



**Studio Stash Sale at Lee Street Studios**  
Page 11



**Carnegie Classes & Workshops**  
Page 11

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# Mountain messenger

January 21, 2023

Vol. XL, No. 3

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

## MLK Jr. Day Celebration returns after two-year hiatus

By Sarah Richardson

Monday, Jan. 16 saw a packed crowd gathered in front of the Greenbrier County Courthouse for the return of the popular Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration after a two-year break due to the pandemic. Each year on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, participants gather in front of the courthouse to listen to speakers before marching through downtown Lewisburg on Main Street, ending at the Lewisburg United Methodist Church (LUMC), where a service and free community luncheon is held.

Speaker Chris Winston opened in prayer before Lewisburg Mayor Beverly White read the city's Martin Luther King Jr. Day proclamation, and the march began. After passing through town and re-convening at LUMC, participants listened to speakers, singers, and students in the main sanctuary. Watch the march and listen to the program on Facebook under "Lewisburg WV MLK Day Celebration."



The MLK Jr. Day Celebration passes in front of Lewisburg City Hall on their way to the Lewisburg United Methodist Church. (Adam Pack photo)



Lewisburg Mayor Beverly White addresses the crowd in front of the courthouse at the start of the event. (Adam Pack photo)



After a two-year hiatus, a large number of participants turned out for this year's event. (Adam Pack photo)

## Airport Authority discusses aircraft incident at LWB

By Adam Pack

The Greenbrier County Airport Authority met for their regularly scheduled meeting on Jan. 17, at 2 p.m. The authority briefly discussed an incident which occurred at LWB earlier this month. According to Airport Director Brian Belcher, "an aircraft landed, got a flat tire, lost traction and slid into the grass. No one was hurt in the incident, and we immediately reported the incident to the FAA. We gave them a report, which is pretty standard operating procedure, telling them everything that happened as well as the weather at the time and such. We recently heard back from the FAA saying that they have everything they need from us at this point."

The authority also discussed issues with new flight service provider Contour Airlines, noting an uptick in recent flight cancellations. "Up until Dec. 5 we had one cancellation [from the beginning of Contour's service]; since Dec. 5 we've had 11." Belcher and other members of the authority have spoken to Contour executives about See "Airport" — Page 5

## Mike Kidd honored as Lewisburg's Volunteer of the Year

By Sarah Richardson

At this week's Lewisburg City Council meeting, Mayor Beverly White read a proclamation declaring Mike Kidd to be the 2022 Volunteer of the Year for the city.

"The City of Lewisburg is fortunate to have citizens who actively volunteer their time and effort in our community, especially in times of need," read Mayor White, "and sometimes the services these volunteers provide are not highly visible, but greatly enhance the quality of life in our community. These volunteers often receive little recognition for their valuable service. Each year the City of Lewisburg recognizes an individual, or individuals, nominated by City Council to be named Volunteers of the Year for their generous contribution of time and service, and recognizes the Volunteer of the Year by proclaiming Volunteer of the Year Day in Lewisburg."

The proclamation states that City Council has chosen to honor Mike Kidd for his years of service which include being a board member of the Board of Trustees for Greenbrier Valley Medical Center, Greenbrier Valley Theatre, and the Advisory Board of the State Fair of WV, as well as a past president of the Greenbrier County Chamber of Commerce and the Lewisburg Rotary Club, and serving as the president of the Greenbrier County Convention and Visitor's Bureau



Mike Kidd, pictured here moderating a candidate debate for the Chamber of Commerce, is affectionately known as "the voice of Greenbrier County." Lewisburg Mayor Beverly White and Lewisburg City Council have declared Mike the Volunteer of the Year for 2022 in Lewisburg.

for 16 years. He has also emceed the Shanghai Parade for many years, and was inducted into the Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 2014. He has been affectionately called "the voice of Greenbrier County."

"Mike has always supported Lewisburg and contributed greatly to the quality of life through his volunteer efforts for the people of Lewisburg," read Mayor White, and she declared that Jan. 1, 2023 was Mike Kidd Volunteer of the Year Day in Lewisburg. On that day, Mike had a place of honor in the Shanghai Parade in the Volunteer of the Year vehicle, as is tradition.

Mike received a copy of the proclamation, and a hug, from the Mayor.

"I am very thankful, humbled, and appreciative," said Mike. "Thank you all very much."

## Alderson Parks and Recreation delivers annual statement to Town Council

By Adam Pack

The Alderson Town Council met for their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, Jan. 12. With meeting opened with a 2022 year-in-review by Parks and Recreation President R.P. Honaker. "Playground equipment was installed in Municipal Park that included a heavy duty see-saw, a quad climber, a super-slide and a swing set. We now have a swing that accommodates handicapped persons as well," said President Honaker. "It's really neat to see the look on some of these people's faces when they actually go on a swing."

He also gave an overview of parks some funding sources and how they were used throughout the year. "From the 2021-2022 Arts and Recreation Grant we received \$13,969 for the purchase of picnic tables, new basketball nets, a batting cage system, and one set of bleachers. These funds were spent prior to June, 2021. See "Alderson Town Council" — Page 2

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Inside This Week

Number of Sections: 1

GENERAL

Briefly ..... 3

Club & Church ..... 10

Classified ..... 6

For the Record ..... 3

Obituaries ..... 5

Opinion ..... 4

ENTERTAINMENT

Steppin' Out ..... 12

Sudoku Puzzle ..... 9

Dining Guide ..... 12



6 06805 93379 6

**Alderson Town Council**

Continued from Front Page

Under the Hunicutt Grant we received \$5,000 for paving at the park, and that has been completed as of this presentation. We also received \$5,000 from the Seneca Trail Grant that was for more paving at the park again. The Seneca Trail Grant paid \$36,000 for refurbishing the lower concession stand at the Senior League field. Work has started but is still in progress as of this presentation.”

The work at the lower field concession will include ADA compliance work as well as refitting the restroom facilities to bring them to a higher standard and make them more vandalism-resistant. The department also received \$2,750.00 from the 2023 Arts and Recreation Grant for the purchase of backstop netting.

Honaker also reviewed volunteer work in the town, including updates to some field usage schedules. “We had a volunteer clean-up day with a lot of volunteers, probably the most we’ve had in a long time. Special thanks to Dylan Carter for removing two large poplar trees without charging us at all, he was a very big help. All totaled there were probably 80 people up there that day for park clean-up. Back in March, we had a working meeting with Little League and Greater Greenbrier Softball League to try and get everyone on the same page. There are always disputes between the two in every community as to ‘who’s got the field’ and ‘who’s got this’ so we just sat them both down and put everything on the table and I don’t think we’re going to have any problems going forward, everyone came to a consensus that we’re here to take care of the kids.”

Looking ahead, Honaker informed the council that the department is in the process of making their 2023-2024 Arts and Recreation Grant requests, which include the replacement of the doors at the stone gates at Memorial Field, the purchase of new goal posts for the football field, and potentially crowning the field.

In other business, the town finalized Flat Mountain/Monroe Flood Mitigation work with the approval of the payment of that project’s final invoice. The project overran its budget by \$3,553.50, bringing the total to \$186,292.80. Mayor Travis Copenhaver reported that the Monroe County Commission “stepped up and went above their original \$150,000 to make their contribution \$167,000 to help pay that.” With overall funding for the project coming from the town of Alderson, the Monroe County Commission, and FirstEnergy, the town was able to pay the final invoice in full, closing out the project. With this payment completed the town can also begin the process of potential reimbursement by FEMA.

Meanwhile, new developments in the ongoing water lines project have led to a change at the very top of the project’s sanctioning, oversight, and regulatory landscape going forward. As of the passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 in Congress, better known as The 2023 Omnibus Bill, the Environmental Protection Agency now has more funding than the Army Corps of Engineers. Due to this, the town’s water lines project must now be overseen by the E.P.A. The town amended the contract with The Thrasher Group to re-

flect this change, and has begun the re-submission of preliminary paperwork necessary to begin working with the E.P.A. on new water lines for the town. The council also opened and accepted a bidder for the negotiation and acquisition of easements and rights-of-way for the water lines project. West Virginia Infrastructure Services has proposed a rate of \$300/negotiation, totaling \$29,000 given the number of right-of-ways and easement negotiations needed. The town accepted the bid.

The Town Council also briefed the public on the process for upcoming municipal elections. Town Councilwoman and Recorder Betty Thomas explained some of the details. “This year is an election year for the Town of Alderson, and we will be holding our election on the second Tuesday in June, which this year is June 13, 2023,” said Thomas.

Positions up for election are mayor, recorder, and all seats on the Town Council. For those interested in running for office Thomas explained that, “conventions for that purpose of nominating the candidates must be held and all candidates nominated and certified by Feb. 21, 2023.” Municipal parties are the Citizen’s Party and the People’s Party, however, “any five qualified voters residing in the town of Alderson may call a convention for the purpose of nominating candidates for these offices.” Party chairman or convention organizers must give three day’s notice prior to the holding of their convention. This notice can be in newspapers, but can also be accomplished through posters displayed in prominent local places. All paperwork can be procured at Town Hall or from Betty Thomas, who can be reached at 304-573-0492.

Lastly, Mayor Copenhaver noted that the town is looking for a police officer to complete the town’s budget for police staff. The town currently pays three full-time officers despite being budgeted for four. The town would prefer an already certified officer, but as Mayor Copenhaver pointed out, “those are scarce and getting harder to come by.” With that, the council adjourned.

The Alderson Town Council meets regularly on the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. Interested parties should call 304-445-2916 to confirm time and date of meeting, as they are subject to change.

### Court Street closure planned Tuesday

Court Street in front of the Greenbrier County Courthouse will be closed to all vehicle traffic on Tuesday, Jan. 24, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please use the detour route along Randolph Street and Green Lane.

The Courthouse will remain open to the public with pedestrian access through the main entrance. Parking will be available in the county lot off of Arbuckle Lane. We apologize for any inconvenience.

PICK OF THE LITTER



SPOT

Spot is an eight-year-old heeler and pitbull terrier mix. He weighs 70 pounds.



MEGAN

Megan is a four-year-old female domestic short-hair.

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.

Call 304-645-4775 for more information.

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

## 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. **Party Jan. 21 for Thomas Taylor nominated for the Josie Music Award. Dance Jan. 28 features Eade's Mountain Boys Band 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.

## Williamsburg Shooting Match

The next Williamsburg Shooting Match will be held on Saturday, Jan. 21 at the Williamsburg Community Building, 6571 Shoestring Trail, Williamsburg. Match start at 7 p.m., but food concessions open at 6 p.m. Match will be eight rounds, 12-gauge guns only. First seven rounds are \$2 per shot, eighth round 50/50 at \$6 per shot. Shooters must compete in the first seven rounds in order to compete in the eighth round. 50/50 splatter match is \$1 per chance between rounds. Cash prizes will be awarded. You do not need to be a shooter to win! Delicious hot food and refreshments will be available starting at 6 p.m. Families are welcomed, you don't have to shoot to come get a meal! Proceeds benefit Williamsburg Community service projects. Sponsored by a joint effort of the Williamsburg Community Action and the Williamsburg Ruritans. For more information and directions visit website [www.williamsburg-wv.com](http://www.williamsburg-wv.com), or contact Bill Jarvis at 304-645-3690.

## Democratic Women to meet

The next meeting of the Greenbrier County Democratic Women's Club will be Tuesday, Jan. 24, at 5:30 p.m. at the Old Stone Church Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

## Democratic Executive Committee

will hold the next meeting of the Greenbrier County Democratic Executive Committee on Wednesday, Feb. 8, at 5:30 p.m. at the Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate office in Lewisburg.

## Marriages

Jesus Antonio Meza Cobos, White Sulphur Springs to Sierra Shay Knapp, White Sulphur Springs

## Suits

In Re: The Marriage of: Shay Edward Mallory and Sibel Mallory  
In Re: The Marriage of: Crystal Dawn Scott and Joseph Scott, Jr.

## 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.

## Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Convictions

Thomas W. Brierton, Williamsburg, VA, driving too fast for roadway conditions, NCP, fine \$18  
Josephine Spencer-Speirer, Lawrence, KS, speeding, NCP, fine \$16  
Kyle M. Shrader, Dublin, OH, speeding, GP, fine \$10  
Robin Leigh Wagner, White Sulphur Springs, possession of controlled substance, NCP, fine \$100  
Michael Crookshanks, Hines, driving with no license, GP, fine \$25  
Barbara A. White, Lewisburg, not stopping at red light, NCP, fine \$10  
Kenneth C. Clutter, Kingsport, TN, stop sign violation, NCP, fine \$10  
Michael Lee Hall, Ronceverte, petit larceny, NCP, fine \$50  
Jean Ryan Patton, Ronceverte, battery, GP, jail 5 days - suspended and placed on 60 days Home Confinement

## 2023-2024 Preschool and Kindergarten registration event dates announced

Greenbrier County Schools (GCS) will host preschool and kindergarten registration on two dates and locations for children who will be four years old before July 1, 2023, for preschool and five years old before July 1, 2023, for kindergarten. Students currently enrolled in a GCS Pre-K program will be automatically enrolled in kindergarten in their home school district; therefore, parents of GCS Pre-K students will not need to attend a registration session.

Preschool and Kindergarten registration will take place at the following locations:

- Mar. 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the old Greenbrier County Board Office, 197 Chestnut Street, Lewisburg
- Mar. 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Rupert Elementary School, Crawley

What to bring:  
(children do not need to be present to register):  
• Preschool parents should complete the online application at [www.greenbriercountyschools.org](http://www.greenbriercountyschools.org)  
• Official State issued birth certificate (not a copy);

## For the Record

### Deeds

Allen Sheppard to Triple 7 Real Estate Inc., 1.65 Acres, Lewisburg District  
David M. Fraley and Louise Edith Fraley to David M. Fraley, Jr. and Debra J. Fraley, 18.90 Acres, Irish Corner District  
Allen Sheppard to Triple 7 Real Estate Inc., 1.65 Acres, Lewisburg District  
David M. Fraley and Louise Edith Fraley to David M. Fraley, Jr. and Debra J. Fraley, 18.90 Acres, Irish Corner District  
Robert B. Holstein and Jean A. Holstein to Lance Bailey and Elizabeth Bailey, 1.999 Acres, Irish Corner District  
Gregory B. Wingo and Rachel Lynne Kelly to Walter H. Wingo, Inc., 0.605 Acre, Lewisburg Municipality  
Ream Interests Inc. to Stuart Robert Buttrick and Hillary Guenther Buttrick, Lot No. 31, Greenbrier Summit Village Phase One Neighborhood, The Greenbrier Sporting Club, White Sulphur District  
Merriweather Ruffner Franklin to Francois Benoit Barry, Unit B2, 60 West Townhouses, Lewisburg Dist.  
Sharon Kay Hanna to Charles Scott Steele, Parcel 12, 12.006 Acres, White Sulphur District  
David Livingston and Tina Livingston to Michael D. Redden and Katherine R. Redden, Lots Nos. 30, 31, and 32, Block No. 29, Subdivision No. 1, Town of Rupert  
Drew T. Kagan to George H. Wright, III and Sandra Deppner Wright, Lot No. 8, 2.56 Acres, Falling Springs District  
Anice Skaggs to Thomas L. Brooks, Jr., Lots Nos. 45 and 46, Bellburn Subdivision, Meadow Bluff District  
Land Flipper Enterprises, LLC. to Brandon Stuart Roberts, 2.00 Acres, Lewisburg District

- Immunization record;
- Copy of current physical exam
- Copy of most recent dental exam
- Two proofs of residency;
- Social Security card of child; and
- Relevant custody order, if applicable.
- Preschool parents should also bring proof of income.
- Preschool parents should also bring a copy of child's insurance card

Kindergarten early entrance testing will be conducted in June 2023. To be eligible for this early-entrance evaluation process, a child must be 5 years old between July 1 and Sept. 15, 2023. Results of the tests and evaluations must provide evidence that the child not only has sufficient intellectual maturity but must also show social, emotional, and physical maturity to function within the academic setting.

Parents may contact Nancy Hanna, associate superintendent, at 304-647-6470 by May 31, 2023, to request an appointment for kindergarten early-entrance testing.

## WV Legislative Interims: Human trafficking and foster care discussed, said major problems

By Matt Young, WV Press Association

Human trafficking and foster care were on the agenda as the Joint Committee on Children and Families met during the second day of January's Interim Legislative Session.

The meeting's first presenter, West Virginia House of Delegates Counsel Robert Leslie, began by providing committee members with "some background" on the risks of human trafficking within the state.

"To explain it simply, human trafficking is basically modern day slavery," Leslie began. "We all think that slavery ended in the United States with the conclusion of the Civil War. However, I'm sad to say that it does still exist."

According to Leslie, human trafficking is defined as: "Obtaining, procuring, recruiting, or providing labor, service or commercial sex from another person through the use of fraud, force, or coercion. However, if a person is under 18 years of age, fraud, force, or coercion are not essential elements."

"Oftentimes if we see something that we think might be human trafficking, or that actually is human trafficking, our instinct is to tamp that down," Leslie said. "We make apologies for those things. The human being is the only animal that will ignore its instinct. And the sad reality is that that allows trafficking to occur."

Leslie further explained that underage prostitution is no longer considered a

criminal activity, as an underage sex worker is, by definition, a human trafficking victim.

"The young person out there - they're being prostituted, not prostituting," Leslie said. "Somebody is behind them working

them. No child ever woke up one morning and decided 'I want to go be a prostitute.'"

Leslie noted that human trafficking is commonly found in cases of run-See "Human Trafficking" Page 4

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# OPINION

## Nature's Way

By Karen Cohen

### What's Bugging You?

Bugs. Can't live with them; can't live without them. Maybe you think, "What good are they?" It has been said that if ever humans go extinct at some point in time, bugs will still populate this planet.

Stink bugs are invading this area slowly but surely. They crawl into warm places like attics or sheds and overwinter. When spring hits, they are back outside and can be found nibbling on your veggies. Large colonies can ruin crops and cost tons of money to eradicate them. Spraying is not always the easy solution because they have a waxy coat that repels toxic chemicals. From what I read, homeowners are cautioned not to smash them. When they are crushed, they emit a stinky smell which lingers. Yes, I have smelled it and yes, it stinks. Soapy water with vinegar is advised to drown them in either a wet vac or pail. At night, they are attracted to light. I found a bunch trying to get in my backdoor screen when I left the nightlight on there. It is best to turn off lights at night if you find bugs are heading to your home for shelter.

Some bugs can survive being flushed down toilets, cockroaches for example. They can survive submerged in water for up to 40 minutes and can end up in the sewer system alive. They are often dwelling in bathrooms; they eat soap and human cells that flake off after a shower. Hey, food is food. Spiders can live up to one hour in water.


It is easy to capture a bug in a cup if you don't want to kill it. If there is a wasp or spider, I get a plastic cup, place it over them quickly (no hesitating because they can see you coming!), and then slide a piece of cardboard under the cup to keep the bug trapped, take it outside and place it gently on the ground and leave. Will it come back? Maybe, and so will its future generations. Vacuuming bugs is one way to gather up a bunch at once. If you empty the vacuum outside, many bugs can still be alive and just crawl out of the dust.

Ants are another pest invading our kitchens in search of food. We left our honey jar on the kitchen counter. That activity stopped when we found a spoonful of honey that we stirred into a hot cup of tea containing hundreds of dead ants. Gag me with a spoon! They apparently got into the jar under the screw lid and then drowned in the ecstasy of sweetness. Salt will attract them, too. I use Borax laundry powder along my windowsill if I notice ants marching inside. It stops them. You can use honey mixed with borax to bait them, but I'd rather not invite them inside at all. Bugs that eat borax get dehydrated and die. Easy fix but keep animals away from the powder as it can cause gastric issues and kidney damage to pets. Kids shouldn't be tasting borax or any laundry detergent for that matter.

Asian Lady Beetles are a big nuisance and some folks can develop an allergy to them. When crushed, they emit a distinct odor and an orange staining liquid as a defense reaction.

They come inside in droves and can be found covering entire walls at times. Even newly built homes have enough tiny cracks around windows and doors to allow bugs to get inside. Once we had a ceiling light start to smoke for no reason. We turned off the electric power to it, removed the dome, and found a bunch of incinerated lady beetles. They had crawled in through attic vents and got in under the floorboards. The warmth of the lit bulb attracted them but also burned them up. Foggers and bug bombs are not recommended because the bugs are deep inside walls and insecticides will not reach them. Note: Dead bugs inside walls attract other bugs to come and eat them.

Oh boy, are we stuck with all these creepy crawlers? Remember I said that we humans can't live without them? Contemplate this. Bees are necessary for pollination. Some vegetables, fruit trees, and flowers need bees to gather nectar and pollen. When a bee goes from one flower to the next it is spreading pollen which "pol-



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linates" the plant. Butterflies do the same thing. Large crops of watermelons and cucumbers, for example, could never be hand pollinated by a human; bugs do the job! Bugs are also decomposers of just about anything, fallen leaves and live leaves, other bugs, dead animals or live animals, dead bodies or live ones. Bugs can live in the ground, in your house, in your bed, even in your hair. But let's not go there.

Back to the pros of insects. Your garden thrives when it has a healthy balance of insects, those that eat the eggs of harmful insects, for example. Predator bugs such as praying mantis eat all kinds of bugs including butterflies. They can be safe to handle if you have that urge. Ladybugs eat other bugs and can consume up to 40 aphids per hour. Garden supply shops sell ladybugs for your garden to help control other pesky insects. Spiders, like the locally common wolf spider may, scare you with its size and its ability to jump, are relatively harmless to humans but deadly to other bugs. They rarely bite humans and are not poisonous. Take these little guys outside in a jar if you see one in the house; don't kill them!

In my garden I attract good and bad bugs by leaving weedy patches here and there. Remember: the bugs have to eat something. If you take out every last weed leaving only veggies, guess what's for dinner? Being organic and chemical free, I resort to hand removing harmful bugs, such as the potato beetle. A cup of vinegar water nearby as a depository is easy enough to drop them into.

Insecticide resistance occurs when insects are exposed to insecticides and develop a tolerance to them. Succeeding generations carry the genes to survive, too. You know the old saying from Friedrich Nietzsche, "That which does not kill us makes us stronger." Spray as a last resort and remember that toxic chemicals that kill bugs are a biocide. Biocides such as pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides are substances that destroy living things. Try using natural methods whenever possible!

*(Karen Cohen grows vegetables, herbs, and flowers and writes about gardening ideas and her experiences. If you would like to leave a comment or gardening tip, please email [natureswaykaren@gmail.com](mailto:natureswaykaren@gmail.com). Happy gardening!)*

## Human Trafficking

Continued from Page 3

aways, sexual abuse, drug addiction, commercial sex involving minors, child pornography, and drug rings. According to Leslie, more than 70% of minors are sexually exploited within 48-hours of running away.

As part of his presentation, Leslie provided the committee with a list of "Common Misconceptions" surrounding human trafficking, including:

- It only happens overseas.
- The victim has to be moved from one place to another.
- It is limited to situations involving foreign nationals.
- It is limited to sexual exploitation.
- Trafficking victims are forcibly moved to a different place and are confined.
- It does not happen here.
- The trafficking victim allows this to occur.

Further noted as part of Leslie's presentation: "Human trafficking is the second largest, and fastest growing criminal enterprise worldwide. It is second only to narcotics and is a \$150 billion per year industry and includes both labor and sex trafficking."

"When a trafficker gets a human trafficking victim, they can sell that person again and again and again," Leslie said, before adding that the average age for children to become a trafficking victim is between 11 and 14 years old.

"For every victim that is trafficked at the age of 18, you have to offset that with a victim who is six to drive the average to 12," Leslie added. "Let that sink in."

West Virginia is particularly susceptible to human trafficking, according to Leslie, due, in large part, to the opioid epidemic, an exorbitant number of foster children, and severe economic issues plaguing the state. There are four classifications of trafficking, including commercial sex, labor, and domestic servitude. With regard to the fourth type - human smuggling - West Virginia has not yet established a criminal statute.

"That (human smuggling) may be one of the things

that you're asked to look at this year," Leslie told committee members. "That is becoming quite a problem, particularly in the panhandles near the interstate."

At the conclusion of Leslie's presentation, Jeremiah Samples, senior advisor to the Legislature's Joint Committee on Government and Finance, spoke of the risks associated with teens aging out of the foster care system.

"I'll be going through a lot of statistics during this presentation," Samples began. "But we can never forget that each one of these individuals is a human being - someone who is suffering in ways that I don't know if anyone in this room can really comprehend."

According to Samples, West Virginia leads the nation in per capita children in the custody of the foster care system. In addition, for every 1,000 children in the state, 12.8 enter foster care, which is "almost double the next-worse state."

Another very troubling statistic reported by Samples concerns the number of children who run away from foster settings. A total of 268 foster children ran away in 2021, including 17 who have since aged out of the system.

"Seventeen kids aged out, and they ran away from the foster system," Samples said. "We don't know what happened to them."

"When we talk about risk on a spectrum, and the probability of terrible things happening - and you juxtapose these numbers against what Mr. Leslie had presented," Samples continued, "those are the types of people (run-aways) who are targeted by these folks that would exploit someone that really doesn't have a linkage to a family, or support in this world."

"It's a major problem," Samples added, before explaining that, as reported by the Bureau for Social Services, the number of West Virginia's children who have aged out of the foster care system has risen from 210 in 2018, to 229 in 2021.

## AG Morrissey announces \$83M opioid settlement with Walgreens

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrissey on Wednesday announced a settlement has been reached between his office and Walgreens for \$83 million. The settlement resolves a lawsuit that alleged the pharmacy chain failed to maintain effective controls as a distributor and dispenser against diversion that contributed to oversupply of opioids in the state.

"We will continue to seek out justice for those affected the most by the opioid epidemic that hit our state the hardest," Attorney General Morrissey said. "This and other settlements will not bring back the lives lost from the opioid menace, but our hope is that the money would provide significant help to those affected the most by this crisis in West Virginia."

Walgreens has agreed to pay the settlement within an eight-year period.

Walgreens is part of a larger litigation involving other major pharmacies - Kroger, Walmart, CVS and Rite Aid.

Walmart and CVS settled with the state last September: Walmart agreed to a settlement of \$65,070,000; CVS for \$82.5 million.

Last August, Rite Aid settled for up to \$30 million to resolve similar litigation.

Kroger is the last remaining defendant in this litigation.

The lawsuits allege the pharmacies' contribution to the oversupply of prescription opioids in the state have caused "significant losses through their past and ongoing medical treatment costs, including for minors born addicted to opioids, rehabilitation costs, naloxone costs, medical examiner expenses, self-funded state insurance costs and other forms of losses to address opioid-related afflictions and loss of lives."

"So many lives have been lost and shattered by this menace," Attorney General Morrissey said. "We will continue to fight for those families and we will serve as the voices of the sons and daughters they have lost."

The money from all opioid settlements will be distributed under the terms of the West Virginia First Memorandum of Understanding. Announced last year, the MOU is an agreement with the state and local governments on how future settlement dollars would be used to abate the opioid crisis throughout the state. It contains a comprehensive plan to use those funds to abate the massive problems caused by the flood of opioids into West Virginia.

## Commentary

### WVPE 2023 annual goals

By Scott Womack, WVPE Legislative Representative and Monroe County Chair

West Virginia Professional Educators (WVPE) has developed five goals based on the needs and concerns of its membership. Data for these goals was compiled from members' responses to our Fall 2022 survey:

1. Educators hired since July 2015 (Tier II) should have the option to convert their unused sick days into years of service or for insurance premiums.
2. Teacher salaries and incentives should be increased in order to recruit, and retain, and attract new educators to the field, and to be competitive to salaries offered in school systems of neighboring states.
3. The potential for PEIA premiums to increase in 2027 must be averted to ensure that coverage continues to remain affordable for educators and state workers with a dedicated funding plan.
4. We support the West Virginia Legislature and the West Virginia Department of Education goal to focus on core subject areas and for expanding supports that will enable our teachers to successfully meet the needs of our students.
5. As more students qualify for Special Education services, more supports are needed to effectively manage these larger caseloads, and expand our Special Education teacher base, to ensure that these students' needs are being met.



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# OBITUARIES

**John Blaine Cowan**


**Myrtle Beach, SC**-We are sad to announce the passing of John Blaine Cowan. He passed peacefully at the age of 72 on Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2023. Blaine passed away surrounded by loved ones at home.

He will be sadly missed and will always hold a place in our hearts. Blaine enjoyed playing golf and enjoyed spending quality time with his family.

He is survived by his loving wife, Stephanie Paige Cowan; his daughter, Jaime Cowan Hunt (Caskey); two wonderful grandchildren, Coulter Cowan Hunt, Nash St. Clair Hunt and their dog Daisy; his sisters, Sandra Elaine Cowan-Watkins (Rodney d. 2023), Donna Gail Cowan, Lora Charlene Wyatt (Mike), Marie Louise Parker (Jerry); half-sisters, Priscilla Cowan and Gwen Till (Scott); sister-in-law, Sarah Lynn Neville (Claudia); mother-in-law, Donna Dee DeLong; step-father-in-law, Edward Paul DeLong and; his niece, Bailey Aaron Neville.

He was predeceased by his mother, Juanita Irene Hamm; his father, James Blaine Cowan; his brother, James "Butch" Brian Cowan (Diane); his brother-in-law, Anthony Stephen Neville; and his father-in-law, Earl Houston Neville.

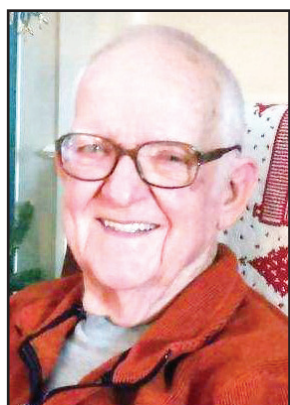
Blaine was born in Washington, DC, on Feb. 11, 1950, however, he spent much of his boyhood in Eleanor, WV. After graduating from high school in 1970, he proudly served in the Air Force for 20 years, stationed around the world. Blaine served his country well in the Vietnam War. He was awarded many medals in recognition of his service. He received his Bachelor of Science in Business from the University of Maryland University College. He joined the White House Communication Agency in 1984, where he worked with former President Ronald Reagan, George Bush, Sr., and former Vice President Dan Quayle. After leaving the White House, he joined the Department of Treasury. Blaine retired recently from the City of Myrtle Beach in 2022.

All of Blaine's friends and acquaintances were aware of his generous spirit and large heart. Blaine was a devoted father, grandfather, and husband. He placed an emphasis on the importance of family in all that he did.

A funeral service will be held at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg, on Thursday, Jan. 19 at noon.

In lieu of Flowers, please make a donation to the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Fund. (<https://www.vvmf.org/giving-to-vvmf/>)

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

**Carl William Moats**


**Blacksburg, VA**-Carl William Moats, born on Oct. 26, 1924 in Elkins, WV, to the late Melvin and Carrie (Campbell) Moats, passed away at age 98 just before midnight, Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022 in Blacksburg, VA.

Carl was preceded in death by his loving wife, Virginia (Redys) Moats; siblings, Haskell Moats (Louise), Mildred (Bill) Davis, Edna (Ralph) Moats, Woodrow (Julia) Moats; and son, Paul Zakrzewski.

Carl is survived by his daughters, Barbara (Jim) Davis, Kathleen (Bill) Bittinger, Monica Foos; and son, Damian Zakrzewski. He leaves behind five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews and a large extended family.

Carl was born the youngest of five children on a farm in Elkins. He graduated from Elkins High School and was immediately drafted into the Navy, spending most of his time stationed in the Aleutian Islands. After three years of service, he returned home and began working for C&P Telephone. Carl relocated to Maryland and met his first wife Aletha and welcomed a daughter, Barbara. Through his work with the telephone company, he was credited with installing the first phone in the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab in Laurel, MD, and worked at that facility until he retired.

In 1972, he married his long lost childhood sweetheart, Virginia and gained four stepchildren, Kathy, Paul, Monica and Damian. Carl took great pride in his enormous garden and loved dropping off fresh fruits and vegetables to family, friends and neighbors. Carl loved nothing more than being a grandfather and shared his love of gardening and fishing with each of his grandchildren. After his wife passed, Carl moved back to West Virginia with his daughter Monica where he spent the last 12 years of his life making friends everywhere he went.

Friends and family members are invited to attend the memorial service Saturday, Jan. 21, at 3 p.m. at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Chapel, 175 Mountain Avenue, White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Greenbrier County Public Library in Lewisburg, WV. Please send online condolences by visiting [www.WallaceandWallace-FH.com](http://www.WallaceandWallace-FH.com)

**Andy Lee Fisher**


**Alderson**-Andy Lee Fisher, 53, died at Charleston Area Medical Center following a short illness on Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023.

Andy was born on Dec. 11, 1969 in Union, WV.

Andy was an avid hunter and fisherman and loved the outdoors.

Andy was preceded in death by his father, James Richard Fisher; his mother, Wanda Blanch Tingle; his brothers, William (Billy) Fisher, and Donald Ray Fisher; and sister, Ruby Kay Lephew.

Those left behind to remember Andy include his son, Andrew Fisher (Kimberly) of Alderson; daughters, Amber Maynard (Chris) of Princeton, WV, and Kayla Crowley (Chance) of Mullens; brother, James Allen Fisher of Alderson; and sisters, Betty Elmore of Alderson, and Lorri Dunbar (Charles) of Alderson.

In lieu of flowers, the family will accept donations to help offset expenses.

Andy's viewing was held Saturday evening, Jan. 14, at Lantz Funeral Home, 101 Davis Street, Alderson.

His funeral was held on Sunday, Jan. 15, at the funeral home. Interment followed in the Fisher Family Cemetery at Wolf Creek, WV.

Lantz Funeral Home is honored to serve Andy's family in their time of need.

**Jason Jay Bladen**


**Ronceverte**-Jason Jay Bladen, 48, passed away on Friday, Jan. 13, 2023 at Roanoke Memorial Hospital.

He was born Jan. 17, 1974 in Prince George County, MD.

Jason was Person Center Support Staff with Home Health Care.

He is survived by his wife, Heather Osborne Bladen; sons, Jacob, Isaac, Jason Dalen and Gabriel; daughters, Gracie and Madison; grandson, Kaleb; parents, Dale E. and Diane Kidd Bladen; sister, Tammy Abell; brothers, Robert David and Christian Edward Bladen; and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, Feb. 4, at 1 p.m. at the Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg with Pastor

Joey Terry officiating.

The family will receive family and friends from 12 noon until time of services at the funeral home on Saturday, Feb. 4.

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

**Mary Ann White Musser**


**Maxwelton**-Mary Ann White Musser, 93, passed away peacefully on Monday, Jan. 16, 2023, at Stonerise, The Brier in Roncerverte.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Charles Franklin and Sarah Elizabeth Legg White; a brother, Charles W. White; and sisters, Elizabeth Arbuckle and Margaret Lane.

She is survived by her five children, Sarah Simpkins, Davis Musser, Barbara Warner (Dan), Bruce Musser (Pam) and Joe Musser. Mary Ann leaves grandchildren and step-grandchildren, Jessica Simpkins, Travis Simpkins, Kaly Warnari, Ryland Warner, James Livesay and Courtney Gotch, and her great-grandchildren, Lyric Warnari, Ashby and Abigail Simpkins.

Mary Ann was born on July 3, 1929, graduated from Lewisburg High School in 1948, and was a life long member of Clifton Presbyterian Church. Mary Ann was a homemaker and raised five children. She worked at The Greenbrier Center in Lewisburg. She completed

her LPN training at age 50 and worked as a private caregiver. She enjoyed traveling, playing games and spending time with family and friends. She loved naps, books, nature walks, watching tennis and the WVU Mountaineers, and singing in the church choir.

Mary Ann was a special person, she took care of us, loved us and set an example of resilience and independence. She will be remembered as a person who gave love and kindness to the world.

Plans for a celebration of life are pending and will be announced at a later time.

In lieu of flowers, donations of sympathy may be made to Clifton Presbyterian Church.

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

## Airport

Continued from Front Page

this issue, and Belcher relayed that Contour claims that five were due to maintenance issues, five were weather related, and one other cancellation with no explanation provided to the Authority.

Belcher explained, "It's more operational issues in Charlotte that they were having with aircraft. This is not just here, its growing pains that Contour is feeling across their service area because they just took on nine cities. We're just going to have to work through it for now."

As a sign of better things to come, however, Belcher was able to inform the authority that materials for the foundation of the new entrance sign will be arriving on Jan. 20, and work will begin to place that foundation when the weather permits. "Stonework is very moisture and weather dependent, but we have the sign scheduled to be completed in May and we're hoping they can beat that," said Parrish & Partners engineer Jon McCalmont.

Belcher also mentioned that Almost Heaven Taxi Service has presented the airport with all documents, and that they have been approved by the Public Service Commission. The company is also requesting to lease a 10 foot by 10 foot area in the lobby corner to install a desk and chair for business use. Given that the space requested does not interrupt TSA traffic flow regulations, the authority is open to hearing the lease request at a later date.

The authority also retrospectively authorized the purchase of a compressor for the heating unit on the south end of the main terminal totaling \$13,373.38. Chairwoman Deborah Phillips authorized the purchase last month via emergency powers, saying "it was Christmas, temperatures were getting down to zero, people were freezing, so I went ahead and made the emergency purchase."

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- The deceased should be a current or former resident of the newspaper coverage area, or have family members who have lived or are living in this area.
- Obituaries are accepted from funeral homes or funeral directors.
- Obituaries may be edited to conform to the newspaper standards and deadlines.

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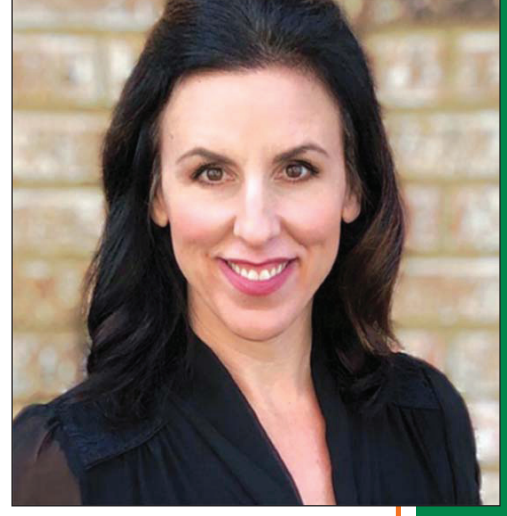
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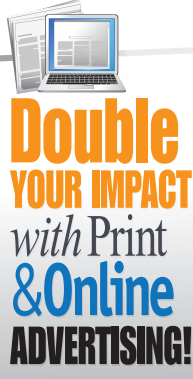


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Phone: (304) 872-5872 Fax: (304) 872-5877

The Mountain Transit Authority is now hiring full-time CDL with passenger endorsement \$14 per hour, and part-time bus operators in Greenbrier County.

Hiring for NON-CDL drivers \$13 per hour. Retirees and Senior Citizens are encouraged to apply at MTA's office located at 1096 Broad Street, Summersville, WV between 8 a.m.-4p.m. Monday-Friday.

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## SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Grape
2. Talent;
3. Simply;
4. Other

## Today's Word LOTTERY

### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

### Super Crossword

Answers

J	A	M	B	E	G	S	A	L	A	D	E	L	I	T	I	S	T
U	R	A	L	D	I	A	T	R	I	B	E	T	A	B	A	S	C
M	I	D	I	S	T	R	A	I	T	O	F	M	A	G	E	L	L
B	A	R	N	S	I	D	A	O	T	S	L	E	E	R	Y		
O	L	E	G	C	A	S	S	I	N	I	G	I	G	I			
				A	L	P	H	A	M	A	I	N	E	E	D	S	T
R	E	L	A	B	E	L	L	A	N	D	S	U	R	V	E	Y	O
O	V	E	R	I	S	M	E	N	O	N	M	E	R	R	I	E	
L	I	V	E	A	T	T	H	E	A	P	O	L	L	O	U	L	A
F	L	I	N	C	H	U	R	D	U	O	S	H	A	P	E	D	
				A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N	P	I	O	N	E	E
C	A	T	S	E	Y	E	T	A	C	K	C	D	C	A	S	E	
H	U	E	C	H	R	Y	S	L	E	R	V	O	Y	A	G	E	R
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O	N	E	T	W	O	S	P	A	S	S	E	S	O	N	N	A	S

# Dear Recycle Lady,

**Dear Recycle Lady,**  
I have seen PFAS mentioned in several articles. What exactly are PFAS?  
*Curious*

**Dear Curious,**  
PFAS, often pronounced P Fas, are per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances. They are often called "forever chemicals" because they stay in the environment and our bodies indefinitely. According to [www.consumerreports.org/pfas-food-packaging/dangerous-pfas-chemicals](http://www.consumerreports.org/pfas-food-packaging/dangerous-pfas-chemicals), a 27-year old chemist, Roy Plunkett, "stumbled" across this chemical in 1938; a chemical with a bond so strong it would last almost forever. Today it can be found in our water, air, bodies, animals, food, and homes. PFAS are in wildlife, fish, and soil. They are in grease-resistant packaging that holds takeout foods, plastic bottles, and disposable bowls. Current peer-reviewed scientific studies have shown that exposure to certain levels of PFAS may lead to a variety of health problems. For more information see EPA's website, [www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-explained](http://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-explained).

**Dear Recycle Lady,**  
I love working jigsaw puzzles. Because I work so many, I am beginning to have quite a large stack of completed puzzles. Any suggestions as to where I

can donate them?  
*Puzzle Fan*

**Dear Puzzle Fan,**  
I also love working jigsaw puzzles, as do quite a few people in the area. Local libraries, Senior Centers and nursing homes all have puzzle tables and appreciate donations. Puzzles can also be donated to The Americana in Lewisburg to support their charitable efforts. Not only are puzzles fun to do, they are also good for your brain, so happy puzzling everyone!

**Dear Readers,**  
A word of caution when putting an aluminum pan in the microwave. Be sure there is no aluminum foil covering the top of the pan. Doing so can cause overheating or improper heating. According to <https://targetmicrowave.com>, microwaves are electromagnetic energy that travel at the speed of light. They cause water molecules in the food to break down into hydrogen and oxygen, which causes the food to get hot and cook evenly. Aluminum foil interferes with this process. Plus, aluminum foil is a conductor of heat and can cause severe burns, if it touches your skin. It can also spark and start a fire.

Kudos to Missouri, Pennsylvania, Virginia,

California, and Hawaii for pilot programs that are underway with results that have been very promising. They are using plastic wastes, such as printer cartridges, water bottles, and plastic bags in asphalt road mixtures so fewer of these plastics end up in landfills, or worse, in the ocean. Not only does this innovative solution provide a use for wasted plastic, but it also meets the performance and durability requirements of the roads. Plus, the asphalt road mixtures have produced no microplastic pollutant runoffs. Since the results have been so impressive, the program is being expanded in many states. These roads are literally paving the way for the future! (fto.com)

Interesting facts from the Greenbrier Recycling Center and the Greenbrier County Landfill: During the year 2022 there were 960 tons (1,024,000 lbs.) of recyclable materials shipped to processors and 42,085 tons (84,170,000 lbs.) of trash was processed. It was a busy year! 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.

## A Look Back



**By William "Skip" Deegans**

Born in Lewisburg in 1932, Frederick L. Swann (pictured) became one of our country's most accomplished organists. He died this past December. His parents were the Rev. Theodore and Mary Swann. Rev. Swann was minister of Lewisburg's Methodist Church South. The Swann family moved to Clifton Forge and then to Winchester. Frederick, who began playing the piano at age 5, was playing the organ at a Methodist Church in Winchester by the time he was 10 years old. After graduating from Robert E. Lee High School in Winchester, he received a degree in music from Northwestern University and a master's degree from the Union Theological Seminary School of Sacred Music in New York City where he also studied with the organist at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

From 1953-1982, Swann was the organist and director of music at Manhattan's Riverside Church. In 1982, he left New York to become the director of music and organist at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California where he performed on the Hazel Wright Organ, the fifth largest pipe organ in the world with 273 ranks. While at the Crystal Cathedral, Swann appeared on the weekly television show, Hour of Power, that was viewed by an estimated 20 million viewers in 165 countries.

In 1998, Swann became the organist at the First Congregational Church in Los Angeles where he played one the largest organs in the world with 18,094 speaking pipes. In his lifetime, Swann played at more than 3,000 recitals all over the United States and in several foreign countries. He taught at the Guilman Organ School, Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University and the University of Redlands. He was often called upon to give inaugural recitals on new or rebuilt organs. In 2004, he was the first to play the 6,134 pipe organ at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. He is featured on numerous recordings and may be listened to on Spotify. Upon his death at 91, Swann was survived by George Dickey, his partner of 64 years.

Sources: *American Guild of Organists, New York Times, Riverside Church, First Congregational Church.*

*Photo courtesy of the University of Redlands.*

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Notice is hereby given that APPALACHIAN AGGREGATES, LLC, 171 ST CLAIRS CROSSING, BLUEFIELD, VA 24605 has submitted an application for Permit Number Q302393 to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), 1159 Nick Rahall Greenway, Fayetteville, WV 25840, in order to maintain, monitor and operate a limestone quarry.

The operation is discharging into Hughart Creek and Sinking Creek of Muddy Creek of the Greenbrier River and is located near LEWISBURG in Williamsburg District of Greenbrier County, Longitude 80° 33' 18" and Latitude 37° 53' 03" (Coordinates from USGS Topographic Map).

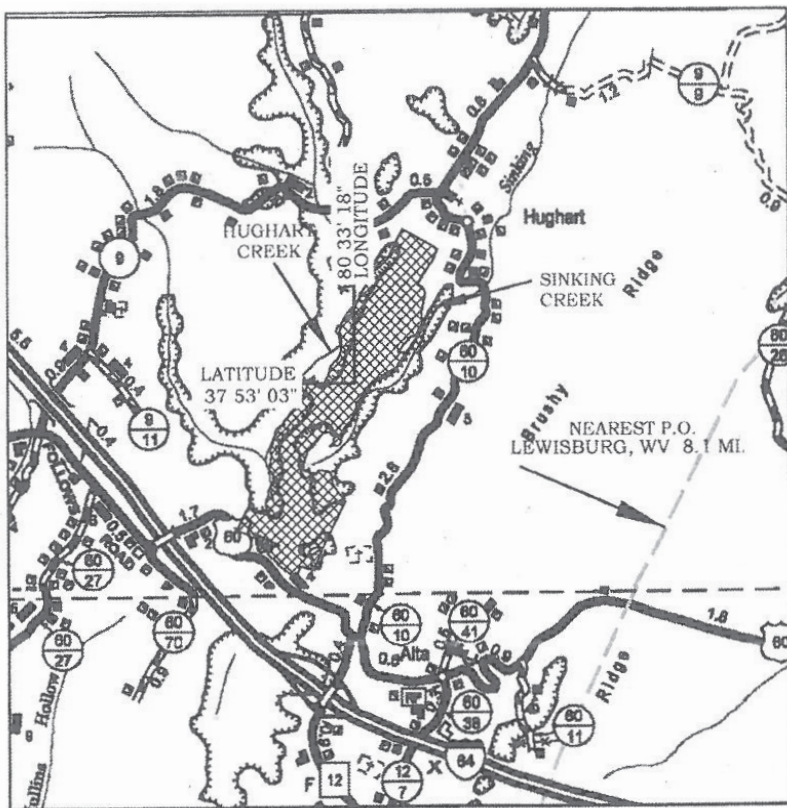
Table with 2 columns: NAME AND ADDRESS, listing Appalachian Aggregates, LLC and Thornbury, Inc. with their respective addresses.

Table with 2 columns: NAME AND ADDRESS, listing Anna L. Spinks, Larry, Jake & Josh Huffman et al, James E. Huffman, Danny B. Rowe, Earl L. Hiser, III, Christopher J. & Melandee D. Heaster, Appalachian Aggregates, LLC, Paul O. and Mary Catherine Loudermilk, Lee H. and Jean L. Johnson, Samuel R. & Raymond W. Tuckwiller, Rhonda Crookshanks.

Comments on the application shall be in writing and shall identify the applicant and application number and be sent to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) at the address above. Comments received by February 13, 2023, or thirty (30) days from the date of initial date of publication, will be considered.

A copy of the application will be available until February 13, 2023, or thirty (30) days from initial date of publication in the DEP Regional Office located at the address above and is available at: http://apps.dep.wv.gov/WebApp/\_dep/Search/ePermitting/ePermittingApplicationSearchPage.cfm

The above link can be accessed from a computer at all West Virginia public libraries. DEP Telephone Number: 304-574-4465



LOCATION MAP
WV Highway Map - Scale: 1" = 1 Mile (5280 feet)
Williamsburg District, Greenbrier County, WV
Sinking Creek and Hughart Creek of the Greenbrier River of the New River of the Kanawha River
Art. 4 #Q-3023-93/NPDES #WV0092258
Cornstalk, WV 7.5' USGS Quadrangle

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WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Division of Highways
NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia, until February 14, 2023 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time).

Table with 4 columns: Call, Contract, State Project, Federal Project, Description. Includes project 025 2014000511 U313-WHI/TE-1.02 TEA-2011(184)D PEDESTRIAN/BIKE FACILITIES.

DBE GOAL: 3% OF CONTRACT BID AMOUNT. BIDDER MUST PROVIDE WRITTEN ASSURANCE OF MEETING GOAL ON FORM IN PROPOSAL.

REMARKS: Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractors' license is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways reserves the right to defer, delay or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award.

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WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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Table with 4 columns: Call, Contract, State Project, Federal Project, Description. Includes project 023 2018001099 U313-LEW/SW-1.00 TAP-2017(183)D ContWrk Typ.

Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractors' license is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways reserves the right to defer, delay or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement.

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Notice is hereby given that PRINCESS POLLY ANNA & JCT ENTERPRISES, LLC, PO BOX 207, LEWISBURG, WV 24901 has a permit on file with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the surface mining of approximately 128.55 acres and has submitted an application to the DEP for renewal of Article 3 Permit Number S301116 to surface, auger and highwall mine within 100 feet of a public road right of way in the Castle, Iaeger, Sewell A and Sewell seam of coal.

The operation is discharging into unnamed tributaries of /and Big Clear Creek, unnamed tributaries of /and Mill Creek of Meadow River of Gauley River of Kanawha River and is located 3.5 miles, southeast of Quinwood in Meadow Bluff District of Greenbrier County, Longitude 80° 40' 18" and Latitude 38° 0' 56" (Coordinates from USGS Topographic Map).

Table with 2 columns: NAME, ADDRESS, listing Herold McClung & Crystal Dietz, Frederick J. Taylor, Weyerhaeuser Company, Merry Gordon III & William.

Table with 2 columns: NAME, ADDRESS, listing Highland Mineral Resources LLC, Frederick J. Taylor.

Table with 2 columns: NAME, ADDRESS, listing Highland Mineral Resources LLC, Frederick J. Taylor.

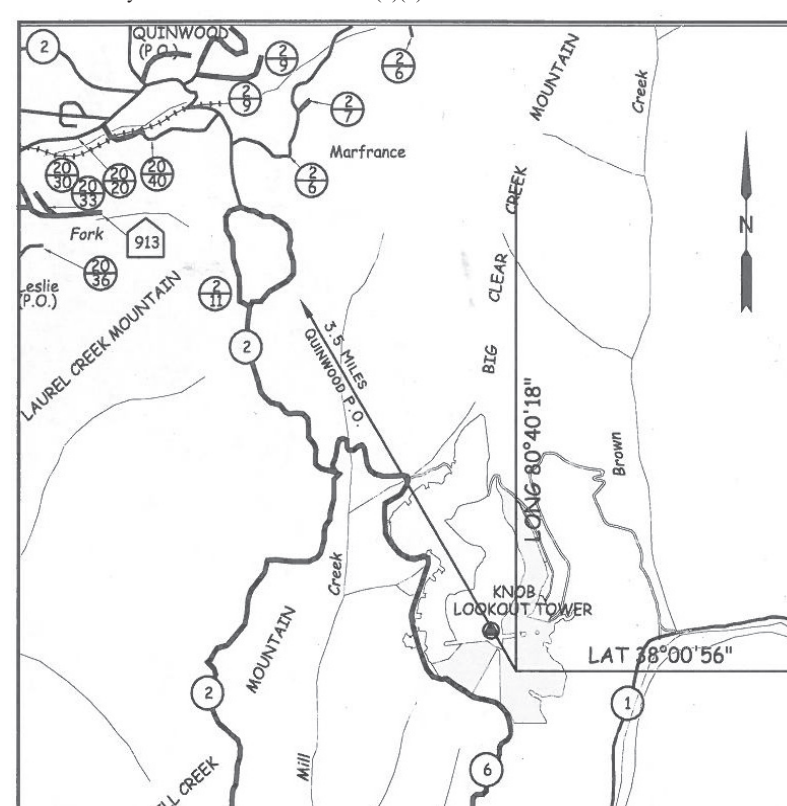
Table with 2 columns: NAME, ADDRESS, listing Highland Mineral Resources LLC.

Table with 2 columns: NAME, ADDRESS, listing Wayne Newman EtUx, Herold McClung & Crystal Dietz, Turley Joseph C III Revocable Trust, Workman Richard & Smith Janett, Sengdetka Joe, Rupert Pistolmen, LLC.

Written comments and/or requests for an informal conference of the permit renewal application shall identify the applicant and application number and will be received by the Permit Supervisor at the DEP address above until March 6, 2023, or thirty (30) days from the date of final publication.

The above link can be accessed from a computer at all West Virginia Public Libraries. DEP Telephone Number: 304-574-4465 Permit Number: S301116

\*These items are to be completed only for operations involving mineral removal. Include location may in accordance with 38-2-3.2(b)(2)



PERMIT No. S-3011-16 NPDES WVI028987
GENERAL LOCATION MAP
QUINWOOD QUADRANGLE
WEST VIRGINIA GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP
GREENBRIER COUNTY 7.5 MIN. SERIES
SCALE: 1" = 1 MILE
RECEIVING STREAM: UNNAMED TRIBUTARIES OF/AND MILL CREEK AND BIG CLEAR CREEK OF MEADOW RIVER OF GAULEY RIVER OF KANAWHA RIVER

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WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Division of Highways
NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia, until February 14, 2023 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time).

Table with 4 columns: Call, Contract, State Project, Federal Project, Description. Includes project 024 2014000633 U313-GRE/EN-6.00 TERT-2014(116)DTC ContWrkTyp.

Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractors' license is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways reserves the right to defer, delay or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award.

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Notice to Tax Payers

West Virginia, Greenbrier County Commission Regular January 10, 2023 Term
Take notice that the Board of Equalization and Review of Greenbrier County, composed of the County Commissioners of Greenbrier County, will convene at the Courthouse at 10 a.m. on the 1st day of February 2023, for the purpose of hearing complaints any tax payer may have as to the assessment placed upon his/her property by the Assessor of this County.

It is the duty of the Board to reduce the value of property if it is too high and to increase it if it is too low. This may be done upon motion of any tax payer interested or upon the Board's judgment.

Anyone desiring to appear before this Board is requested to make an appointment with the Assistant to the County Commission, Kelly Banton, at 304-647-6689 ext. 0, Monday through Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. If the Board finds it proper to do so, it may adjourn from day to day no later than the 28th of February, 2023.

Tammy Tincher, Greenbrier County Commission President

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There will be an election held in the Town of Alderson, Greenbrier and Monroe counties, West Virginia, on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, for the purpose of electing Mayor, Recorder and Council members.

Conventions for the purpose of nominating candidates must be held, and all candidates nominated and certified to the undersigned by February 21, 2023, prior to the election. Rules and regulations governing the calling and conducting of nominating conventions and certification of the results thereof may be obtained at Alderson City Hall. The Chair of the Citizens' Party or of the Peoples Party or any five qualified voters residing in the town of Alderson may call a convention for the purpose of nominating candidates for the offices. A posting or publishing of date, time and location must be provided three days prior to the convention. Betty Thomas/Recorder

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Division of Highways NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia until March 16, 2023 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the construction of the following project(s):

- Call Contract State Project Federal Project Description
002 2022890002 S389-REC/AL-23.00 STBG-2023(009)D PAVEMENT MARKINGS
D-9 RECALL STRIPING 2023
DISTRICT WIDE
COUNTY: FAYETTE, GREENBRIER, NICHOLAS, OTHER

DBE GOAL: 7% OF CONTRACT BID AMOUNT. BIDDER MUST PROVIDE WRITTEN ASSURANCE OF MEETING GOAL ON FORM IN PROPOSAL

REMARKS: Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractors' licence is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin. Registration is required with the Department of Administration, Division of Purchasing, in accordance with Chapter 5A, Article 3, Section 12 of the West Virginia Code.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways reserves the right to defer, delay or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement. All bidders holding valid bidding proposals will be notified of such deferment, delay or postponement and the date that proposals will be received and publicly opened.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award.

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Quick Essentials MINI STORAGE

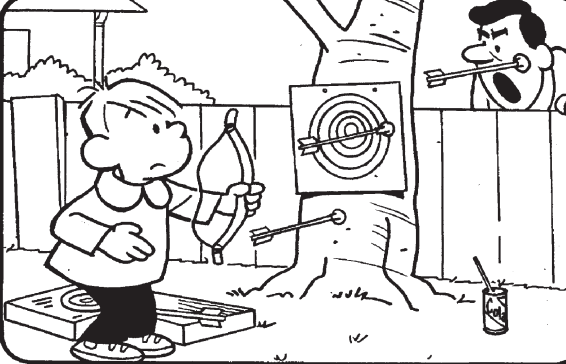
3344 Houfnaggle Road Lewisburg, WV 24901 • 304-645-1304

FOUR SIZES TO CHOOSE FROM:

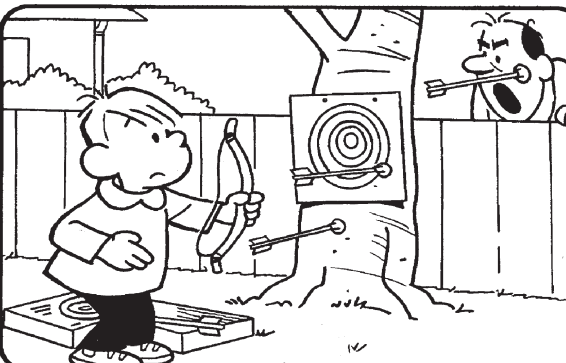
- 5' x 10' - \$35/mo. 10' x 15' - \$65/mo.
10' x 10' - \$55/mo. 10' x 20' - \$75/mo.

SCRABLERS puzzle with word search grid and clues like 'Wine PAGER', 'Skill LATENT', 'Easily LIMPSY', 'Alternate THORE'.

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Fence board is moved. 2. Collar is different. 3. Bow string is different. 4. Arrow is moved. 5. Hair is different. 6. Can is missing.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers pre-filled.

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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Super Crossword ON A MISSION

- ACROSS: 1 Doorway part, 5 Mix for a deli sandwich, 13 Snooty sort, 20 River in Europe and Asia, 21 Long, bitter speech, 22 Popular hot sauce brand, 23 Calf-length skirt, 24 Navigable sea route in southern Chile, 26 Hayloft sites, 28 Home to Boise: Abbr., 29 Extra game periods, for short, 30 Distrustful, 31 Designer for Jackie Kennedy, 35 1958 Leslie Caron film, 38 Head dog, 39 — tai (drink), 42 Really must, 47 Tag again, 51 One mapping terrain, 53 In excess of, 54 "Woe —!", 57 Prefix with sense, 58 — Melodies (old cartoon series), 59 Stand-up comedy TV series, 64 Ending for form, 65 Wince, 66 Pakistani's language, 67 Like circles, 71 Daniel Boone or Johnny Appleseed, 76 Lustrous gem, 79 Pushpin's kin, 80 Jewel box for music, 84 Color, 85 Kia Sedona competitor, 90 Mystery's Christie, 94 Org. offering tows, 95 Actor Morales, 96 Sundae toppings, 97 Florence institute near the Uffizi Gallery, 100 New York Giants' div., 103 Gussied up, 104 MGM's lion, 105 Tree yielding chocolate, 107 "QED" center, 109 Eric the Red, for one, 115 Alvin of choreography, 119 Klutz, 122 Pumped stuff, 123 Flood stopper, 124 All through the dark hours, 130 Show sleepiness, 131 Most promising, 132 "Been there myself, man", 133 Really liking, 134 Combination punches, 135 Sends along, 136 Org. associated with the nine missions featured in this puzzle, 9 Suffix with sect, 10 Illuminated, 11 "Peek- —!", 12 Skillful and clever, 13 JFK datum, 14 Fall behind, 15 Religious convert's cry, 16 Anecdote, 17 Atoll part, 18 Wound result, 19 Actor Danza, 25 Soup additive, for short, 27 Strikebreaker, 32 Bar drink, 33 Skeddadle, 34 "— little teapot ...", 36 Shiba — (Japanese dog breed), 37 Virus, e.g., 40 A.D. part, 41 False god, 43 German "the", 44 Sundae topping, 45 Sheer linen fabric, 46 Greek mountain nymph, 47 Use deep massage on, 48 Blackhearted, 49 Strauss of jeans, 50 Sports venues, 51 — double life, 52 TV show since fall '75, 55 Feng —, 56 Old Ford make, in brief, 60 Pinnacle, 61 Those people, 62 Kicks on football fields, 63 Suffix with ball or bass, 68 Spanish for "dry", 69 Lamarr of "Boom Town", 70 Esoteric, 72 Camcorder button abbr., 73 Primitive kind of diet, 74 Freezes, 75 Creole veggie, 76 Winner, informally, 77 Foretell, 78 Razz, 81 Water, to Juanita, 82 Mounts, as a gemstone, 83 Formerly, formerly, 86 "2001" computer, 87 Train support, 88 Harvard rival, 89 Singer Gill, 91 Golf peg, 92 Melon variety, 93 Golden — (senior), 98 Cavity fillers' org., 99 Mega years, 101 Most preferred: Abbr., 102 Corkscrew, 105 Baby bed, 106 Analyzes in a lab, 108 "TiK —" (#1 Keshia hit), 110 Stares at creepily, 111 Enter, as to a database, 112 An ex-Trump button abbr., 113 Lizardlike amphibians, 114 Port of Italy, 115 "Hair" haido, 116 Pumped stuff, 117 Suffer defeat, 118 Discharge, 120 Leave — (reward the server), 121 World Cup gp., 125 GI tour gp., 126 Intersectors of aves., 127 French "the", 128 Vie for the affection of, 129 "Sister Act" figure

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbered starting points for clues.

# BUSINESS

## USDA seeks applications to support rural entrepreneurs and create jobs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development is accepting applications to support economic development and create jobs for people in rural West Virginia.

USDA is making this funding available under the Rural Business Development Grant program to support business opportunities or business enterprise projects in rural West Virginia communities. Eligible entities are rural towns, communities, state agencies, authorities, nonprofits, federally recognized Tribes, public institutions of higher education and nonprofit cooperatives.

Business opportunity projects are used to identify and analyze business opportunities that will use local rural materials or human resources. These projects must be consistent with local and area-wide community and economic development strategic plans. Projects must also support other economic development activities in

the project area. They may include establishing business support centers or financing job training and leadership development in rural areas. Enterprise projects include the repair or modernization of buildings, technical assistance such as feasibility studies or business plans, or equipment purchases for leasing to small or emerging businesses.

In fiscal year 2023, USDA anticipates that part of the funding may be set aside for federally recognized Native American Tribes, Rural Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities/Rural Economic Area Partnerships, projects located in persistent poverty areas (including those of Native Americans), and Strategic Economic and Community Development (SECD) projects. Eligible applicants for the persistent poverty and SECD set-aside funds must demonstrate that 100% of the benefits of an approved grant will assist beneficiaries in the designated

areas.

Applications for grants, including all set-aside funds, must be submitted in paper or electronic format to the USDA Rural Development West Virginia State Office by 4:30 p.m. local time on Feb. 28. For additional information, visit Grants.gov or see page 71571 of the Nov. 23, 2022, Federal Register.

USDA Rural Development encourages applicants to consider projects that will advance key priorities under the Biden-Harris Administration to help rural America build back better and stronger. Key priorities include creating new and better markets, addressing the impacts of climate change and advancing equity in rural America. For more information, visit <https://www.rd.usda.gov/priority-points>.

To subscribe to USDA Rural Development West Virginia updates, visit GovDelivery subscriber page.

# CLUB & CHURCH



Pastor Ben Moses is the new Senior Pastor at the First Baptist Church of Fairlea.

## First Baptist gains new senior pastor

The members of First Baptist Church of Fairlea are excited to announce that Pastor Ben Moses has accepted the position as their senior pastor. A graduate of Bob Jones University, Ben comes to First Baptist after more than 18 years of serving as youth pastor in four previous churches. He says that his ministry emphasizes service and missions and that he loves seeing various ages and backgrounds come together to serve Jesus.

Natives of Michigan, Pastor Ben and his wife Sarah have four children and have felt privileged that throughout their ministries and moves, they were able to raise their family in West Virginia.

First Baptist of Fairlea is located across from the Health Department and is just past the Yamato Japanese restaurant. Sunday School classes for all ages begin at 9:45 a.m., and a Christ-honoring worship service is held at 11 a.m. All are also invited to Sunday evening Bible studies led by Pastor Ben at 6 p.m. On Wednesday evenings at 6:45 p.m. FBC hosts fun AWANA Bible club meetings for kids. For more information on services or activities at First Baptist, see the website [fbcfairlea.com](http://fbcfairlea.com) or call the church office at 304-645-3533.

# SCHOOL

## CIS-GC receives Hamilton Family Foundation Grant Award

Communities In Schools of Greenbrier County (CISGC) is the proud recipient of the Jeanne G. Hamilton and Lawson W. Hamilton Jr. Family Foundation Inc. award in the amount of \$30,000. Funding from this award will assist in the continuation of free services CISGC provides to Greenbrier County's at-risk and disadvantaged youth. Last year, more than 4,600 students benefited from services CISGC provided in Greenbrier County. Of the total students served, nearly 500

received individualized case management. Operating as a 501(c)3, CISGC provides school-based and individualized services to EVERY public school in Greenbrier County. As the level of need for Greenbrier County's most vulnerable youth continues to rise, CISGC continues to expand its program - increasing service hours by 76% over the last two years.

Due to the much-needed expansion, CISGC actively seeks additional funding from community

members, local businesses, and private foundations. CISGC could not carry out its mission "to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life" without partnerships such as these and is grateful for the generosity of its partners. For more information about CISGC, please call 304-661-1018, email [info@cisgc.org](mailto:info@cisgc.org) or visit [www.cisgc.org](http://www.cisgc.org). You can also stay up to date through our Facebook page.

## Ashleigh Darnell achieves Dean's List at Belmont University

Belmont has announced the list of students recognized on the Dean's List for the Fall 2022 semester. Of the approximately 52 percent of Belmont's 7,100 undergraduate students who qualified for the Fall 2022 Dean's List, Ashleigh Darnell (Lewisburg) was listed.

Belmont Provost Dr. David Gregory said, "The Dean's List achievement among a majority of Belmont's student body exemplifies our campus commitment to exemplary education and the successful matriculation of our students. It is a privilege to recognize the accomplishments of our students in the academic space, and the University looks forward to the continued support, education and growth of those who have entrusted Belmont to equip them with the necessary tools to thrive at the local, national and global level."

Dean's List eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C.

## Felicia Ritter named to Southern New Hampshire University's President's List

Felicia Ritter of Roncerverte has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Fall 2022 President's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time

status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

## Josiah Wransky graduates from Berea College

Josiah Wransky of Union received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree from Berea College conferred on Dec. 20, 2022. Berea College recognized 74 students on Sunday, Dec. 11 during its Mid-Year Recognition Ceremony for December graduates.

Berea, the first interracial and coeducational college in the South, focuses on learning, labor, and service. Supported by Berea's No-Tuition Promise, Berea College admits only academically promising students with limited economic resources, primarily from Appalachia. All students must work 10 hours or more weekly, earning money for books, room and board. The College's motto "God has made of one blood all peoples of the earth," speaks to its inclusive character, and the quality of its programs ensures that graduates from Berea go on to distinguish themselves and the College in many fields.

## A Word with Pastor Dean

It's undeniably true that American Christians have been blessed by God in material ways not known by most Christians around the world. To our shame, we often squander these blessings without recognizing these blessings are given us by God so that we are able to help others in need. The Apostle Paul gave this counsel to those who have received material blessings:

17 As for the rich in this present world, instruct them not to be conceited and arrogant.... 18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, willing to share [with others]. 19 In this way storing up for themselves the enduring riches of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. (1 Timothy 6:17-19 amp)

Receiving or earning material riches is not evil or sinful in itself, but we often lose sight of why God blesses us this way. Material blessings often bring with them spiritual defeat because we don't recognize the "conduit principle" orchestrated by God. By "conduit principle" I mean, God gives us abundance, not so that we can hoard, or squander, but rather, act as the means to helping those in need and advancing the Kingdom.

In that same epistle the Apostle Paul wrote:

8 If we have food and [a]covering, with these we shall be content. 9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge people into ruin and destruction. (1 Timothy 6)

That is a warning to us who live in a materialistic culture. We have a distinct tendency to hoard and squander what God has blessed us with. My prayer for you and me this morning is this: Lord, may the Spirit of God convict us as to how we handle material blessings. Remind us often that we are not living for the few years of earthly existence, but rather, we are preparing a "good foundation for the future... enduring riches" in heaven. Help us never to lose sight of the fact that we are "conduits" not consumers. For Christ and His kingdom. Amen

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**Service times: Sunday 9:30 AM, 10:30 AM; Wednesday 6 PM**

## DAR members deliver donations to veterans



AR Chair Judy Deegans (left) delivers donations to Ruann Handy and Suzette Taylor, Volunteer Services, Beckley VA Medical Center.

In mid-December, personal items of clothing and toiletries were delivered to Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center at Beckley by Judy Deegans, chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee, General Andrew Lewis Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. Other committee members include Carol Olson and Suzanne Cronquist.

Members of General Andrew Lewis Chapter

contribute items of clothing and personal toiletries. They were delivered to Suzette Taylor, Director of Volunteer Services. She was eager to receive the gifts for the veterans. They also service homeless veterans so blankets and sleeping bags were included in the contribution. The Chapter is proud of the donated items which amounted to over \$1,100.

The National Society Daughters of the Ameri-

can Revolution is a non-profit, non-political 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 back in 1776.

If you are interested in the Daughters of the American Revolution, call former Regent Sandra Cowan at 304-497-3553.

# STEPPIN' OUT

## State Fair of West Virginia Announces HARDY as First in '23 Lineup

Officials at the State Fair of West Virginia are excited to announce HARDY as the first concert added to the 2023 Grandstand Lineup on Sunday, Aug. 13. Tickets will go on sale Friday, Jan. 20, at 10 a.m.

"We could not be more excited for the first announcement to the 98th Annual State Fair of West Virginia concert lineup," CEO Kelly Collins stated. "HARDY is one of the biggest names out there, and if you have not had a chance to see him before, he puts on an amazing show."

Tickets will only be available via ETIX at <http://statefairfwwv.com/entertainment/> or by calling 1-800-514-ETIX (3849) Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., or Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets will not be sold at the State Fair Box Office until later in the spring.

Big Loud Records' heavy hitter HARDY has never been just one thing. Uncaging his next chapter on January 20, 2023, HARDY will introduce the mockingbird & THE CROW, his dichotomous, 17-track sophomore album and the follow up to 2020 debut, A ROCK. HARDY is the reigning ACM Songwriter of the Year, the 2022 BMI Country Songwriter of the Year, and a two-time AIMP Songwriter of the Year, additionally nominated for New Artist of the Year, Song of the Year, and Musical Event of the Year at the 2022 CMA Awards.

One of CRS' 2021 New Faces of Country Music and a two-time CMA Triple Play award recipient, the pride of Philadelphia, Miss., has earned his reputation as "a breakout in the making," (HITS) and "a promising purveyor of keeping the spirit of classic heavy Southern rock alive" (American Songwriter). HARDY has written 12 #1 singles since 2018, including his own double platinum #1 single "ONE BEER" feat. Lauren Alaina + Devin Dawson, and chart-topping Dierks Bentley + BRELAND collaboration, "Beers On Me." He's previously toured with Thomas Rhett, Morgan Wallen, Florida Georgia Line, Jason Aldean, Cole Swindell, and more, and will embark on his own SOLD-OUT headlining Wall to Wall Tour this winter, before launching the mockingbird & THE CROW Tour in 2023.

The 10-day State Fair of West Virginia is celebrating 98 years on August 10-19, 2023. The State Fair of West Virginia, with a \$13.8 million-dollar economic impact on the state of West Virginia, is a 501 © 3 non-profit corporation committed to the traditions of agriculture, family entertainment, and education. For more information, please visit [www.statefairfwwv.com](http://www.statefairfwwv.com), or follow fair events on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and Twitter. Join the conversation by using #sfwv2023!

## Carnegie Hall's Spring 2023 Classes & Workshops now available



One of many opportunities at Carnegie is Scratch the Surface: Sgraffito Club, a five-week series taught by Kelsie Tyson. Students create a three-piece matching set of wares to take home.

As part of its commitment to lifelong learning, Carnegie Hall offers a series 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 2023 Classes & Workshops options are now available.

Starting in February and continuing through June, classes and workshops include woodturning, hand crafting tea pots and mugs, sausage making, salt-rising bread making, soap making, making Appalachian Medicinals, guided ceramic projects for all ages, painting, drawing, printmaking, basket weaving, fiber arts, craft jewelry, and leather craft. There are classes for adults, children, and the entire family.

In addition to classes and workshops, the Spring 2023 schedule includes a 12-week home school series, a bird watchers club, date night events in the pottery studio, and family fun dates. Carnegie Hall will also offer a new Appalachian Heritage Lecture Series featuring Yolande Cornelia "Nikki" Giovanni, Jr. (Poetry and

Prose) and Sandor Katz (Fermentation from Appalachia and around the World).

The Spring 2023 Class & Workshop Series teaching artists include Jack O'Connell, Eddie Maier, Sandra Schmocker, Mike Costello, Amy Dawson, Genevieve Bardwell, Eleanor Marshall, Susan Ray Brown, Jan Darrah, Kathy Talley, Gwendolyn

McAllister, Karen Leland, Amie Durrman, Sean O'Connell, Kelsie Tyson, Luke Davis, John Coffey, and Tommye Rafes.

For a complete list of classes and workshops and to enroll visit [carnegiehallwv.org/classes-and-workshops](http://carnegiehallwv.org/classes-and-workshops) or pick up a Classes & Workshops brochure at 611 Church Street, Lewisburg.



## Studio Stash Sale at Lee Street Studios

Lee Street Studios in Lewisburg is holding a Studio Stash Sale on Friday, Jan. 20 and Saturday, Jan. 21, from 11 a.m. to

The Schoolhouse Gallery, which displays and sells work of all the studio artists, is open during the sale. It is located next to

working studios, creating, teaching, and exhibiting their art. The studios are housed in the historic building that was formerly the Lewisburg Elementary School, located at 232 Lee Street N, Lewisburg. Artists with studios at Lee Street are Thomas Ruggiero, fashion design; Susan Ernst, handweaving; Debbie Rapp, needle-felting; Cathy Hyndman, fiber arts; Susie Smead, hand knitting; Toni Ogden, textile marbling; Daisy Morgan, handweaving; Lory Van Buren, mixed media; Margy Green, fine art; Jeanne Brenneman, watercolors; Bruce Brenneman, woodturning; Sara McDonald, oil; Shea Newton, jewelry; Sean O'Connell, clay work; Erica Agee, photography; Marlyn McClendon, photography; Elyse Gerard, fine art; and Jorn Mork, fine art.



4 p.m. After-Christmas "studio housecleaning" at Lee Street has uncovered many beautiful items which will be offered during this special sale to make room for new work. There will be original artwork, prints, and artist supplies, all on sale by the Lee Street studio artists.

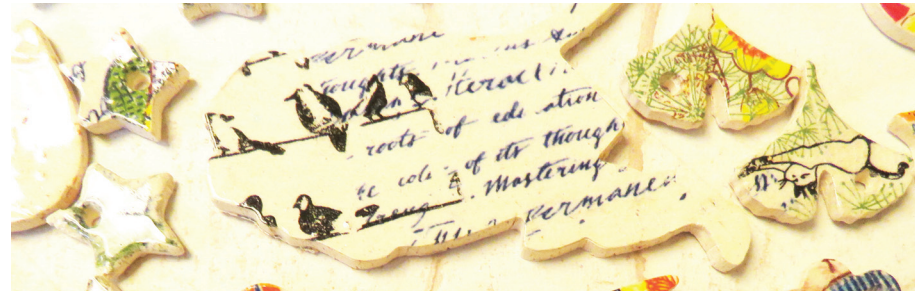
On Friday, Jan. 20 at 7:30 p.m., in conjunction with the stash sale, singer-songwriters Dale and Hannah Elwell and Matt Evans will present a concert at The Blackboard at Lee Street Studios. The charge for the concert is \$10 at the door.

the former principal's office at Lee Street Studios and is open every Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., year-round.

Lee Street Studios is a community of artists in



## Take a Clay Class with Kelsie



Student artwork created during Kelsie Tyson's 2022 Ceramic Earrings and Pendants class.

Feel for the Wheel is a one-day Family Fun Class that teaches students the basics of throwing on the potter's wheel. During class, participants will make two-five pieces, picking their best to be fired. Students will also have their choice of single glaze options for their pot. Saturday class dates to choose from are Feb. 4, Mar. 18, 25, Apr. 15, 29, May 13, and 27. Class time is 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Students must be at least 6 years of age or older and class size is limited. Cost is \$60 (\$45 for members).

Also beginning on Feb. 4 is Kelsie's Ceramic Earrings and Pendants Family Fun Class. This workshop from 1:30 to 3 p.m. is an afternoon of fun for the entire family. Projects will be fired by Carnegie Hall and available for pick up later. Students must be at least 12 years of age or older and class size is limited. Ceramic Earrings and Pendants will also be offered on March 25. Cost is \$55 (\$45 for members) and all materials are provided.

Another Family Fun Class led by Kelsie is hand building a Ceramic Serving Tray. Classes are Saturdays, Mar. 18 and May 20, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Students will learn basic hand-building and underglaze transfer techniques to make custom plates or serving trays from clay. Projects will be fired by Carnegie Hall and available for pick up later. Students must be at least 12 years of age or older and class size is limited. Cost is \$65 (\$55 for members) and all materials are provided.

Kelsie's popular five-week series Scratch the Surface: Sgraffito Club is back starting Monday, Feb. 20. Sgraffito Club invites students to learn traditional and contemporary sgraffito techniques in a five-week course. Students will start the course mimicking surfaces and eventually develop their own imagery to create a three-piece matching set of wares. Section 1 takes place on Mondays, Feb. 20, 27, Mar. 6, 13, and 20; from 6-8 p.m. Section 2 takes place Mondays, Apr. 17, 24, May 1, 8, and 15; from 6-8 p.m. Students must be at least 16 years of age or older and class size is limited. Cost including clay, glazes, and firings is \$200 (\$185 for members). All students 50 years of age and older qualify for an automatic scholarship and pay only \$110.

Kelsie's final spring 2023 class is Seize the Clay, a six-week series that invites student to learn basic hand building and popular surface design techniques utilized throughout the clay community. Class dates are Wednesdays, Apr. 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, and 24; from: 6-8 p.m. Students must be at least 16 years of age. Cost is \$185 (\$165 for members) and all materials are provided. All students 50 years of age and older qualify for an automatic scholarship and pay only \$100.

To enroll and for a complete list of classes and workshops visit [carnegiehallwv.org/classes-and-workshops](http://carnegiehallwv.org/classes-and-workshops). A Classes & Workshops brochure is also available at Carnegie Hall.



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## Carnegie Hall's Lobby Gallery features Kathy Talley



Appalachian Baskets by Kathy Talley

Carnegie Hall's January/February/March Exhibits are underway with three new galleries featuring the works of regional artists. The Auditorium Lobby Gallery features basket weaver Kathy Talley's exhibit Appalachian Baskets.

Appalachian Baskets features a beautifully curated collection of historical white oak baskets, and an in-depth look at the process, tools and history of basket weaving in Appalachia. In addition to her own functional heirloom designs that are available for purchase, visitors may enjoy viewing the varying styles and designs in the historical exhibit, including a Shaker style basket, a double deer horn handled basket, and a Nantucket style basket.

Kathy Talley is a basket weaver and former home economics instructor for public schools. She has over 25 years' experience and is a member of the West Virginia Basket Makers Association. She has taken numerous classes, including workshops at the WV Basket Makers Association Conference, Tidewater Virginia Guild Conference, Huntington Museum of Art's White Oak Basket Weaving Class, and Cedar Lakes Arts and Craft programs.

Currently, Talley teaches a regular basket weaving program for Honea Path Arts Center in South Carolina. She also teaches classes at Carnegie Hall for its Kids'

College and Carnegie Classroom programs where students learn about the process of making baskets from scratch - starting with a whole tree, and then create their own hand-woven trivet.

Talley works consistently to improve her weaving skills by trying new patterns, researching designs on the internet, and perusing other organizations and guilds newsletters. She also donates her skills and artwork for fundraising efforts to local nonprofits.

"I believe preserving the significance of basket weaving in the Appalachian culture is important," states Talley. "We honor our history and culture that our ancestors brought to this area. It was a skill passed from generation to generation providing a utilitarian and creative expression of art, one I hope will continue."

Appalachian Baskets is free and open to the public, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and runs through Mar. 31. 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 WV Department of Arts, Culture and History and the National Endowment for the Arts, with approval from the WV Commission on the Arts.

## Beckley, Bluestone travel plazas open during rebuild

Travelers will still be able to stop, take a break, and pick up items for the road when the Beckley and Bluestone travel plazas on the West Virginia Turnpike shut down next month for a series of complete renovations.

The Beckley and Bluestone travel plazas will be closed beginning Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023, to begin demolition and site redevelopment. Both travel plazas will be rebuilt from the ground up.

But Jeff Miller, executive director of the West Virginia Parkways Authority, said that doesn't mean drivers won't be able to stop.

"We will still be able to provide motorists a safe area to get off the roadway, park and rest, take a break," Miller said. "We will have those areas still open."

"We're fortunate at the Beckley travel plaza off

Exit 45 that we do have Tamarack Marketplace located right there," he said. "They have a full-service restaurant, restrooms, retail, and grab-n-go area."

Miller said that beginning Saturday, Apr. 1, the hours of the Tamarack Marketplace, located next door to the Beckley travel plaza, will expand. The facility will open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., a change from 6 days a week from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Restroom renovations at the Tamarack Marketplace will be completed in a few weeks. The Tamarack Marketplace will also open 'Country Roads Market.' The addition is aimed at supplementing the needs of interstate travelers with convenience store offerings such as food, drinks and car items.

Miller said drivers of tractor-trailers will not have to look for alterna-

tive locations from Beckley and Bluestone for meeting, switching equipment, and fueling.

"The fueling operations, which do contain restrooms and sell snacks and beverages, will remain almost through the entirety of the project," Miller said. "We will be able to keep all of the parking open which is highly utilized for tractor-trailer parking."

Miller said the only time parking will be impacted will be during paving operations.

The newly redeveloped travel plazas will offer expanded food concepts, a 24/7 Mountain State Market convenience store, outdoor dining options, expanded parking for tractor-trailers and passenger vehicles, EV charging stations, separated vehicle and tractor-trailer fueling options, picnic area, and pet relief areas.

The Beckley travel plaza will offer a drive-through, increased restroom facilities, and bus parking, as well as enhancing and highlighting the Parkways Authority Tourist Information Centers.

Construction of the new travel plazas is expected to be completed by late 2024.

"Long-term, the facility that we will deliver to the traveling public and to drivers will be a world-class facility," Miller said.

The Morton Travel Plaza near Burnwell will remain open until renovations to that facility begin in 2025.

In May 2022, the Parkways Authority approved the expenditure of \$152 million spread over three fiscal years to revamp the Turnpike's travel plazas. Plans were based on the results of a 2021 survey of Turnpike travelers.

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## Donald Davis Memorial Toy Drive successful



The Donald Davis Memorial Toy Drive was a success thanks to the generosity of area civic groups, church groups, businesses, and volunteers.

Keeping the memory of Donald Davis, and his generous donations of toys to area children in need, is the main goal of the Donald Davis Memorial Toy Drive. Conducted by friends and family members in the Meadow River and Meadow Bridge areas, children in western Greenbrier County and eastern Fayette County received toys this holiday season thanks to the Donald Davis Memorial Toy Drive.

Davis, a resident of northern Virginia, brought a truckload of toys each year to be distributed to children of needy families in the region. After his death, relatives and friends of Davis have continued this project along with church groups, civic organizations, and businesses.

The Donald Davis Memorial Toy Drive results are compliments of McElleney Community Church of Dawson, the Greenbrier Valley Council 8689 Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart Catholic Churches of Rainelle and Spring Dale, One Family Brewery and donations from various individual family members, supporters, and friends.

In addition to the donation to the Donald Davis Memorial Toy Drive, the Greenbrier Valley Council of the Knights of Columbus distributed 96 new children's winter coats in Greenbrier, Monroe, and Pocahontas counties through the cooperation with the Family Resource Network in Pocahontas County, the Family Resource Network in Monroe County, Wellspring, Alderson Elementary School, and White Sulphur Springs Elementary School.

The Knights also distributed used winter coats, hats, scarfs, and gloves collected from the area Catholic Churches in Lewisburg, Rainelle, Spring Dale and White Sulphur Springs through various food pantries in the area and donated funds to Shop with A Cop and Penny Pitch.

## Lillie King back at GVT



Lillie King is back on the Greenbrier Valley Theatre (GVT) stage for a one-night only concert on Friday, Jan. 27, at 7:30 p.m. This show will be packed with songs that audiences are sure to love, and maybe a few unreleased tunes, as well. Don't miss the opportunity to catch this rocking show! Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased at <https://ci.ovationtix.com/35773/production/1148490>

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