Bulletin

### Pastor Denver Tiller Retirement Celebration

Pastor Denver Tiller from Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church will be retiring after 15 years at the church. His last service will be Sunday, June 26 at the 11 o'clock service. Special music will be by Aaron Green. A covered dish meal will follow the service. Everyone is invited to attend.

### Summer Jam at Rhema

Rhema Christian Center will host Summer Jam-Make Waves, from Monday, June 27, through Friday, July 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon for children age 3 years through 5th grade. Breakfast and lunch will be free and provided by the Summer Food Program. Join us for a fun filled week that includes games, crafts, stories and singing! To register please go to TheRhemaLife.com. For any questions please call the church office at 304-645-6999.

### Vacation Bible School at Pence Springs Community Church

VBS will be held at the Pence Springs Community Church July 11-15, from 6 to 8 p.m. nightly. All ages welcome!

# Garden Club holds annual banquet

Valley View Country Club in White Sulphur Springs was the setting for the Old White Garden Club's Spring Banquet on Tuesday evening, May 31. The gathering also celebrated the installation of incoming officers for the 2022-2023 club year and the welcoming of new members.

Joan Gunnoe, longtime member of the Club, officiated the installation ceremony, emphasizing the importance of each officer's duties in fulfilling the objectives of the club.

The two new members, Mary Claire Warden and Jenny Poague hold the distinction of being fifth generation members of the Old White Garden Club.



Incoming officers pictured include Penny Fioravante, President; Elizabeth McGruder, Treasurer; Nancy Marshall, Recording Secretary; and Sue King, Corresponding Secretary. Suzanne Cronquist will serve as Vice President



Pictured with their Club member mothers: Katie Ickes (left), Mary Claire Ickes Warden, Jenny Rennard Poague, and Cathy Rennard



New members who were welcomed to the Old White Garden Club during the annual spring banquet were Cindy Weyen (left), Jenny Poague, Mary Claire Warden, Julie Fine, Patty Kalinowski (guest and candidate for membership), and Paula Legg Baisden

## 'WV Rhythms' shared at the Williamsburg CEOS Club meeting

"WV Rhythms" was shared by West Virginian musician Orian Post at the June meeting of the Williamsburg Community Educational Outreach Service (CEOS) Club held at the Williamsburg Historical Foundation Museum. While Orian shared his talents on the guitar and fiddle his grandfather and club member Burl Post shared information on the roots of old-time music throughout West Virginia. Club members Barbara Deeds, Blanche Knicely, Shela McComsey, Cassandra Perkins, Patty Post, Loretta Shirley, and Linda Spencer participated with singing "Country Roads."

Barbara Deeds presented the awards the club received at the County Achievement Day which included 1st Place for the club's work on Family Committee projects and recognition for 2000 recorded hours of community service in 2021 by Club members.

Each month a club member presents a program prepared by the WVU Extension Service. "Advanced Care Planning" will be presented by President Barbara Deeds

at the July 12 meeting. All are welcome to attend these meetings at the Williamsburg Museum beginning at noon.



Orian Post playing "The Washer Woman" at the Williamsburg CEOS Club meeting in June

## Local DAR holds June meeting

DAR Regent Deborah Phillips (left) and former Regent Sandra Cowan



Several awards were presented by the National Society to our local chapter. Former Regent, Sandra Brandon Cowan for her "Outstanding Service as the West Virginia State DAR Librarian" and for her "Outstanding Service on the Virtual 116th WVDAR State Conference Committee."

The General Andrew Lewis Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution held their June meeting at Cook's Restaurant on June 16. Regent Deborah Phillips presided. Member Ruth Sturgill presented an interesting article on national defense and a report on the Flag of the United States was given by Suzanne Cronquist. The club welcomed new member, Barbara Hiltner, and she was presented with her membership pin.

The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution is a nonprofit, nonpolitical women's service organization whose main objectives are historic preservation, education and patriotism. Members are all lineal descendants of those who supported the cause of independence in the Revolutionary War in 1776. If you are interested in joining, please call Registrar Sandra Cowan at 304-497-3553.



# GVMC hollers with pride

Pride Month takes place each June to celebrate the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and related (LGBTQ+) communities, the diversity of individual identities, and the fight toward equal rights. This month spotlights the successes of LGBTQ+ people, injustices they've overcome, and their continued efforts to make the world a safe and welcoming place for every person to be themselves.

Pride Month commemorates, in part, the June 28, 1969 Stonewall Rebellion in New York City which helped ignite a national firestorm of activism within the LGBTQ+ community. The Stonewall Rebellion brought increased visibility, awareness, and passion to the fight for acceptance and equality. The first official Pride march took place on June 28 the following year and has now become an annual event around the country. Pride events are festive celebrations for LGBTQ+ people, their allies, friends and families to come together in a positive and accepting atmosphere.

Pride Month is an opportunity to learn about the LGBTQ+ community and remember our commitment to make the future brighter for all. Greenbrier Valley Medical Center is honoring this commitment by making a contribution to Greenbrier Valley Pride because everyone deserves to be seen, heard, and valued.

## Dear Recycle Lady,

**Dear Recycle Lady,**  
What is green banking?  
*Want to Know*

**Dear Want to Know,**  
According to [www.bankexamstoday.com](http://www.bankexamstoday.com), green banking means promoting environmentally friendly practices and reducing carbon footprints from your banking activities. It provides sustainable financial services, such as paperless statements and deposits and electronic products and services. Several new services are available with green banking: EcoLoans that require consumers to save water or cut down on coal use, and GreenLoans that lend funds to projects or ventures that have environmental benefits. Green banking also strives to use less power and less energy by installing energy efficient technology products and waste management. Check with your bank to see if green banking is available for your use.

**Dear Recycle Lady,**  
Are perfume bottles recyclable? Can old perfume be poured down the sink?

*Smelling Good*  
**Dear Smelling Good,**  
Perfume bottles are made of both glass and plastic, but only the plastic bottles can be recycled locally. Al-

though not recyclable, many of the perfume bottles made of glass can be re-purposed. As with all plastic bottles, be sure perfume bottles are clean and dry before recycling. One word of caution. Perfumes are made with strong ingredients and should not be poured down the drain. At this time, no regulations exist for the disposal of perfumes, however, pouring them down the drain is not a good idea. Not only are the chemicals not good for the water supply, but the scent may also linger quite a long time! Treat old or unwanted perfume as you would left-over paint. Put the perfume in a container, mix it with cat litter or coffee grounds to change the liquid into a solid, and put it in the trash.

**Dear Recycle Lady,**  
Are the cans that Seresto flea and tick dog collars come in recyclable?

*Protecting My Dog From Ticks*  
**Dear Protecting My Dog From Ticks,**

Yes, Seresto containers are recyclable with steel cans. Any chemicals from the flea and tick dog collar that might remain in the can would be killed by the extreme high heating process that is used to process recycled steel. The top of the can be left on or recycled separately.

**Dear Readers,**



Thanks, Greenbrier Countians, for the great response to the tire collection held at the landfill on May 19. There were so many trucks and cars bringing the 2,637 collected tires that a traffic jam resulted - a good problem to have! A new traffic pattern has been created so that future collections will be more efficient. The next Greenbrier County collection will be held this fall in Rainelle. More information to follow.

**Great News!** Single-use plastics will be phased out of National Parks over the next decade. It's estimated that this will reduce millions of pounds of unnecessary disposable plastic in our national parks and other public lands. (fto.com)

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

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## Zachary Ramsey graduates from CCU in May 2022

Coastal Carolina University recognized more than 1,200 students during its spring commencement ceremonies, held May 6-7, 2022. Among the graduates was Zachary Ramsey, a Marine Science major from Caldwell.

A University-wide ceremony recognizing all graduates was held on Saturday, May 7, at 9 a.m. in Brooks Stadium and featured a keynote address by Vanessa Wyche, a Conway, SC, native and director of NASA's Johnson Space Center. Each of CCU's academic colleges

held individual ceremonies during the weekend, where graduates' names were called, and they had the opportunity to walk across the stage and receive their diploma covers.

Coastal Carolina University is a dynamic, public comprehensive liberal arts institution located in Conway, located just minutes from the resort area of Myrtle Beach, SC. CCU offers baccalaureate

degrees in 95 major fields of study. Among the University's graduate-level programs are 27 master's degrees, two educational specialist degrees, and the doctorates in education and in marine science: coastal and marine systems science. CCU boasts a growing array of internship, research and international opportunities for students, as well as numerous online programs through Coastal Online.



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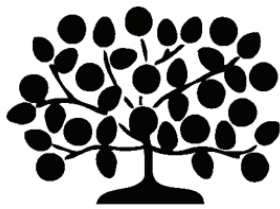
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### LEGAL

The Town of Renick is accepting bids for engineering and paving of Theda Lane. Direct inquiries to Mayor Patrick Robert's 304-647-0372. Sealed bids are due by July 8th, 2022 and can be mailed to PO Box 116, Renick, WV 24966. Please and thank you.

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The City of Shinnston, WV is seeking applicants for the position of Water Operator in a WV Class 2 facility. This employee performs a variety of semi-skilled and skilled technical work in the operation and maintenance of municipal water production. The position requires rotation of on-call and weekend and will be expected to work overtime as required. Under the direct supervision of the Chief Water Plant Operator, the worker is responsible for operating and maintaining equipment at the water treatment plant; assisting in gathering data, performing tests and generating reports; assisting in ordering materials and supplies; and performing other related functions as assigned or apparent. Assists in the operation and periodic inspection of equipment at the water treatment plant. Maintains equipment, process tanks, buildings, and grounds in a clean and orderly manner. Obtains water samples and performs simple standard chemical and process control tests. Monitors and/or inspects numerous process control parameters for proper operations. Assists supervisor in maintaining and reviewing accurate maintenance records and monthly reports.

**Minimum Requirements:** High School Diploma or equivalent; Valid WV driver's license with clean record, a valid Class 1 Operator license in the State of West Virginia or ability to obtain Class 1 Operator license within 6 months. Class 2 water operator license preferred.

**Desirable Qualifications:** Experience with water & sewer piping/repair. Operation of large equipment; mechanical / technical skills experience in water / wastewater. Prior experience working for a municipality (public works, public utilities).

Starting wage range will be dependent upon licensure. Obtain an application from the City of Shinnston website @ <http://www.shinnstonwv.com/>. Interested candidates are required to submit an application with supplemental information to: City of Shinnston, 40 Main Street, Shinnston, WV 26431. Applications will be accepted until the vacancy is filled with those received by July 21st earning first consideration.

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# DINING & entertainment guide

## Dutch Haus Restaurant

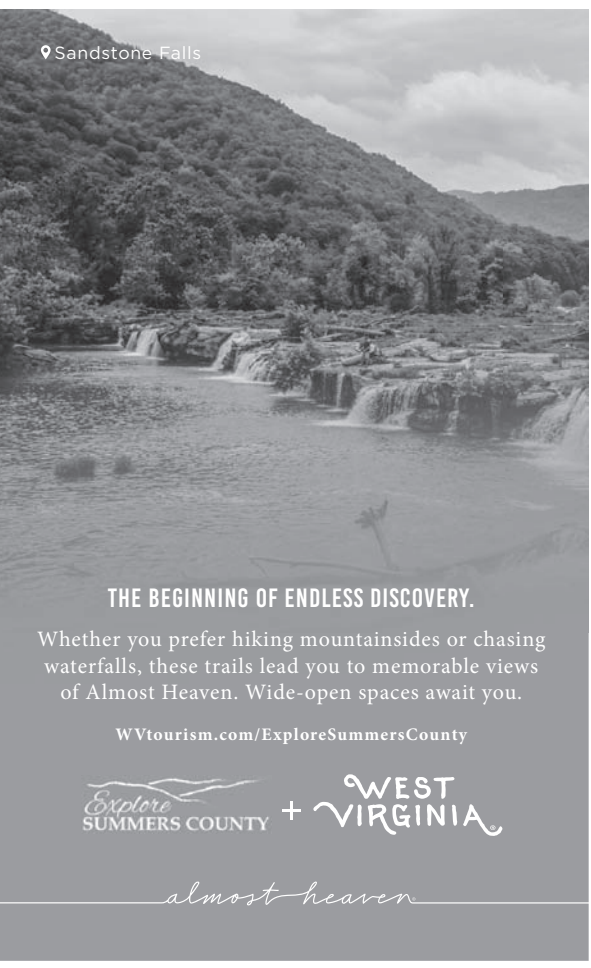
Lewisburg Elks Country Club at 368 Brush Rd., Lewisburg

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# Date correction for Skyline Bluegrass Festival events

The public is encouraged to attend a photographic exhibit The Skyline Bluegrass Festival "Peace, Love, and Bluegrass Music" 1976-1985. The exhibit, curated by The West Virginia Music Hall of Fame, features the amazing work of the official festival photographer, Pat Bauserman, of Lewisburg. The opening reception is Saturday, June 25, (not Friday as previously published) from 3 to 5 p.m. at the West Virginia Museum of Music in the Charleston Town Center. The event will feature two live bands and refreshments will be served. A smaller version of this exhibit will open First Friday, July 1, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at The Visitors Center in downtown Lewisburg.

Richard Hefner and the Black Mountain Bluegrass Boys will perform. Come enjoy an evening out, awesome photographs, and refreshments. This exhibit is funded through the generous support of The West Virginia Humanities Council, The Jeanne C. and Lawson W. Hamilton Family Foundation, and The James F.B. Peyton Fund.

## A Look Back



Photo courtesy of the West Virginia University Regional History Center.

By William "Skip" Deegans

Shown is a circa 1940s post card of Hawk's Nest State Park. Located on U.S. 60 midway between Lewisburg and Charleston, Hawk's Nest began in 1935 when the State purchased 37 acres, including the overlook of New River. The property was formerly known as Marshall's Pillars, and named after Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall who was smitten with the site when he visited it in the early 1800s. The overlook is thought to have been used by Native Americans and then by Union and Confederate forces during the Civil War.

## Super Crossword THIS IS REALLY BIG

<b>ACROSS</b>	55 Gutter place	109 Yank's home	16 Former state	54 Infrequently	88 Fan blade
1 He drew "Li'l Abner"	56 Work over	110 Nativity scene trio	secretary Root	seen thing	89 Hectically
7 Stands up to	57 Big fuss	111 Gulf country	17 Secant, e.g.	57 Coulomb per second	90 Skillet alloy
13 Disdainful lip-curler	58 Trump's wife after Ivana	115 Facial looks	18 1985 Kate Nelligan drama	58 Big wall painting	91 Apart from that
20 Roving vacuum cleaner	60 One laying down asphalt	118 Big home loan	19 Worshiper of Jah, in brief	59 Deep blue dye	93 Squealer
21 Delphi diviner	61 Big project	123 Hillary's peak	24 "Two and — Men"	60 El —, Texas	95 Opposite of old, in Ulm
22 Lilting song syllables	66 "I've got it!"	124 Kindle	29 Church part	62 Big continent	96 Pop's bro
23 Big mollusk of Antarctic seas	69 Motor oil brand	125 More greasy	31 Q7 carmaker	63 "Scream" network	97 Dance that "takes two"
25 Birds such as emus	70 Actress Meyers	126 Snuggles	32 "Friday the 13th" staple	64 Totally dislike	99 Believes (in)
26 Box gently	71 W-2 org.	127 Robbing jobs	33 Eisenhower, informally	65 Prefix with oxide	102 Master
27 Golf stroke	72 Boise-to-Las Vegas dir.	128 Requisite	34 Objectivist Rand	66 Heap up	103 Antipasto bit
28 Ending for enzymes	73 Big military counterstrike	<b>DOWN</b>	35 Unhurried	67 Capital northeast of Vientiane	104 Snouts, e.g.
30 Cue or clue	80 Author Loos	1 Pop-up paths	36 "— Sera, Sera"	68 Parenthetical remark	105 Opening
31 From quite a distance	81 Revolt	2 Lariat end	37 State firmly	69 Rizzoli's TV partner	106 Kingly Indian
32 Big tree of California	82 Cloud setting	3 Coke, e.g.	38 Unaltered	70 Similar (to)	107 Willie of "Charles in Charge"
37 Per routine	83 Jazzy singer — James	4 Love, in Peru	39 Well-trodden	71 "Nifty!"	110 Over half
41 Super-slow	84 Deviate	5 "NewsHour" network	40 Thurmond of politics	72 Symbol on many flags	111 Stare at rudely
42 Red-haired biblical twin	89 Boxing legend	6 Two-choice grading system	41 Ross of politics	73 Gives off again	112 — of honor
43 Big dissimilarity	90 Knocks off	7 Melancholy	44 Classic canine name	74 River in Spain	113 "A Death in the Family" writer
46 Rarely	92 — Nevadas	8 Once, in the past	45 Power strip attachment	75 Ruler of yore	114 Uncool type
51 "Bam!" chef Lagasse	94 Big job	9 E-help sheet	47 Plumbing problem	76 PSAT part	116 Salon stuff
52 Cholera	98 "Nay" caller	10 Hosp. section	48 Bette of film	77 With	117 Suffix of dialects
53 Nashville's Grand Ole —	100 Slaughter of baseball	11 Drug mogul Lilly	49 Cakes bake in them	78 108-Across, demands much (of)	119 Ending with script
	101 Categorizes	12 Biggish car	50 Form a union		120 Me, to Fifi
	102 Big pickup in an exhibition	13 PTSD part			121 Greyhound fleet unit
	107 Pot builder	14 Big D.C. lobby			122 Game draw
	108 See	15 Dig into			
	86-Down				

### SCRAMBLERS

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

Span  
PECOS

Block  
TREED

Take On  
LACKET

Sorrow  
MOGOL

TODAY'S WORD

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

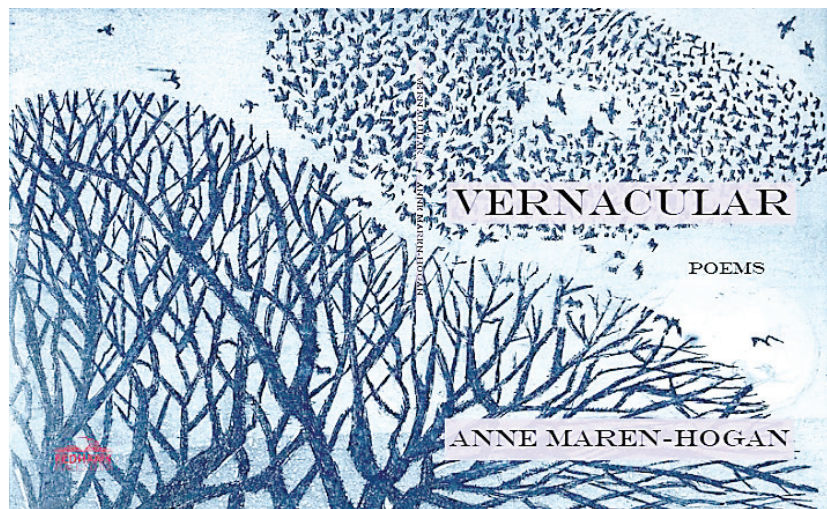
Differences: 1. Moon is changed; 2. Shutters are added; 3. Coat is different; 4. Horn is missing; 5. Streamer is longer; 6. Number is transposed.

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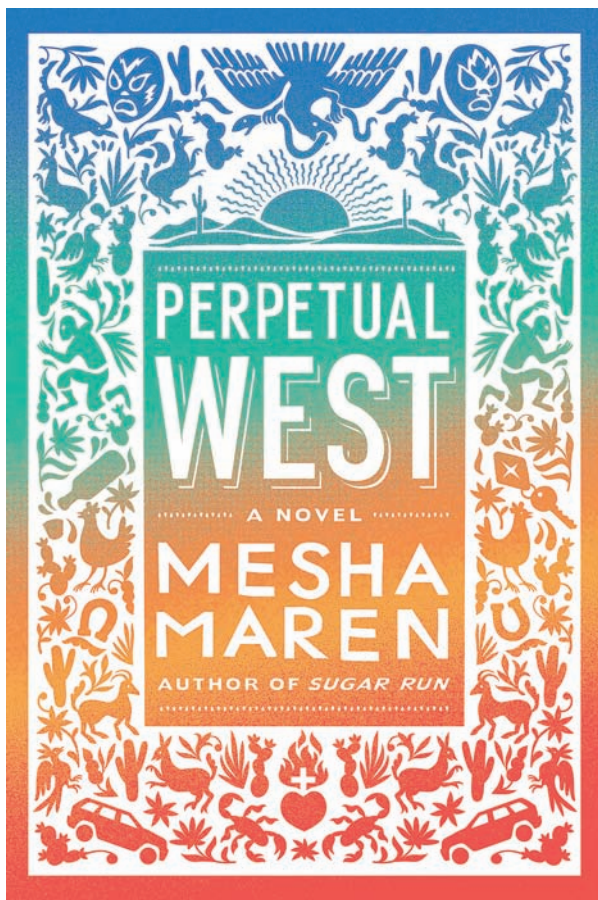
To advertise in the Mountain Messenger call 304-647-5724 or email ads@mountainmessenger.com.

# STEPPIN' OUT

## Authors to hold event at General Lewis



Anna Maren-Hogan (left) and her collection of poems Vernacular, pictured right.



Mesha Maren (above) and her novel (right) Perpetual West

The General Lewis Inn is hosting a literary event with authors Mesha Maren and Anne Maren-Hogan on July 3 at 4 p.m. Mesha Maren will read from her latest novel, Perpetual West. Anne Maren-Hogan will read from her recent collection of poetry, Vernacular. Come enjoy refreshments with this mother and daughter reading in the gardens at the Inn.

UNCA Professor Eric Nelson said, "There's so many outstanding poets in this area, including Anne

Maren-Hogan, whose recently published book, Vernacular, won the 2021 Lena Shull Book Award from the N.C. Poetry Society. Anne's voice and vision come from her childhood on a farm in Iowa, as well as from her adulthood in an intentional community near Burnsville. That may seem idyllic, and in some ways, it is, but Anne's poems are clear-eyed in their depiction of not only wonder and beauty, but also the harshness of living where 'life and

death dare each other' and the outcome is uncertain. It's a rich and compelling collection."

Jennifer Clement wrote in the New York Times

that, "Mesha Maren's novel Perpetual West follows her praiseworthy debut Sugar Run and is delivered in the same measured yet stunning prose."

## GVP celebrates Pride with a week of events

*GVP is once again bringing love and pride to Greenbrier County with a week of events*

Last year, Greenbrier Valley Pride (GVP) brought the area's first Pride parade and festival to the Greenbrier Valley. Organizers and volunteers came together to make a Pride celebration in downtown Lewisburg happen in 29 days. This year, the nonprofit has organized a week of celebrations to give LGBTQIA+ people and allies a week of events to celebrate life, love, and community. This year's theme is: Holler with Pride.

"As we kickoff Pride season in the GBV, I encourage everyone to reflect on what this week means to you, your place in our community, and the importance of your visibility," said Brian Perdue, vice-president of GVP. "Pride is having confidence in your authentic self. In the words of Harvey Fierstein, 'Never be bullied into silence. Never allow yourself to be made a victim. Accept no one's definition of your life. Define yourself.'"

This year, GVP is offering people a week to celebrate Pride. There will be events in Lewisburg, Ronceverte, and White Sulphur Springs for LGBTQIA+ people and allies.

"It's really amazing that a year ago, we had no idea what was going on or how our event was going to turn out or how much that Greenbrier Valley Pride would impact our area," Kelsie Tyson, president of GVP, reflects. "In a year, we've been to school board meeting; we've been to city council meetings. We've fostered so much not only for queer people but for everyone to get to know about the queer experience, to have queer experience. It's helped people to be proud and feel like they have people to be around and be friends with. I'm really excited for this year. It's just great that we're really making history and we're changing lives and I want everyone to be a part of it."

Here is a list of events being held this week to help the Greenbrier Valley celebrate Pride:

- June 24: Pride by the River at Ronceverte Island Park, 6 p.m.
- June 25: Holler With Pride Annual Pride Parade and Festival, 3-7 p.m.
- June 25: Pride After Party Drag and Dance at Hill and Holler, 9 p.m.
- June 26: Pride Worship Service at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 11 a.m.
- June 26: Pride Costume Stretch Party and Pilates w/ Chris Rodriguez-Stanley at the Greenbrier Valley Aquatic Center, 3 p.m.

## Join the First Fridays After Five Celebration on July 1

Downtown Lewisburg celebrates Independence Day with First Fridays After Five on Friday, July 1, from 5 to 8 p.m. Enjoy live music, meet talented artists, catch late evening shopping deals and have a refreshment or two, all free to the public. Everyone is welcome!

Live Music will be performed in the **Greenspace** by Allan Sizemore from 5 to 8 p.m.

Come visit **American Legion Post 69** located upstairs at 818 Jefferson Street S. for our Inaugural First Friday! We'll be

showing "Band of Brothers" on our big screen TV and offering free hot dogs and soft drinks. Stop in and tour our newly renovated Hall and learn about the history of the Post and Veteran activities in Greenbrier County. Look for the American Flag!

**Plants Etc** hosts Independence From Chemicals with Ashly The Bee Lady from Another Season Honey Farm to answer questions and give out information on saving bees and on the benefits of beeswax for skin care and the burning of

beeswax candles for calmness and for purifying a room. (102 Jefferson Street S., 304-645-6910)

**Edith's** will offer samples of The Good Crisp Company Outback Barbecue Chips, the perfect addition to your 4th of July barbecue! (1035 E Washington Street, 304-645-7998)

**Aggie's** will be open late and will serve adult slushies! (979 Washington Street W, 304-645-4063)

**The Hub** will have crocheting and knitting night! Bring

your own yarn or use the yarn and tools provided. This event is free! Please sign up in advance as spots are limited. (232 Lee Street Building C, 304-647-4994)

Declare your Independence from the Ordinary at **County-Seat Art and Music's** showing of Holler Made - WV Creations & Innovations. (5:30 to 7:30 p.m., 848 Court Street (next to Merry Weathers) 304-405-6045)

**Sheena Pendley Design & Photography** will celebrate 1 year of having the studio in downtown Lewisburg! Come celebrate with us at our One Year Bash! Stained Glass Artist Lynda Weischowsky will be there for the unveiling of the new stained glass window at the studio. There will be food, drinks, and a drawing for a basket full of local goodies and a gift card for a photo session. All landscape prints will be discounted, so come stock up!

**Wolf Creek Gallery** is serving a special Independence Day beverage and some in store specials! Get a free reusable bag with your \$50 purchase. (967 Washington Street, 304-645-5270)

**A New Chapter Book Store** hosts author Sara Blizzard and her new book "As A Result." (922 Washington Street West, 681-318-3501)

Now at **The Shoe Box**, state of the art 3D Foot Scanner! Stop by to receive a free foot scan and be entered to win a pair of orthotics! (847 N Court Street, 681-318-3377)

**Little Black Box Bra Boutique** continues to celebrate its 15th Anniversary with a First Fridays Deal: 15% off any purchase of \$100 or more. (818 Jefferson St S 304-645-6646)

**Central Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate** is excited to feature award-winning artist Patricia Stine, who focuses in watercolor. Her art has appeared at Carnegie Hall and other local businesses in the area. (1018 E Washington

Street, 304-645-6633)

The **Greenbrier Valley Visitors Center** welcomes summer with art and music! July's "Art in the Valley" exhibit features a collection of paintings by local artist Misty Murray-Walkup. Misty is well known for her realistic oil and acrylic wildlife paintings. The Visitors Center is also excited to host The Skyline Bluegrass Festival Photographic Exhibit: A Remembrance of the Legendary Greenbrier County Festival, which was held from 1976-1985. The exhibit also includes photographs by local photographer Pat Bauserman. Refreshments will be served, and live music will be provided throughout the evening by Richard Hefner. The Alderson Quilt Guild will be on hand with tickets for their 2022 raffle quilt. Stop in for an evening of art, music, and refreshments! (905 Washington Street W., 304-645-1000)

**Humble Tomato** will be serving a special Independence Day Cocktail: Red White and Boozy!

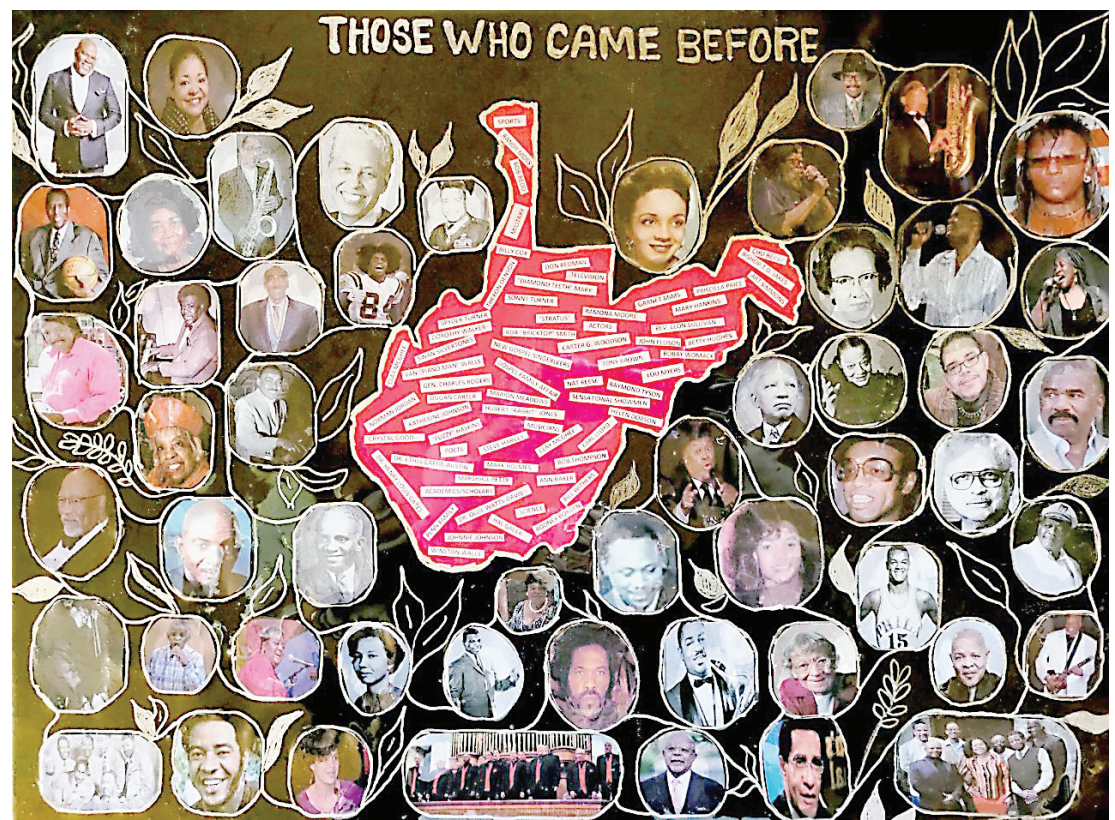
Stop by **Patina** for Live Celtic music by Patrick O'Flaherty along with complimentary drinks and Girl Scout cookies. (1046 Washington Street E, 520-4960)

Finish off your evening at **The Asylum** with the Thomas Taylor Band! (399 Randolph Street East, 681-318-3515)

Continue celebrating the holiday weekend on Saturday with the **Greenbrier Valley Theatre** when they host the first event of the Al Jeter Music Series. The GVT is extremely excited to welcome back the wildly popular lobby cabarets. On Saturday the 2nd checkout A Little Help From My Friends at 7:30 p.m.

First Fridays is sponsored by City National Bank and the Shops & Restaurants of Downtown Lewisburg. For more information check us out online at [visitlewisburgwv.com](http://visitlewisburgwv.com) or call 304-645-6646.

## Carnegie Hall and North House Museum present 'Those Who Came Before'



"Those Who Came Before" graphic

Carnegie Hall partners with the North House Museum to present a new work by singer-songwriter, Doris Fields, aka Lady D. "Those Who Came Before" will be shown in Carnegie Hall's Old Stone Room on Thursday, June 30, at 7 p.m., with a reception at the North House's Frazer's Star Hotel Tavern Room immediately following the viewing. Tickets are \$15.

"Those Who Came Before" is a documentary-style video examining the musical history and heritage of Blacks in West Virginia. The video features interviews with well-known local artists such as jazz musician, Bob Thompson and poet, Crystal Good.

The film is the first in a series of planned videos exploring and celebrating the Black experience in West Virginia. It focuses on African Americans' impact in music, academics, science, sports, and other fields in the mountain state. This video was made possible with a grant from the West Virginia Division of Culture & History.

Tickets may be purchased by visiting [www.carnegiehallwv.org/those-who-came-before](http://www.carnegiehallwv.org/those-who-came-before), calling the Carnegie Hall Box Office at 304-645-7917, or stopping by at 611 Church Street, Lewisburg. Carnegie Hall Box Office is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.