



Second Stage Series
Thomas Taylor
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'In the Garden' by
Laurine Yates
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\$1.00

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

Local lawmakers discuss emergency service funding, taxes, and family values during town hall

By Matthew Young

With less than a week remaining until the beginning of the 2023 legislative session, area-lawmakers held a public town hall meeting at the Grace Bible Church last week to discuss their upcoming priorities, and hear the concerns of Greenbrier County residents. Participants included Delegates Todd Longanacre and Mike Honaker, as well as Senators Jack David Woodrum and Vince Deeds. The meeting was moderated by County GOP Executive Committee Chairman Ben Anderson. Although not part of the panel, all three Greenbrier County Commissioners were in attendance, as was County Clerk Robin Loudermilk.



Senators Jack David Woodrum (left) and Vince Deeds, along with Delegates Todd Longanacre and Mike Honaker (right) participated in a public town hall meeting moderated by GOP Executive Committee Chairman Ben Anderson (center) last week.

The format featured questions from the audience followed by a response from each of the four panelists. The first group of questions pertained to funding and stan-

dard-requirements for first responders, to which Woodrum said, "It's not just a local problem - it's a problem statewide."

Although Woodrum stated that no conclusion has

yet been reached with regard to funding, he anticipates some movement on the matter during the forthcoming session. One suggestion submitted by Woodrum was

See "Town Hall" Page 4

GVMC transitions to CAMC Greenbrier Valley Medical Center

By Sarah Richardson

As of Jan. 1, 2023, Greenbrier Valley Medical Center officially became a part of Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC). To celebrate the transition, a few administrators walked the halls of GVMC Saturday evening visiting with patients and staff and handing out some gifts such as blankets and coffee mugs. Vandalia Health System, the parent company of CAMC, is made up of CAMC and Mon Health System.

CAMC is now made up of five hospitals: CAMC General Hospital, CAMC Greenbrier Valley Medical Center, CAMC Memorial Hospital, CAMC Teays Valley Hospital and CAMC Women and Children's Hospital, the CAMC Institute for Academic Medicine, and the CAMC Foundation. Mon Health System is the parent company of Mon Health Medical Center, Mon Health Preston Memorial Hospital, Mon Health Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital, and Mon Health Marion Neighborhood Hospital.

"There will be a huge difference in how the hospital is managed and cared for as an asset of the community. CAMC is a non-profit hospital, and is only focused on the well-being of

the community, the services in the community, and the healthcare we can provide. And we will only focus on being the best hospital we can be because this is our home, this is our community, this is our state," said Dave Ramsey, President and CEO of Vandalia Health.

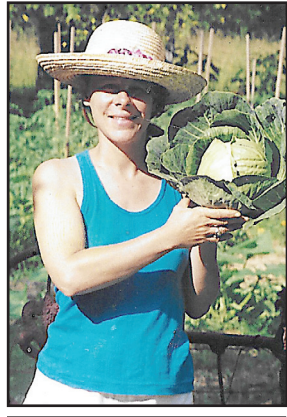
He added, "Our goal is to ensure that the services at CAMC Greenbrier Valley Medical Center expand so more people can stay local for their healthcare. [...] We have great plans to add more equipment, more services, more doctors, open more beds-- it's going to be a very exciting time for healthcare in the community, and really in this region."



Administrators delivered blankets to workers and patients throughout the hospital to celebrate Greenbrier Valley Medical Center joining CAMC.

Nature's Way

By Karen Cohen on page 4



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MLK Jr. Day Celebration set Monday, January 16

At 11 a.m. on Jan. 16, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration will begin with a march from the Greenbrier County Courthouse to the Lewisburg United Methodist Church via Washington Street. Before the march, Chris Winston of Mount Tabor Baptist Church will inspire the participants with an invocation and a short oration. Lewisburg Mayor Beverly White will read her proclamation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Week 2023 which begins that day. During the march, a powerful song of the civil rights movement will be sung: "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around."

After the march, a free community lunch will be served in the church. At 12:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary, there will be a program of singing and speaking including the reading of essays by young school children. At the first of the program, everyone will sing "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

The theme for this year's event derives from the

words of Martin Luther King, Jr.: "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands in times of challenge and controversy." Local school students entered the 2023 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Essay Contest and Art Contest and based their works on this theme. Winning essays and works of art will be featured in the program. Other youthful participants in the program will include the talented students of High Rocks Academy.

The Resurrection Praise Choir will perform as they did so well during this event in 2017, a year after this choral group was organized by Roger Patterson, the keyboard player, and Erika Hunter, the director. The choir is composed of singers from several churches in Covington, Clifton Forge, and White Sulphur Springs.



MLK Day Celebration Keynote Speaker Crystal Good

See "MLK Jr. Day" Page 3



2023 Shanghai Parade Winners announced

Antique Cars: 1st #171 Jerry Vance, '48 Plymouth Coupe; 2nd #192 Diana Lusk, '73 Dodge Dart Swinger; 3rd #180 Cliff Baker, '56 Beetle

Equestrian: 1st #267 Laura Plumley, 2nd #266 Jodie & Dash; 3rd #187 Cochran Family- WV Hillbillies

Animal/Animal Drawn (all animals other than horses): 1st #168 Mollie Messimer, Patina; 2nd #186 Good Ladd Professional Canine; 3rd #165 Alex Knight & Dilly, Stripee the Chicken

Best Dressed Farm Equipment: 1st #179 Chester Loudermilk & Lindsey Sears '52 Ford

Float: 1st #169 Paul Detch/Jeanette Chambers, Democrats; 2nd #183 Shanghai for 35+ Plus Years, The Beard Family; 3rd #178 Royal Flush & Anderson Well Pump & Septic, National Lampon Christmas

Music: 1st #175 Tobias Sizemore

Walkers 1-2 persons: 1st #158 Emma & Nathaniel Vinson; 2nd #160 Jeff Jeffus, 91 years old; 3rd #195 Lory Dale & Karen McKay, The Crazy Forum

Walkers 3+ people: 1st #153 The Girl Scouts, Cookie Bakers; 2nd #154 Jenne Oliver; 3rd #181 The Baker Family, "Awesomeness"

Super Dooper Pooper Scooper: 2022 State Champions GEHS Soccer Team

Volunteer of the Year: Mike Kidd

Joe Ellis Memorial Tradition Prize: #183 Shanghai for 35+ Years, The Beard Family

Mary Satterfield Spirit of Shanghai Award: #158 Emma & Nathaniel Vinson, Mona Lisa & Jar Head

Chairman's Award: #195 Lory Dale & Karen McClung, The Crazy Farm

Jim Wills Memorial Award: #181 The Baker Family, Awesomeness

Participant traveling the farthest distance to parade: #163 Diane Hall, 350 miles

Oldest Participant: #160 Jeff Jeffus, 91 years old

Youngest Participant: #154 Jenna Oliver, 6 weeks old

Judges: Mary Baldwin, Todd Ramboldt, Connie Knapp, Jim Knapp

Emcee: Steve Hunter

Scorekeepers: Michelle Hanna and Shane Hanna

Estimated Crowd: 1,500; Temp. 57/partly cloudy

Number of entries: 67

Time (length of parade): 45 minutes

Shanghai Parade Committee members: Dr. Mary Ann Mann, Chairman; DeEtta King Hunter, Treasurer; Steve Hunter; Susan Sharp Campbell; Mike Kidd; Sheryl Hulmes; Kevin Salyer; Jeannie and Mike Wyatt; Michelle Hanna; Shane Hanna

Special Thanks to: Gary Canterbury (GC Sales of Lewisburg) Judges stand; Boy Scout Troop 70; City of Lewisburg employees, police department, Mayor Beverly White, City Council, Misty Hill, Shannon Beatty, Susan Honaker; The Asylum, Paula Thomas and Colin Rose; Radio Greenbrier, Debbie Yates; *WV Daily News*; *Mountain Messenger*; and Greenbrier Valley Channel 5 on Optimum.

Prize money can be picked up at Lewisburg City Hall until Jan. 30.

Greenbrier County CVB introduces Event Sponsorship Program

The Greenbrier County Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) is excited to announce the launch of the Greenbrier Valley Festival and Event Sponsorship Program (GVFESP) which provides marketing and advertising assistance to Greenbrier County festivals and events.

"Our events are a large part of the Greenbrier Valley's 'personality.' Through this sponsorship program, we'll be able to offer additional marketing dollars to promote and enhance the image of the valley, which will positively impact the area's economy," President and CEO Kara Dense said.

Non-profits or multi-partner collaboratives that host events or festivals can apply for up to \$2,000 for direct advertising or promotional materials funding reimbursement per project. An organization may apply for more than one project, but each

project must be submitted on a separate application.

There are two grant cycles per calendar year. The CVB will host a required information webinar at 9 a.m., Jan. 10, for those

interested in applying. Cycle one applications are due at 5 p.m. on Feb. 1. For more information regarding the GVFESP visit <https://greenbrierwv.com/cvb-grant>

Morrisey's Mobile Office sets January stops

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey announced a representative from his office will meet with central and southeastern West Virginia residents in January to discuss consumer-related issues and answer any potential questions.

"These public events are a great way for consumers to talk one-on-one with our consumer representatives," Attorney General Morrisey said. "Residents can easily get questions answered, learn what is going on in their area and how to keep personal information safe and secure."

Justin Arvon, a consumer outreach and compliance specialist with the office, will host the events as scheduled below:

- Jan. 10: noon to 1 p.m. at Wendy's, HC 30 Box 182AA, 38232 Midland Trail E., Caldwell
- Jan. 11: 11 a.m. to noon at Hinton Town Hall, 322 Summers St., Hinton
- Jan. 17: 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Tootsie's Place, 728 Main St. E., White Sulphur Springs

For information on additional requirements specific to any location, attendees should contact Justin Arvon at 304-590-6462.

We Are Better Together

As we look to a new year, we're celebrating what connects us as a community, and what we can do to bridge our divides. From virtual events and local perspectives to cultural insights and conversation starters, we invite you to join us in making our community better, together.

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To Participate as a Community Contributor, please go to news@mountainmessenger.com.

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WHAT'S IN A NAME? EVERYTHING.

CAMC welcomes Greenbrier Valley Medical Center!

Charleston Area Medical Center is investing in your community because quality health care begins at home. At CAMC Greenbrier Valley Medical Center, you can expect to receive excellent care backed by southern West Virginia's leading health care provider. Should you need specialty care that's not available here, we have you covered with access to highly trained doctors, the latest technology, and the most advanced treatments in a wide range of specialties, including cardiovascular surgery, neurosurgery, neurology, oncology, pediatric specialties, robotic surgery, bariatric surgery, gastroenterology and kidney transplant.

Whether you're new to CAMC or you already know us, we look forward to this new beginning for health care in your community!



Greenbrier Valley Medical Center



CAMC Memorial Hospital | CAMC General Hospital | CAMC Women and Children's Hospital
CAMC Teays Valley Hospital | CAMC Greenbrier Valley Medical Center

Briefly

Williamsburg Shooting Matches continue in 2023

With the New Year comes the Williamsburg Shooting Matches of 2023, beginning on Jan. 7, at the Williamsburg Community Building. Matches start at 7 p.m., but food concessions open at 6 p.m. Match will be eight rounds, 12-gauge guns only. Full choke, .660 inch minimum. Screw in chokes must be from a recognized supplier (patented) and extend no more than 3 inches beyond original barrel. Barrel length 34" maximum. 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! Come early and come hungry! 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! The match will be held at the Community Building 6571 Shoestring, Trail, Williamsburg. We hope to see you all there.

Proceeds will benefit Williamsburg Community service projects. These events are sponsored by a joint effort of the Williamsburg Community Action and the Williamsburg Ruritans. For more information and directions visit our website at www.williamsburgwv.com, or contact Bill Jarvis at 304-645-3690.

Democratic Executive Committee

will meet Wednesday, Jan. 11, at 5:30 p.m. at the Better Homes and Garden real estate office in Lewisburg. If you are interested in working to promote Democratic values in Greenbrier County or would just like to learn more, you are welcome to join us.

Williamsburg's Winter Carnival

A Winter Carnival in Williamsburg will be held Saturday, Jan 14, from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Williamsburg Community Building. There will be games for 10 cents each including Jail House, Frosty the Snowman Toss, Fishing, Balloon Pop, and more. A contest for the Snowman and Woman will be held, and a King and Queen will be crowned at 4:30 p.m. Other activities include a cake walk, door prizes, gift certificates, and more. Food available includes chili, cornbread and compone, hot dogs with chili and slaw, chips, and drinks. All proceeds benefit community activities. For more information email JennClutter16@yahoo.com, call 304-661-2847, or follow "Williamsburg's Winter Wonderland" on Facebook.

Marriages

Jeffrey Claude Baker, Chesterfield, VA to Susan Marie Dowling, Bluffton, SC
Jordan Allen Robinson, Rainelle to Bridgett Mae Lawson, Nettie
Charles Brandon Loudermilk, Lewisburg to Sarah Emma Luther, Lewisburg

PICK OF THE LITTER



NICKY

Nicky is a one-year-old female pit bull terrier mix and weighs 34 pounds



GARFIELD

Garfield is a three-year-old male domestic medium 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.

DON'T SHOP • ADOPT!

For the Record

Deeds

The Summit, LLC. to David M. Ziegler and Elizabeth A. Ziegler, Lot No. 40, Greenbrier Summit Village Phase One Neighborhood, Greenbrier Sporting Club, White Sulphur District
Maye T. Staley and Pamela S. Scott to Jay P. Sullivan, Lot No. 24, Lilly Park Addition to the town of Rainelle, Meadow Bluff District
George Palmer Stacy, III to Thoams M. Gannon and Ladonna R. Gannon, Lots No. 19 and 20, Brookside Subdivision, Lewisburg Corporate District
Michael Alan Cash and Marie Virginia Roberts to Tyler M. Wandless, 1.00 Acre, Anthony Creek District
Property Brothers LLC. to Chad A. Seldomridge and Melissa J. Seldomridge, 0.689 Acre, Fort Spring Dist.
Ann Smith to Chad Hefner, 16.30 Acres, Anthony Creek District
Okell M. Camp to Jeffrey Camp, Robert G. Camp, and Samuel K. Camp, 2.749 Acres, Anthony Creek District
Dana Ray Hanna to Cheryl Schmidt, (1/2 of) Lot No. 57, City of White Sulphur Springs
Denita Marie Rhodes and Dwight Dwayne Rhodes to Dana L. Hunter and Ryan Rhodes, 26.60 Acres, Meadow Bluff District
James D. Nutter and Carolyn L. Nutter to Steve Nutter, Lots No. 72 and 73, Town of Russellville, Meadow Bluff District

Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Convictions

Rogers Gail Wall, Jr., Meadow Bridge, hunting without license, GP, fine \$30
Christian F. Torres, Blue Ash, OH, 1) failure to yield to emergency vehicle, GP, fine \$100; no operators, fine \$25
Timothy Lee Rutherford, Ronceverte, reckless driving, NCP, fine \$100
Hunter L. Bostic, White Sulphur Springs, DUI under 21 years old, NCP, fine \$50
Elwood Howard Goins, Frankford, leaving the scene of an accident, GP, fine \$100
Shirley M. Czaplinski, Leslie, mandatory disposal, NCP, fine \$50
Shirley Czaplinski, Leslie, driving suspended, NCP, fine \$100
Courtney N. Reynolds, Virginia Beach, VA, driving too fast for road conditions, GP, fine \$10

MLK Jr. Day

Continued from Front Page

Greenbrier West High School graduate and professional entertainer Andre Williams will be singing during the program even though he is busy with the American Idol competition this winter. Also on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in Lewisburg about ten years ago he was a singer for the event.

The keynote speaker will be Crystal Good who has been featured in programs around Lewisburg before. She read her poetry at the opening of the 2015 Summit on Race Matters held at the New River Community and Technical College campus in Lewisburg. In 2013, she was one of the speakers for a TedxLewisburg staged at Carnegie Hall. She is now the publisher of Black By God THE WEST VIRGINIAN which is a Black-led news organization developed to address the information gap within West Virginia. It is based in Morgantown. On Dec. 28, 2022 she was awarded the Carter G. Woodson Truth Teller Award by the West Virginia Mine Wars Museum in Matewan.

Watch for more information on the Facebook page: Lewisburg WV MLK Day Celebration. Sharing the Facebook Event posted there will help get the word out. Questions may be directed to Larry Davis at 304-646-0602. Donations in support of the Martin Luther King Day Celebration may be made at the event or mailed to the MLK Committee c/o CYAC at 112 Courtney Drive, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

Survey reveals sinking confidence in public school among voters

By Nadia Ramlagan for WVNS

Five in 10 voters say their confidence in the public school system has decreased since the start of the Covid crisis and over the past year, according to a recent nationwide survey by education think tank the Hunt Institute.

According to data from the National Bureau of Economic Research, reading and math test scores in West Virginia dropped significantly during the course of the pandemic.

Bob Wise, education consultant and former West Virginia Governor, said nearly 60% of voters and parents strongly agree states and school districts should be using federal relief dollars to support schools.

"What our polling data shows us, is people don't want to go back just to normal in education," Wise pointed out. "They want a new normal, they weren't that happy before."

In West Virginia, programs like Sparking Early Literacy Growth are helping school districts implement new approaches to help students regain losses in reading and comprehension.

More than one million students have left public schools since the start of the pandemic, while private school enrollment went up by nearly 20% between 2020 and 2021.

Wise added rather than book-banning or curriculum censorship, parents want state leaders to take action to ensure their kids are taught real-world skills, are safe, and have mental health resources.

"They're interested in personalized learning for their children, because they know that they've had a rough time over the last three years," Wise reported. "They're supporting their teachers, they're very concerned about mental health."

The survey showed nationwide, only a quarter of parents believe school district officials, state education leaders, and school board members did a good job of handling the pandemic.

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 Co. Board of Education

will meet Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 6 p.m. in regular session at the Kyle & Ann Fort Arts & Sciences Building, 653 Church St., Lewisburg. On the agenda:

- Time Out for Applause
 - Brenda Elmore, Davis Stuart Liaison to Greenbrier County Schools (Deborah McClintic)
 - Elizabeth Reynolds, WVU Youth Nutrition Educator (Paula McCoy)
 - Greenbrier East Men's Soccer Team (2022 State Champions)
 - Head Coach – Lucas Lemine
 - Assistant Coach – Bren Pittsenbarger
 - Assistant Coach – Todd Wagner

Delegations

Note: Addressing the Board during delegations gives the public the opportunity to respectfully speak about a topic of concern. The Board takes the comments under advisement and may discuss the concerns at a future meeting.

- Presentation by GWHS Student Representatives to the Board
- Consent Agenda Items
 - Minutes of: Dec. 8, 13, 15, and 20, 2022
 - Financial Items: (A list of these bills and/or copies of bills themselves may be made available for review upon request. All requests should be directed to the Chief School Business Official (CSBO) David McClure at 304-647-6460.)
 - Payment of Invoices
 - Out-of-State Travel Requests:
 - Jeff Bryant, Superintendent/Feb. 15-18, 2023/ San Antonio, TX/AASA, National Superintendents Conference
 - Erin Justice, Counselor/Rainelle & Crichton Elementary/Jan. 31-Feb. 3, 2023/Washington, DC/National School Counselor of the Year Event
 - Erin Justice, Counselor/Rainelle & Crichton Elementary/Mar. 27-31, 2023/Toronto, CA/Presenter at the American Counseling Association Conference
 - Out-of-Zone Student Requests: (Pending release of residing county & available enrollment space and additional staff not required.)
 - Release to Greenbrier County Schools for the 2022-23 School Year: (None.)

Recommendation: The Superintendent recommends that the Board approve the Consent Agenda Items as presented.

Lewisburg Public Safety Committee

will meet Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Paul R. Cooley Council Chamber in City Hall, 942 Washington Street. On the agenda:

- Police Department Corporal promotion
- Approval of Minutes - Sept. 22, 2022 & Dec. 13, 2022

Renick Town Council

will meet Monday, Jan. 16, at 7 p.m. at Renick Town Hall. Agenda items include:

- Community comments
- Approval of meeting minutes
- Approval of financial reports, committee reports, community Easter events
- Other business

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Mountain Messenger

OPINION

Nature's Way

By Karen Cohen

Year After Year

Happy New Year! Another year for gardeners to learn, plant, and grow. January is a start up month for certain seeds. Indoor seed starting kits can be bought online complete with a bottom tray for catching water drips and a clear, plastic lid to keep moisture inside. These are reusable though I do recommend cleaning last year's trays with a bit of bleach in hot water to remove all dirt particles and any mold that might have formed. Also, if any disease or spores collected on old trays, it should be washed off before using again. If properly stored out of the frost and snow, these plastic trays can last over twenty years. I keep mine in an enclosed unheated shed outside.

Seeds from last year are kept in paper envelopes taped shut and stored in a cardboard shoe box. I throw in a few of those silica packs that come with new shoes and other shipped items that helps keep moisture out. Be certain to check dates on your seed packets. Expired seeds DO expire and saving them isn't worth it because they may/may not germinate. You can toss a slew of expired seeds into a damp paper towel, label it, and see if they sprout in a few days. That means they are viable and can be used. I like to replace my seeds according to the projected longevity claimed by seed companies. I listed a handful of the most used seeds below. If you would like to obtain a complete list of viability for vegetable and flower seeds, please drop me a line and I can email you the lists.

This year I will plant seeds following the moon cycles. Say what? Yes, old time growers, maybe even your grandparents, planted by the moon. Moon cycle calendars are easy to find online, just search for one. The full moon is recommended for starting some vegetables that grow above ground. That occurs right now; look up in the sky tonight! I will drop leek and onion seeds into soil-filled trays, sprinkle soil on top and press lightly to make good contact, mist them lightly, cover with the lids and then place the trays on my heating mat. Now the fun begins.

Initially the seeds started indoors don't require light. The heat alone will make them pop open and send out a sprout. The next step is to get them under a light source. Grow lights work great but we have used fluorescent strip lights, too. That little green sprout emerging from a seed will need light of some sort (sunlight is best), to keep it green and growing. It is amazing how nature sends everything UP. Plants, animals, and people all stand up as they are pulled towards the sun.

With the ground in the garden freezing and unfreezing, seedling starts will have to wait until it is safe to plant directly in the ground. Caring for our indoor seedlings can be a big chore until the temps warm up in the spring. Once the seedlings are about 4 inches tall, I set the whole tray outside if and when the temperatures hit 60 degrees or more. This process is called "hardening off." At sunset the seed trays are moved back inside and kept warm again. Extreme hot or cold temperatures will stress any plant and may hinder their growth. If you have a heated greenhouse with a temperature controlled vent/

Town Hall

that fire and EMS-training be offered as an elective-class to high school students, thus offsetting both the time and expense of training. This suggestion was further supported by Deeds, whose term officially began Friday morning.

"The volunteer-basis may improve if we can continue to develop this in the high schools," Deeds said. "Funding is always going to be an issue. Most of your stuff is dependent, not only through the state, but also through the counties. I'd encourage you also to talk to your county commissioners."

Despite not having an immediate solution to funding-concerns, Longanacre expressed his belief that the State Fire Marshal should "incentivize volunteerism" by adjusting training and certification requirements to better meet the needs of more rural areas.

"I'm (also) going to reintroduce a bill this year to try and waive taxes for rural-area fire departments who are volunteers," Longanacre added. "It won't help you fundraise. But as individuals, you should have something coming back to you."

Honaker, who serves on the House Fire and EMS Committee, said, "I don't think you have a problem - you have a crisis."


"This is more serious than you think," Honaker continued. "This is a problem and we've got to figure this out. This is not something we can just keep kicking the can down the road. People die when there are not volunteer fire departments."

"The message has to be clear this session: this is a crisis," Honaker concluded.


Anderson then transitioned the discussion to the constitutional amendment which would have granted state lawmakers the authority to repeal certain property taxes. Amendment 2, which was overwhelmingly voted down by West Virginia residents, was heavily criticized by county commissions, boards of education, and first responder associations across the state for its potential to defund vital services.

"I know a lot of people were happy to see Amendment 2 go down, but I wasn't one of them," Woodrum stated. "I think what you're going to see (during the upcoming session) is that we're going to go back with a phased-in approach to personal income tax reduction, and a car tax rebate. I am curious to hear everyone's thoughts on it. It (Amendment 2) was overwhelmingly voted down. In my mind, people wanted to continue paying taxes."

"I think we're going to go in and take another approach on how to do it," Woodrum added. "The governor seems to be on board with the rebated program, so I



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fan, that works great. Keep these little beings moist, not soaked.

Stratification of seeds can be done now, too. Research will tell you which seeds germinate after a cold treatment. Seeds can be placed in a sealed plastic bag and placed in the fridge or placed outside on cold days. This replicates how seasonal temperatures affect various seeds in an effort to "wake" up their cells. Here's a few common seeds that do need stratification: poppy, black eyed Susan, lavender, and verbena seeds. My experiment this year will be to winterize these seeds directly outside in the plot I have prepared for them to grow. Toss them on cold soil, throw a few shovels of soil on top and let it all go until the magic of spring wakes them out of their deep sleep. You know how sunflower seeds spring up on their own every year? Nature has a built-in clock tick ticking!

These are how many years you can safely and correctly store seeds: Arugula - 6 years, broccoli - 5 years, cukes - 6 years, lettuce - 6 years, spinach - 5 years, summer squash - 4 years, onions just one year only though you might have some luck for two years.

(Karen Cohen is an organic grower of veggies and flowers and writes about her gardening adventures. Gardeners interested in swapping seeds, please email: natureswaykaren@gmail.com)

Continued from Front Page

think we are going to go in that direction. But there is a lot of work to be done, and it's going to change many times before it gets to the governor's desk."

Deeds believes that aggressive tax reform will be "the first thing right out of the gate" during the upcoming legislative session, and Longanacre is hopeful that the current Republican super-majority will be able to "get on the same page" to make that reform a reality. Longanacre then noted he plans to reintroduce a bill which seeks to reduce the state's gasoline tax by 50%.

Honaker reiterated the decision to not publicly state his position on Amendment 2, saying, "As citizens, whatever your position is, whoever is collecting your taxes is the one you need to go complain to."

Woodrum then closed this portion of the meeting by saying, "Part of the discussion of reorganizing taxes that I've been adamant about is that county government has to be part of that. There needs to be another mechanism. Is the answer maybe not lowering taxes or a tax refund, or is there more of an interest in reallocating the tax money we do collect? That's something I'm interested in hearing about."

All four lawmakers then spoke of the need for additional focus on illegal fentanyl distribution, as well as reform within the Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), the Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA), and the state's education system, before moving on to the final topic of the evening.

"The fight to preserve life," Anderson said, referencing the controversial abortion ban recently enacted by the state legislature, "that fight does not end with the previous session."

Woodrum referenced potential legislation which would seek the state's assistance, "maybe through PEIA or the DHHR system," with funding long-term birth control. Deeds then spoke of adoption tax-credits, as well as expanded early-intervention services as being the basis for potential bills introduced during the upcoming session, saying, "We want to make sure we try to build back the family values we have here in West Virginia."

"That's the goal," Deeds added. "Right now, and of course it all relates to the drug epidemic too, we have grandparents raising a lot of kids. We need to have a family structure. And that's what we hope will try to foster that - develop better foster programs and adoption programs that will develop family values."

The West Virginia Legislature will convene for its next interim session on Sunday, Jan. 8. The 2023 regular session is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, Jan. 11.

Commentary

Policymakers must advocate for Agriculture

By Kent A. Leonhardt,
 WV Commissioner of Agriculture

As my team heads into its seventh Legislative session, we once again set off to advocate on behalf of agriculture, our farmers and West Virginia's food supply. Each and every session, we work diligently to remind our lawmakers the value agriculture adds to the West Virginia economy and security of our citizens. Through our efforts, we have found ways to reduce burdens and barriers on our farmers, expand markets for producers, modernize our code and regulations and put in place protections for our farmland. While we still have so much to do, our priorities for this session will be advocating for investments in local food systems, as well as finding a pathway forward for our laboratory facilities.

As we continue to experience rising energy prices, supply chain issues and inflation, it is vital we invest in the resiliency of our energy and agricultural sectors. During the pandemic, we saw disruptions to our food chain that did and could have devastating effects at the local level. The most visible was grocery stores struggled to keep food on the shelves. Consumers turned to local producers which was only possible because we, at the Department of Agriculture, kept agriculture open. Imagine the state of our economy and effects on the food supply if we had bent to the calls for a broader shut down. Instead, we worked with other states to bring in excess commodities and keep our processing facilities open. We found ways to increase meat production by 200% and still today, we still benefit from a 50% increase in meat processing. All because we kept agriculture moving forward.

To continue our effort to foster local food systems, we must fund promotional programs such as the West Virginia Grown and Veterans and Heroes to Agriculture programs. We need to continue to support the growth of our local farmers markets, which have tripled in number since the Department took over their regulation. Our policy makers must put forth resources to attract more processors of all sizes, such as Mountaintop Beverage and Appalachian Abattoir. Both projects will increase our food manufacturing power which will benefit our economy as well as our citizen's health. All these initiatives have been accomplished with little to no taxpayer dollars.

Despite a lack of investment, I am proud of the Department's ability to expand our reach and programmatic response while not increasing the size of government. Comparing our current budget to FY 2008, we have seen only a \$428,000 increase. When you include taking over Cedar Lakes Conference Center, Grade A milk authority, farmers markets, hemp regulations, implementing three across-the-board pay raises and establishing the Veterans and Heroes to Agriculture program, we are operating on a 23% smaller budget than the Department of 15 years ago. At the same time, we have seen state spending increase upwards of 30% since 2008. Frankly, we are doing more with less, and it is time to reward the employees of the Department by upgrading the facilities they work in every day.

I am delighted by the work my staff and I have accomplished over these last six years, and you should be too. As fiscal guardians, we will never ask for more than we need, but there are necessary investments we must make to move agriculture forward in our State. That includes improving our top-of-the-line laboratory services by rebuilding and upgrading the Guthrie Complex. We are confident this is a worthy investment by the people of West Virginia and have done our due diligence to ensure we do it in the most efficient way possible. Regardless, it is time we make the necessary investments in agriculture, and I hope our lawmakers and you will heed our call.

Happy New Year and Semper Paratus
 Kent A. Leonhardt



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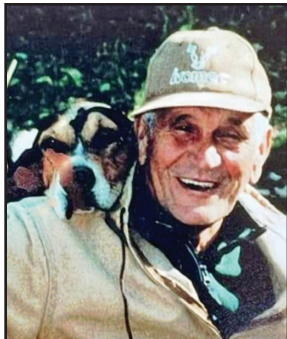
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OBITUARIES

Harry Dean Davis, Sr.,



Asbury-Harry Dean Davis, Sr., 87, passed away Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022, at his home.

Born July 14, 1935, in Indian Mills, WV, he was the son of the Carl Woodson and Ella Brown Davis.

Mr. Davis was a member of the Emmanuel United Methodist Church. Being an avid outdoorsman, he loved bear hunting and was known as "Orange Man." Mr. Davis was owner and operator of the Bellflower Dairy Farm for many years.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Genevieve Ellen Bragg Davis; brothers, Dewey, Bernard, Frank, Leon, and Glen Cecil Davis; and sisters, Nancy Adeline Bradley and Dorothy Mae Williams.

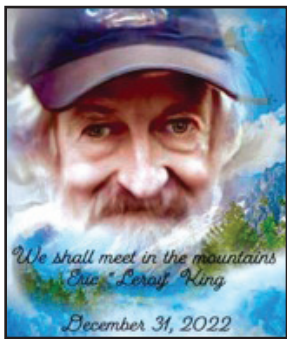
Survivors include his sons, Harry Dean Davis Jr., Paul Wayne Davis, and Carl Edward "Topper" Davis (Regina) all of Asbury; grandchildren, Kerri Vaughan (Chris), Nathan Davis (Kenslea), Landon Davis (Jessica), Josie Ellen Davis, Aaron Bradley Davis and Jared Allen Davis; great-grandchildren, Jennings and Kade Vaughan, Nalynn, Kaeson, Caleb and Maddie Davis; and several nieces and nephews.

It was Mr. Davis' wish to be cremated.

The family would like to thank Shauna Crowe RN, Sam, and Mickey with HospiceCare and the Beckley VA, Tina Halterman FNP and Rhonda Pennington RN, for the wonderful care provided.

Online guestbook may be signed at www.morganfh.net. Arrangements by Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV.

Eric King



Alderson-Eric "Leroy" King, 78, passed away Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022 at Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington, VA.

Born Oct. 18, 1944 at Montgomery, VA, he is a son of the late William Harman King and Irene W. Mottesheard King.

Leroy was a general contractor, a devout Christian, loved gardening, ginseng hunting, and was very musically inclined, playing the Dobro, Banjo and other instruments.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by sisters, Elleen King, Shirley Sanders, Pauleen Wilson, and Eiffe Winebrimmer; and brothers, Howard King, Minor Lee King, Billy King, Gene King, and Paul King.

Survivors include his three sons, Eric Daniel King, Christopher Andrew King (Nancy) and Jeffrey Lee King (Jennifer); the mother of his children,

Nellie Frances Brown King; grandchildren, Leetah Massie, Eric Jackson, Isaiah King, Shayla King, Caleb King, Summer King, Garion King, Alexis King, Nevaeh King and Emma King; great-grandchildren, Aiyana Rutherford, Graham Jackson, Spencer, River and Sorren Poe; sister, Margaret Hoke of Indiana; and brothers, Robert King of Ronceverte, Henry King of Alabama and Stevie King of Alabama.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Ronceverte, with Pastor Stewart Farley officiating. Burial will follow in Highland Park Cemetery, Second Creek, WV.

A visitation will be held one hour prior to the service on Friday.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Ronceverte is in charge of arrangements. Please send online condolences by visiting: www.WallaceandWallace-FH.com

Tiawanda Woodson



White Sulphur Springs -Tiawanda Woodson, 60, gained her Angel wings on Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022, at her residence in White Sulphur Springs.

Tia was born Dec. 31, 1961, in White Sulphur Springs, the daughter of the late Iris Virginia Jackson and Albert Woodson.

Tiawanda was a member of the House of Prayer Church for All Nations in WSS under the leadership of Pastor Yvette Wilmer. She also fellowshiped with other churches to include First Baptist and New Vision both of WSS. Tiawanda was a member of the Community Mass Choir Resurrection Praise.

She volunteered her time by visiting with the sick, shut in and the elderly. Providing them with meals, transportation, and light housekeeping. Sharing with them the word and love of God.

Tiawanda used her voice to advocate for the veteran population to help get them much needed assistance. She also advocated for female inmates who served time in the prison system by helping to find them employment, housing and training that would help equip them to transition back into society.

Tia was a bright and Shining star in the community using her voice to uplift and encourage others. She had a smile that lightened any space she entered.

Occupation - Retail and Business Management; Education - Senior High School, Carol City Miami, FL.; Bachelor of Arts in Retail and Business Management; Hobbies - gardening, poetry, and music.

Preceded in death by her parent's mother, Iris Virginia Jackson and father, Albert Woodson.

She is survived by son, Jemarco Woodson and grandson, Grant Woodson of Lewisburg; brothers, Tyke Woodson and wife

Rita of Delaware and Darin Woodson of Miami, FL; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles.

Celebration of Life will be held Sunday, Jan. 8, at First Baptist Church in White Sulphur Springs. Wake at 1 p.m. Funeral service at 2 p.m. officiated by Pastor Yvette Wilmer, Pastor Greg Scott, and Pastor Kathy Holland. Interment will follow in Greenbrier Memorial Gardens in Lewisburg.

Please send donations to Jemarco Woodson, 2350 Benedict Lane, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg is in charge of arrangements. Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallace-FH.com

Harry Lomons Ligans, III

Fairlea-Harry Lomons Ligans, III, 44, formerly of White Sulphur Springs passed away unexpectedly at his residence on Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022.

He was born Dec. 21, 1978 in Charlottesville, VA, to the late Harry Ligans, Jr. and Mabelle Young.

Harry worked at Bob Evans in Lewisburg.

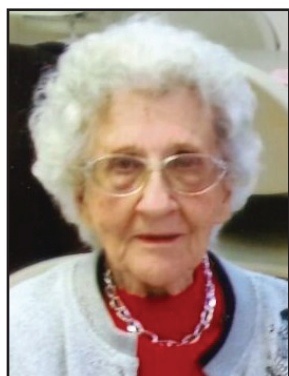
Other than his parents he was preceded in death by a sister, Natasha Young.

Surviving Harry are his sons, Mark Schoenese of Florida and Jaden Tincher of Alderson; two grandchildren; grandmother, Anita Young of White Sulphur Springs; sister, Quana Walker of Alderson; nieces, Lyric Walker and Gabrielle Young; nephews, Tyshawn Walker, Sr. and Juanae Young; great-nephew, Tyshaun Walker, Jr.; and a host of cousins, relatives and friends.

A gathering will be held on Saturday Jan. 7, at 2 p.m. at the Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in White Sulphur Springs.

Please send online condolences by visiting: www.WallaceandWallace-FH.com

Velma Sites Brackenrich



Vago-Velma Sites Brackenrich, 94, passed away Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023 at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center.

Born May 15, 1928 at Vago, she is a daughter of the late Clarence Edgar and Leota E. Kershner Sites.

Velma was a lifelong resident of Vago, was a retired hairdresser at her shop, the Modern House of Beauty in Lewisburg; was a 1946 graduate of Lewisburg High School, was a graduate of Appalachian Beauty College in Bluefield; was a member of Clifton Presbyterian Church and church Circle at Maxwellton; was a member of the Henning Church of God JOY Group; and was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion Post #69 in Lewisburg.

In addition to her parents, Velma was preceded in death by her husband, Lemuel A. Brackenrich in 2008; brother, Wilmer Sites; three sisters-in-law, Ruth Brackenrich, Sally "Frances" Brown and Nellie Haynes; and brother-in-law, Laburn Brackenrich.

Those left to cherish her memory are "special friends" Joe Hendricks and wife Catherine of Vago, their children, Joe Hendricks, Jr. and wife Valerie of Princeton, WV and Debra Ward of White Sulphur Springs; sisters-in-law, Hilda Clendenin of Roanoke, VA, Nadine Brackenrich of Rupert, and Nova Rutherford of New Hope, VA; brother-in-law, George Brackenrich of Rupert; and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

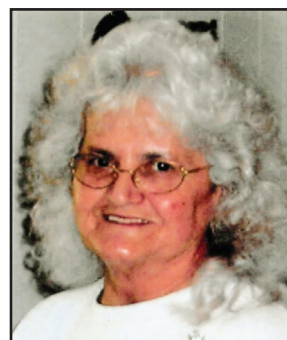
Funeral service was held on Wednesday, Jan. 4, at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg, where Rev. Ron Miller officiated. Burial followed in Rosewood Cemetery.

A visitation was held one hour prior to the service on Wednesday.

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

Shelby Jean Loudermilk



Frankford- Shelby Jean Loudermilk, 86, passed away Monday, Jan. 2, 2023, at Lewis Gale Medical Center, Salem, VA.

Born Oct. 11, 1936, in Frankford, she was the daughter of the late Creed and Etta Jane Darlington Blankenship.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband, Roy Loudermilk; second husband, Wayne Loudermilk; son, Roy Lee Loudermilk; and ten brothers and sisters.

Survivors include her children, Wanda Goins (Dale) of Frankford, Gary Loudermilk of Bellburn, Larry Loudermilk of Sperryville, VA, Steve Loudermilk (Charlene) of Quinwood, Phillip Loudermilk (Patsy) of Summersville, and Rex Loudermilk (Shalana) of Quinwood; 16 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, 2 great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral service will be at 1 p.m., Friday, Jan. 6, at the Morgan Funeral Home Chapel, Lewisburg, with Pastor Robert Hefner officiating. Burial will fol-

low in the Enon Baptist Church Cemetery, Frankford. Visitation will be on Friday one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Online guestbook may be signed at www.morganfh.net

Randy Keith Burks

Renick-Randy Keith Burks, 57, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022, at Peyton Hospice House.

Born Oct. 12, 1965, in Marlinton, he was the son of Hursle Burks and the late Merley Blankenship.

In addition to his mother, he was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Biddie and Joe Blankenship, and paternal grandparents, David and Ressie Burks.

Survivors include his father, Hursle Burks; son, Josh Burks of Auto; brothers, Robert Burks (Becky) of Calif, WV, Micheal Burks of Auto, Roger Burks (Sherry) of Pennsylvania; sister, Patricia Preston of Auto; granddaughters, Cherokee and Paislie Burks; and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 7, at the Woodland Community Church with Pastor Mark Gillenwater officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service.

Online guestbook may be signed at www.morganfh.net. Arrangements by Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV.

Obituary Policy

- Obituaries should be received within 30 days of death.
- 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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Dear Recycle Lady,

Dear Recycle Lady,

This year my Christmas wreaths were made of pine wired onto a heavy wire frame. They were beautiful, but what do I do with them now? Are these wire frames recyclable?

Hope They Recycle

Dear Hope They Recycle,

Yes, your wire frames are recyclable. Just remove the pine from the wire and bring them to the Recycling Center. Be sure the frame stays in shape as single pieces of wire cannot be recycled. They would jam up the equipment. Better yet, use the wreaths as mulch in your garden. Not only will they add winter protection to outdoor plants, but the pine will decompose to a point that it is easier to remove.

Dear Recycle Lady,

What can I do with letters from the bank, credit card bills, old tax reports, and sensitive documents?

Paranoid

Dear Paranoid,

The Greenbrier Recycling Center provides a free, safe shredding of personal documents that is available for everyone. All confidential documents taken to the Recy-

cling Center are locked in a secure, windowless room. They remain there until such time as the staff is shredding paper. After all documents in the safe room are shredded, they are mixed with other shredded paper so there is no chance anyone could ever put your forms back together again.

Before taking your documents to the Recycling Center, go through all documents and remove paper clips, binders, manila folders, brown envelopes or large mailing envelopes. Staples do not need to be removed. Put all the papers in a bag or box and take them to the aluminum can door at the Recycling Center. Ring the bell and someone will meet you there and take your package to the locked, secure room.

Dear Recycle Lady,

Last week you said flour and sugar bags can be recycled. They also can be composted.

Composter

Dear Composter,

Thanks for the email. You are correct. Flour and sugar bags are a great addition to compost materials, especially if your compost is soggy. As I am

sure you know, composting requires a proportional combination of brown and green material to encourage healthy bacteria and fungi colonies to grow. Flour and sugar bags made of paper (no plastic) are considered brown material. Paper is a biodegradable material that will readily break down in a compost pile, regardless of its thickness.

Good News: President Biden has signed into law an important, bipartisan ocean conservation legislation as part of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act. This bill includes a ban on the buying and selling of shark fins in the United States. It also provides the U.S. government with more tools to address devastating and destructive practices like illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. (Oceana.com)

Have questions about recycling, or interesting information about recycling? Send questions or requests to recyclelady@greenbrier-swa.com

Dear Recycle Lady is sponsored jointly by the Greenbrier Recycling Center and Greenworks Recycling.

A Look Back



By William "Skip" Deegans

As dancers closed out 1947 swinging to the tunes of the Erskine Hawkins Orchestra in the Dancerverte Armory, they quickly caught their second wind when famed drummer Gene Krupa and his orchestra came to town for a dance in the same venue on June 6, 1948. The Smithsonian Magazine described Krupa as the "first superstar drummer."

Born in Chicago in 1948, Krupa began playing the saxophone at age 6 but switched to drums because they were the cheapest thing in the music store. A Catholic, he followed his mother's wishes and attended St. Joseph's College to study for the priesthood. He abandoned those plans and was soon playing with great band leaders like Eddie Condon and Glenn Miller and alongside musicians like Bix Beiderbecke on Cornet and Coleman Hawkins on Sax.

In 1934, he joined the Benny Goodman band. His skill as a drummer, good looks, and showmanship propelled Krupa to star power. His composition with Goodman of "Sing, Sing, Sing" helped the band become as successful as it did. After a falling-out with Goodman, Krupa formed his own band that had its first performance in 1938 at Atlantic City's Steel Pier.

While Krupa continued performing, he appeared in several films, and in 1959 the actor Sal Mineo played Krupa in the film, *The Gene Krupa Story*, with a cameo by his former vocalist, Anita O'Day. Krupa died in 1973 at age 64.

Photo from Wikimedia Commons.

Sources: Smithsonian, New York Times, www.drummerman.net, www.traditional-jazz.com

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Written referral from a health care provider (D.O., M.D., nurse practitioner or physician assistant) is required prior to making an appointment.

No open workers' compensation, disability or motor vehicle accident claims. Injuries currently or potentially involved in litigation will not be accepted.

Patients will be required to wear masks.

Belinda Anderson to hold Free Writing Workshop



Local author Belinda Anderson will hold a free writing workshop, "Lights, Camera, Action! Directing Your Manuscript" on Saturday, Jan. 14, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. There is no charge for participants, as this workshop is sponsored by grants from the Literacy Fund and the Hinton Area Foundation.

This workshop will be offered virtually, with a max enrollment of 25 total to allow interaction between instructor and students. For anyone with unreliable internet, we will also be meeting in person to use the internet at the Parmer Center (Hinton Area Foundation building) at 104 James Street, Hinton. Virtual link will be emailed to participants a week prior to the event.

Workshop Description: You have an idea. Or a lot of material that could become a manuscript. Or the beginning of a manuscript. Or a draft that is yet to be fully realized. Join us for this workshop and walk away with a game plan. Just like movie directors, writers benefit from having their characters and setting ready before the plot starts unfolding. Learn how to assemble your cast and start production. There will be opportunities for writing, and for questions. Known for the humor in her writing, Belinda will include cartoon illustrations of the points in her presentation - and a cartoon avatar of herself. Writers can apply what they learn to both fiction and nonfiction projects.

The cost is free but due to limited spots, registration will be first come/first served. Please contact Cheryl Kula directly to register (cheryl.kula@gmail.com or through Facebook messenger).

Belinda Anderson, an award-winning freelance writer, is the author of four books, published by Mountain State Press. Her first three books are short story collections: *The Well Ain't Dry Yet*, *The Bingo Cheaters* and *Buckle Up, Buttercup*. Jackson v. Witchy Wanda: *Making Kid Soup*, is a middle-grade novel. Her literary work was selected for inclusion on the first official literary map of West Virginia, published by Fairmont State University. West Virginia Writers, Inc., recognized her with a Just Uncommonly Good Works Award "for Uncommonly Good Service to West Virginia's writers and to the writing community through your excellent mentoring." The former newspaper reporter holds a master's degree in liberal arts studies. With a background in journalism, Belinda has extensive credits in nonfiction. Most recently, she has produced nine volumes for a history booklet series commissioned by Alderson Main Street and has researched history articles promoting tourism for the Greenbrier County Convention & Visitors Bureau. Belinda teaches workshops and also works individually with writers on manuscript development.

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WVDOH maintenance spending: Legislative audit reveals results



An audit of the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) maintenance budget confirms that extra money spent on road maintenance the past several years is paying off in better roads throughout West Virginia.

"The overall increase in funding and subsequent increase in maintenance expenditures has resulted in a large growth

of completed projects by the WVDOH," the legislative audit report says. "The additional funding has assisted the WVDOH to more than double the total number of completed projects from calendar year 2019 to 2022 while steadily increasing production each successive year.

In 2019, in conjunction with Gov. Jim Jus-

tice's \$2.8 billion Roads to Prosperity program, Gov. Justice and the WVDOH launched the Secondary Roads Initiative, which specifically targets the roads West Virginians drive on every day for previously underfunded maintenance work.

The initiative helped the WVDOH return to what state Transportation Secretary Jimmy Wriston, P.E., calls the "roots" of the WVDOH as a maintenance organization to take care of existing infrastructure, and allowed for an increased emphasis on core maintenance.

Core maintenance includes milling and filling potholes to keep roads smooth, clearing ditches to keep water off roadways, removing brush and trees from overhead

to allow the sun in to dry off wet roads, and stabilizing gravel roads. WVDOH has also worked to increase the capability of its workforce, providing equipment and training necessary to use its own crews for paving and pile wall drilling projects in addition to those let to contractors in order to pave more miles and repair more slides.

Since 2019, Gov. Justice and the West Virginia Legislature have provided the WVDOH in more than \$477 million in supplemental budget appropriations and budget transfers for highway maintenance.

According to a report issued by the West Virginia Legislative Auditor's office, the spending on maintenance is paying off. "Overall, the recent

emphasis placed on maintenance will benefit the state for years to come," legislative auditors concluded. "Recent maintenance efforts made by the WVDOH, and additional funding provided by the Legislature has allowed the state to perform additional necessary overdue roadway maintenance. Underfunding of roadway maintenance is not just an issue plaguing West Virginia, but an issue the nation is facing."

"We are getting more efficient," Wriston told the Legislature's Post Audits Subcommittee during legislative interim meetings in December. "We have returned to our roots."

In the meeting, Wriston was asked about the audit results. "This is telling us

that our folks are doing a good job," he said.

In 2022, in partnership with West Virginia Tourism, WVDOH debuted three Mountain Rides scenic routes; Seneca Skyway, Capitol Circle, and Cranberry Corridor. Ribbons were cut on major projects including the much anticipated Nitro WWI Memorial Bridge. WVDOH broke its record for tree canopy clearing with 170 acres cleared during a season. With an increase in work zones of all types and sizes in all 55 counties, WVDOH is encouraging drivers to remain alert in every work zone, every time. While the pace of work continues to speed up, motorists are encouraged to slow down.

AG Morrissey urges consumers to be wary of deceptive weight loss options

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrissey is urging consumers to be cautious when evaluating ways to lose those extra pounds, perhaps as a New Year's resolution.

Quick-fix solutions are easily available but may not be the healthiest choice for consumers or the best option for long-term results.

"Weight loss resolutions are frequently made at the start of a new year," Attorney General Morrissey said. "While this is a good goal, it is important for consumers to research their options and lose weight in a healthy, legitimate and financially smart way."

Consumers should avoid weight loss advertisements for miracle pills or creams, others that guarantee permanent weight loss without lifestyle changes and those that promise results without diet or exercise.

Some weight-loss products, many of which are imported and sold online, have been found to be tainted with ingredients that have serious side effects, such as heart problems and strokes. It is also important to know whether prescribed medication can be impacted by the ingredients in a weight-loss product.

"Natural" dietary supplements have also been found to have hidden active ingredients contained in prescription drugs.

For instance, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration issued approximately 18 public notifications for tainted weight loss products from 2020-2022.

Consumers should also be wary of free trials and closely read terms and conditions for each offer. Some companies use free trials as an opportunity to sign up

the consumer for additional products, which the consumer is billed for until cancellation.

Attorney General Morrissey is also urging consumers to read and understand the fine print when considering gym memberships. Those looking to join a gym should visit the facility before doing so to see if it's a good fit. They should carefully read every document before signing to ensure they know what they're agreeing to and understand all the terms and conditions.

Additionally, businesses primarily involved in the sale of memberships, providing instruction or use of facilities in a program of physical exercise, are required to be registered with the Attorney General's Office.

Anyone who believes they have been the victim of a scam should contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at 800-368-8808 or visit the office online at www.ago.wv.gov

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Super Crossword

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

SCRAMBLERS solution

1. Enlist 2. Agile;
3. Broad; 4. Stripe;
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NOTICE OF TRUSTEE SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE

Pursuant to the authority vested in the undersigned by deed of trust dated the 14th day of August, 2020, signed by Christopher Brian Showalter, unmarried man, to Jeffry Pritt, Trustee, which said deed of trust is of record in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Greenbrier County, West Virginia, in Trust Deed Book 829, at page 199, and Golden & Amos, PLLC, Trustee having been requested so to do by the Secured Creditor, and default having been made under the terms and conditions of said deed of trust, and the provisions in said deed of trust concerning acceleration having been complied with by the Secured Creditor and present holder of the note, said Trustee will sell at public auction at 11:30 O'clock a.m. on the 12TH DAY OF JANUARY 2023

at the front doors of the Courthouse in Greenbrier County in Lewisburg, West Virginia the following described real estate: All of the following described real estate, together with the buildings and improvements located thereon, and the rights of way, easements and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate, lying and being in Irish Corner District, County of Greenbrier, State of West Virginia, and being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a 3/4" iron pipe set in the northwestern line of a 40 foot right of way for access road, a corner to Gregory A. Weikle; thence leaving Weikle and with the said right of way S 61-49-08 W 172.80 feet; thence continuing with the right of way S 32-06-14 W 29.73 feet to a 5/8 inch rebar found, a corner to James O. Lafon; thence leaving 40 foot right of way and with said Lafon N 57-53-46 W 329.56 feet to a fence post found; a corner to Robert M. Howard; thence leaving Lafon and with said Howard N 9-43-41 E 443.90 feet to a 3/4" iron pipe set; thence leaving Howard and through the property of Sarah Masters Honaker S 70-15-52 E 626.50 feet to a 1/2" iron pipe set, a corner to Gregory A. Weikle; thence with said Weikle S 56-37-43 W 150.40 feet to a 1/2" iron pipe set; thence continuing with Weikle S 23-27-42 W. 230.66 feet to the place of beginning and containing 5.258 acres, more or less, according to a survey made by N. Eugene Kelley on October 4, 1996 and shown on plat entitled "Plat Showing the Property of Patrick and Jessica Reynolds which is recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Greenbrier County, West Virginia, in Deed Book 461, at page 458.

This conveyance is subject to that certain Road Maintenance Agreement which is recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office in Deed Book 502 at page 278.

It is the intention of this notice to sell the secured property by proper description as was intended to be transferred and conveyed in the aforesaid deed of trust.

The above described real estate is reported to have a mailing address of: 187 Charles Masters Rd, Ronceverte, WV 24970

TERMS OF SALE: Cash in hand on day of sale or within 30 days of date of sale upon terms to be agreed upon between Trustee and successful bidder, time being of the essence; payment for unpaid real estate taxes to be assumed by the purchaser. The Trustee does not warrant title or fitness to this property; it is being purchased as is; this is a buyer beware sale and any buyer is advised to retain counsel before the sale. If there is any part of the process of sale which is found to be objectionable, the Trustee reserves the right to cancel the sale. No purchaser should take possession or make improvements in the premises until the Trustee deed is delivered or recorded. A third party purchaser at sale will be required to pay the purchase price plus all recording and transfer fees.

Trustee at sale is under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the subject property to vacate said property.

FEDERAL TAX LIEN: In the event that there are Federal Tax Liens against the property, the United States would have the right to redeem the property within a period of 120 days from the date of such sale or the period allowable for redemption under local law, whichever is longer.

The party(ies) secured by the Deed of Trust reserve the right to purchase the property at such sale. If the purchaser at sale is unable to complete the terms of purchase within 30 days, the Trustee reserves the right to transfer the property to the next highest bidder.

Any sale hereunder may be adjourned from time to time without any notice other than oral proclamation at the time and place appointed for this sale or by posting of a notice of same. Should the Trustee not appear at the time appointed for the sale and there is no notice posted of a continuance please contact the office of the Trustee to make further inquiry. Any sale may be conducted or adjourned by the designated agent or attorney of the Trustee. The undersigned is fully vested with the authority to sell said property as Trustee by instrument of record. Some Trustee sales may be conducted by a servicer required Auction Company. In that event, the auctioneer will be acting under an "Auction Services Agreement."

Should any party have any inquires, objections to the sale or protests regarding the sale, or requests regarding the sale, please notify the trustee below by one of the means of communications set forth below.

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Our business hours are 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
On weekdays - not including holidays

LEGAL

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 16, 2023 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project(s):

Table with 5 columns: Call Contract, State Project, Federal Project, Description. Row 1: 001 2021000702 S389-STR/IP-23 00 STBG-2023(010)D PAVEMENT MARKINGS ROADWAY STRIPING DISTRICT WIDE COUNTY: FAYETTE, GREENBRIER, NICHOLAS, SUMMERS

DBE GOAL: 10% 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. All contractors submitting bids on project(s) must include one of the following forms properly executed with each proposal: Proposal Guaranty Bond, Cashier's Check, or Certified Check for \$500.00 or 5% of the total bid, whichever is greater.

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 deferral, 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.

LEGAL

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF GREENBRIER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

BCS RENTALS, LLC, Plaintiff,

v. JEREMIAH LEE WINDON and KIMBERLY MCCOLL, Defendants,

Civil Action No.: CC-13-2022-C-116

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Jeremiah Lee Windon
273 Belltown Road
Quinwood, WV 25981

The object of the above-entitled civil action is to obtain possession of a portable storage building located at 273 Belltown Road, Quinwood, West Virginia.

It appearing by Affidavit filed in this civil action that Plaintiff has used due diligence to ascertain the residence and whereabouts of Defendant, Jeremiah Lee Windon, without effect, it is hereby ordered that Jeremiah Lee Windon serve upon Marc Lazenby, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Lazenby Law Office, P.O. Box 4968, Princeton, West Virginia 24740, an Answer, including any related Counterclaim or defense which Jeremiah Lee Windon may have to the Complaint filed in this civil action, or before thirty (30) days after the date of the first publication of this Order of Publication in a newspaper of general circulation in Greenbrier County, West Virginia. If Jeremiah Lee Windon fails to do so, judgment may be taken against him for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

A copy of the Complaint may be obtained from the office of the Greenbrier West Virginia Circuit Court Clerk.

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LEGAL

PUBLIC ONLINE AUCTION

Fulton BSH LBWV, LLC/Secure Store - 135 Maple Carriage Drive, Lewisburg, WV 24901, has a possessory lien on all of the goods stored in units 315 and 359. The auction will end on January 12, 2023 at 12 noon. All these items of personal property are being auctioned online through lockerfox.com

LEGAL

PUBLIC ONLINE AUCTION

Fulton BSH WSSWV, LLC/Secure Store - 38515 Midland Trail East, Caldwell, WV 24925, has a possessory lien on all of the goods stored in units 146 and 99. The auction will end on January 12, 2023 at 12 noon. All these items of personal property are being auctioned online through lockerfox.com

SCRAMBLERS

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

Grid for scramblers with words: Volunteer, Silent, Quick, GAILE, Vast, ABORD, Band, ESPRIT. Includes 'Locate any' and 'TODAY'S WORD' fields.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

9x9 Sudoku grid with numbers 8, 2, 9, 2, 1, 8, 4, 6, 5, 3, 1, 8, 6, 2, 5, 9, 3, 9, 3, 4, 1, 6, 7, 2, 1, 5, 8, 7, 3, 9.

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

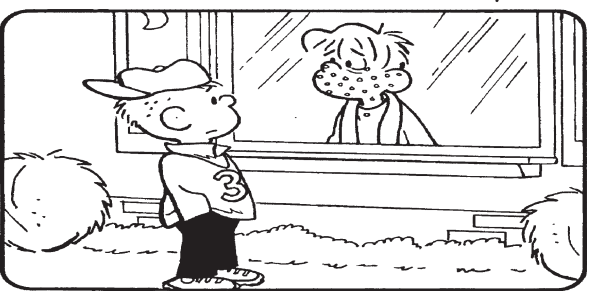
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Mailbox is missing. 2. Sign is missing. 3. Chair is missing. 4. Sign is missing. 5. Bricks are missing. 6. Chair is missing. 7. Number is different. 8. Sign is missing. 9. Chair is missing.

Super Crossword

WHAT IN THE WHAT?

- ACROSS: 1 "Pet" annoyances, 7 Dance click, 13 Extreme right-wing doctrine, 20 Polio vaccine developer, 21 2008 presidential campaign coinage, 22 Caine/Ustinov adventure film, 23 SKILglintLET, 25 Scorn, 26 Poem with six stanzas, 27 PUSmackSS, 29 Boob tubes, 31 Born, to Luc, 32 Arab ruler, 33 COSimianRE, 44 "Certainly", 45 Open with a click, 46 "Star Trek" crew woman, 47 43rd U.S. pres., 49 Prairie preyer, 50 FORchildEST, 57 Pursues prey, 58 ISP with a butterfly logo, 59 Be in the hole, 60 Like wickerwork, 61 Hobbit enemy, 62 Actress Lupino, 64 Tabriz native, 68 Thin iPod, 69 LAcobraWN, 73 — California (Mexican peninsula), 76 The Jordan River flows into it, 77 CPR expert, 78 Pas' counterparts, 81 Kafka or Liszt, 83 Freezer cubes, 84 "I'm freezing!", 86 Fully grown, 88 TUbazeMMY, 93 Napoli's land, 94 Retrovirus material, 95 On — to nowhere, 96 Member of a sorority, 97 Kenan's sitcom mate, 100 DEVspiritICE, 105 "— to laugh!", 107 German cry of vexation, 108 Colum's counterpart, 109 NlblastGHT, 116 Caribbean island nation, 122 Afternoon show, 123 GRcreaseIT, 125 One going in, 126 "Hakuna —" ("The Lion King" song), 127 Vindicate, 128 Little puzzles, 129 Stage whispers, 130 Neatens up, 13 Went without food, 14 Novelist Sholem, 15 Oxford, e.g., 16 — latte (espresso variety), 17 Extreme disrepute, 18 Doll who is Barbie's 96-Across, 19 Bishops' headwear, 24 Peaceful "Avatar" race, 28 Outlaw Kelly, 30 Gives the cold shoulder, 33 Many, informally, 34 "Time is — side", 35 "Girlfriend" boy band, 36 Lace snarl, 37 Has dinner at home, 38 Less — stellar, 39 Central area, 40 Prior to, in poetry, 41 — tai, 42 Size above med., 43 "How icky!", 48 Helpful things, 51 Nada, 52 Little branch, 53 One listening, 54 Reproductive gametes, 55 Wildcat's lair, 56 Lead-in to cone or Caps, 58 Reach a goal, 63 Pappy, 64 Elected group, 65 U.S. Hwy., e.g., 66 "Caught you!" setting, for short, 67 "Rambo" short, 69 More reasonable, 70 Per person, 71 Concept, in Cannes, 72 Crackling radio noise, 73 Very close pal, for short, 74 Onassis or Fleischer, 75 Jam holder, 78 Prefix with task, 79 Non-earthling, 80 Gawk rudely, 82 Pizazz, 84 Unexciting, 85 Winona of "Stranger Things", 87 Quick sprint, 89 Casual refusal, 90 "Anna and the King" actress — Ling, 91 Suffix with southeast, 92 Fate, 93 "Caught you!", 97 Fate, 98 Gas in fuel, 99 Ray of "GoodFellas", 101 Westerns, in old slang, 102 Univ., e.g., 103 Louise's film cohort, 104 Over 50%, 106 Hogs' homes, 110 Concerning, 111 — -do-well, 112 "Buenos —" ("Good day," in Granada), 113 Prefix with tank, 114 Enjoy a novel, 115 Toy flown on a windy day, 117 — Strauss, 118 Exercised, 119 Child's plea, 120 "Bus Stop" playwright William, 121 Fruit-flavored drinks, 124 "One Mic" rapper

STEPPIN' OUT

Local artist displays work at Greenbrier Physicians



"In the Garden" by Laurine Yates

Laurine Yates will have an exhibit of small paintings in the lobby of the Greenbrier Physicians for three months starting in January. She is a member of the Greenbrier Artists and she has been accepted by Tamarack. She has had two one-person shows.

Yates has been an artist and art teacher most of her life, studying in schools and numerous teachers. This selection of paintings shows her interest in various subjects, styles and mediums. Please stop by and take a look!

DINING
& entertainment guide

Dutch Haus Restaurant
Lewisburg Elks Country Club at 368 Brush Rd., Lewisburg

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

Carnegie Hall Calendar of Events

Friday, Jan. 20: Second Stage Lounge - Join Carnegie Hall for the Smooth Ambler Second Stage Lounge Thomas Taylor preshow reception in the Old Stone Room at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 20. Free admission. Cash bar available.

Friday, Jan. 20: Musical Presentation By Thomas Taylor - The Smooth Ambler Second Stage Series presents From the Mountains to the Neon Lights - A Musical Presentation by Thomas Taylor on Friday, Jan. 20, at 7:30 p.m. Join Carnegie Hall as we take a trip down country music memory lane. Tickets start at \$20.

Saturday, Feb. 11: A Valentine Concert - More Music To Love With Barbara Nissman At The Piano - The Carnegie Classics Series presents A Valentine Concert - More Music to Love with Barbara Nissman at the piano on Friday, Jan. 20, at 7:30 p.m. Join Carnegie Hall for more of Barbara's favorites as she shares the music and stories of her composer "friends." Tickets start at \$20. Complete Series discounts and BOGO available.

Thursday, Feb. 23: Mainstage Lounge - Join Carnegie Hall for the Black Opry Mainstage Lounge preshow reception in the Board Room at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 23. Free admission. Cash

bar and snacks available.

Thursday, Feb. 23: Black Opry Revue - Mainstage Performance on Thursday, Feb. 23, at 7:30 p.m. featuring Black Opry Revue. Black Opry is a home for Black artists and Black fans of country, blues, folk, and Americana music. Tickets start at \$23.

Rotating Galleries: Old Stone Room Gallery - Works by Trish Tuckwiler. There will be an opening reception on Friday, Jan. 6 from 5 to 8 p.m. Runs through Feb. 24.

Museum Gallery - Works by the Alderson Quilt Guild. There will be an opening reception on Friday, Jan. 6 from 5 to 8 p.m. Runs through Mar. 31.

Lobby Gallery - Works by Kathy Talley. Opens Friday, Jan. 6. Runs through Mar. 31.

Permanent Exhibit: Arts from the Ashes: The History of Carnegie Hall - The exhibit features memorabilia, photographs, artifacts and more of Carnegie Hall since its construction in 1901. Located on the second floor. Free admission.

Carnegie Hall is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, please visit carnegiehallwv.org, call 304-645-7917, or stop by 611 Church Street, Lewisburg.

Smooth Ambler Second Stage Series kicks off 2023 with Thomas Taylor



Thomas Taylor

Carnegie Hall's Second Stage Series presents From the Mountains to the Neon Lights - A Musical Presentation by Thomas Taylor in the Old Stone Room on Friday, Jan. 20, at 7:30 p.m. Guests are invited to come early for a Preshow Reception from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. The Second Stage Series is sponsored by Smooth Ambler.

From the Mountains to the Neon Lights is an informative musical presentation that lets the audience take a trip down

country music memory lane. Starting in the 1920s, presenter Thomas Taylor will take his audience through the Bristol Sessions of country music where it all began in 1927. He will incorporate song and the history of what happened up to the golden age of country music.

The evening will culminate with several songs performed by The Thomas Taylor Band showcasing the instruments emphasized during the presentation,

such as guitar, auto harp, dobro, fiddle, piano, and pedal-steel guitar.

The Thomas Taylor Band formed in 2017 and is dedicated to preserving and promoting traditional country music. They focus primarily on the honky-tonk genre, but also have a vast catalog of material, including western country swing. The band released their first album "Another Round" in August of 2020.

Band members in-

clude Thomas Taylor (lead singer/rhythm and lead guitar), Don Drummer (pedal-steel guitar), Butch White (drums), Alex Donahue (bass/backup vocal) and Jerry Wood (fiddle).

Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased by visiting www.carnegiehallwv.org, calling 304-645-7917, or stopping by 611 Church Street, Lewisburg. The Preshow Reception is free. A cash bar and snacks will be available.

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