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Mountain messenger

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

July 8, 2023



Community Cleanup Day in Lewisburg set for July 10

By Sarah Richardson
Lewisburg in Bloom is hosting a community cleanup day in downtown Lewisburg on Monday, July 10, in preparation for the arrival of America in Bloom judges on July 13. Interested volunteers are invited to meet with Lewisburg in Bloom coordinators outside of City Hall at 8:30 a.m. on Monday. The cleanup event encompasses areas around downtown and runs until 12 noon. Volunteers should also bring their own gloves, and a trowel or trimmer if possible.

Homeowners and business owners are encouraged to clean up garden beds and flowerpots in preparation for the two-day judging.

"The City of Lewisburg and the Lewisburg in Bloom Committee are pleased to host the America in Bloom advisors. Participating in this program helps to bring the community together for the beautification of Lewisburg," said Lewisburg in Bloom Coordinator Shannon Beatty.

Recent America in Bloom wins for Lewisburg include the top award in the Circle of Champions Small-Sized Cities category in 2017, the Coolest Downtown Special Award in 2018, and the Eye Popping Pots Special Award in 2019, as well as a Special Recognition for Community Involvement at the 2019 America in Bloom Symposium and an overall win in the 1,200 - 4,000 Population Category that same year.

Award winners will be announced Sept. 28-30 of this year at American in Bloom's National Symposium and Awards Celebration in Spartanburg, SC.

For more information contact Shannon Beatty at Lewisburg City Hall, 304-645-2080.

About America in Bloom:

America in Bloom (AIB) promotes nationwide beautification through education and community involvement by encouraging the use of flowers, plants, trees, and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements. We envision communities across the country as welcoming and vibrant places to live, work, and play - benefiting from colorful plants and trees; enjoying clean environments; celebrating heritage; and planting pride through volunteerism.

We empower communities to beautify and improve the overall quality of life through our programs, grant opportunities, resources library, and more.

AIB was founded in 2001 by a group of horticulture industry professionals who developed the organization to connect people to the benefits of plants, trees, and flowers. But it quickly became apparent that real community development went beyond horticulture to include community vitality, heritage preservation, environmental efforts, and overall impression - all quality of life

See "America in Bloom" Page 3

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Mayor Deena Pack (third from left) swears in the newly re-elected and appointed City Council. Pictured left to right: Mark Trent, Tanya Hazelwood, Leah Smith, Ashley Guet, and Scott Vogel-song. Not pictured: Gail White.

Ronceverte City Council swears in newly elected, appointed members

By Adam Pack
City council candidates Mark Trent, Tanya Hazelwood, Leah Smith, Ashley Guet, Scott Vogel-song, and Gail White were sworn in at the most recent meeting of the Ronceverte City Council on Monday, July 3 following the June 13 municipal elections.

The city also heard from local business owner Dan Withrow and his associate Alex McGruff were present to update the council on yet another upcoming Ronceverte Food Truck Festival. For starters, the dates have

been slightly changed from their originally proposed dates.

The new dates for the July festival are Friday, July 14, 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday, July 15, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. The updated August dates will be Friday, Aug. 4, 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 5, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Withrow and Degraff encourage locals to come out and enjoy unique musical, culinary, and artistic experiences in the heart of Ronceverte.

County Commission approves changes to Gigready Program

By Adam Pack
The Greenbrier County Commission met for a special meeting on Thursday, July 6 at 9 a.m. to discuss necessary changes to the recently approved Management and Operations Agreement between the county and Citynet. The agreement, which originally included the installation of 244 strands of fiber optic high speed internet cable, had to be adjusted due to the cancellation of the building of a "middle mile of Beckley to Greenbrier County." A middle mile, often used in broadband connectivity parlance, is the physical midsection of the infrastructure required to enable internet connectivity. Under the original M&O Agreement, Citynet would have built this portion connecting Beckley to the county, but instead the connection will come from leasing already

existing lines from another company. Britt Ludwig, negotiating the agreement as legal counsel for the County Commission, explained that this represents a "considerable decrease in the amount of fiber optic strands" needed to complete the project, but that "no one who would have been served under the old agreement would lose their opportunity for service," and that this new agreement will "require a significantly lower financial contribution from the county; it's not as if we're getting less and paying the same amount."

With Ludwig's summation of the changes to the agreement explained, the commission moved to approve the amended M&O Agreement, and were pleased that "we're getting this project moved along" and hope that it will go out to bid by the end of this year.

The Old Gap Mills Country Store, where family comes first

By Stephen Baldwin, RealWV
Eric and Lisa Heavener spent their careers working for others. While they are grateful for their experiences in law enforcement and retail, they wanted to build something of their own.

"We want to leave something to our son," Lisa says. "This country store will be his one day."

Eric, Lisa, and their son Matthew work full-time together in the store. When I visited last week, Matthew and his golden retrievers, Madison and Hudson, welcomed me inside.

"We're so tickled to be in the Gap," Eric says of their new business venture in Gap Mills, WV, located on Route 3 across from the famous Cheese 'n' More store. "It's a labor of love!"

Bob Joyce ran the store successfully for years, focusing on selling high-quality furniture. He decided to put it up for sale not too long ago, just as the Heaveners were looking for a business they could make their own.

"We've always loved Bob's store," Lisa reflects. She and Eric stopped by one day. "After talking a little while, we had a verbal agreement with Bob." But the next day, Bob received a more generous offer from an out-of-state buyer. Then he received another offer the following day. "We didn't have any financing set up yet, but he honored our agreement."

And Bob is still very much a part of the store. He continues to sell his wind chimes and furniture in part of the store. One weekend a month, he also does cookouts for the community. "Chicken, hot dogs, and even pulled



Eric, Lisa, and Matthew Heavener own and operate the country store in Gap Mills as a family. (Photo by Stephen Baldwin, RealWV)

pork this month," Lisa says. "People just love his meals."

The Old Gap Mills Country Store blends the old with the new seamlessly. Richly-hued wood floors lead to immaculately clean shelves stocked with new items.

"We try to carry items for men and women, young and old," according to Lisa. So you'll find everything from kitchenware to pet supplies to clothing to fishing lures.

See "Old Gap Mills Country Store" Page 2

Old Gap Mills Country Store

Continued from Front Page



The Heavener's sell Bloomprint Coffee, roasted by renowned roaster Mattie Hardy. They offer mochas, lattes, and coffee of all sorts.

(Photo by Stephen Baldwin, RealWV)

Eric says their Stone-wall kitchen items are enormously popular and available at much more affordable prices than other luxury retailers who typically carry their products. "We've got one guy who drives here all the time from Salem, VA," Lisa offers. "He likes our pipe tobacco."

The outdoor section contains fishing and hunting gear, which is perfectly placed for guests to Moncove Lake.

"Oh and the Myra bags," Lisa chimes in. "Ladies love those, and we keep them in stock."

My personal favorite item in the store was Jumpin' Johnny's local

popcorn! It's award-winning popcorn grown locally in Monroe County.

Forgive me for not mentioning it sooner, but they also carry ice cream and coffees. "There's nowhere around here to buy hand-dipped ice cream," says Eric, "so we started carrying Hershey's ice cream." They began with four fla-

vors, but are up to 12 now. And they keep ice cream birthday cakes in stock for special occasions!

"One farmer comes in every week to get an ice cream cone and sit on our porch," Eric remarks. "People are just comfortable here."

They have a large front porch lined with rocking chairs. The Heavener's recall a group of four ladies who recently visited. They attended the school at Gap Mills years ago and spent the afternoon reminiscing over ice cream on the porch.

"We even have some of the desks from the old school," Eric offers. "So

See "Old Gap Mills Store" Page 3

US Marshals announce results of Operation True Optics

The U.S. Marshals Southern District of West Virginia CUFFED Task Force and Task Force Partners have just ended a weeklong warrant sweep in Southern West Virginia. Operation True Optics ran from June 26-30, 2023, targeting the greater Greenbrier, Fayette, and Raleigh Counties within the Southern District of West Virginia.

The warrants served were for various felony offenses to include: Homicide, Kidnapping, Malicious Wounding, Wanton Endangerment, Felon in Possession of a Firearm, and Possession with Intent to Deliver.

Over the 5-day operation, 48 suspects were arrested, 249.92 grams of fentanyl, 98.39 grams of methamphetamine, 12 grams of crack cocaine, 11.42 grams of marijuana, 5 firearms, and \$182, 187 were seized.

U.S. Marshal Michael Baylous said, "Operation True Optics proved to be an absolute success, as the CUFFED Task Force took light into those dark areas where fugitives like to hide."

Over 20 agencies were involved in Operation True Optics to include: U.S. Marshals Southern District of West Virginia and Eastern District of Kentucky, Raleigh County Sheriff's Office, Fayette County Sheriff's Office, Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office, Wyoming County Sheriff's Office, Mercer County Sheriff's Office, Beckley Police Department, Lewisburg Police Department, Princeton Police Department and WV Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Additional information about the U.S. Marshals Service can be found at <http://www.usmarshals.gov>

PICK OF THE LITTER



BRIGGS

Briggs is a three-year-old male lab mix and weighs 61 pounds



ARABELLA

Arabella is a two-month old domestic shorthair

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

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

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

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. **July 22 Dance features Johnny King & Friends from 7 to 10:30 p.m.** The Music Hall is available for weddings and parties. For more information call the Music Hall at 304-645-4667; Bill Evans at 304-392-6079; Grace Poe at 304-992-5852.

Democratic Executive Committee

will meet Wednesday, July 12, at 5:30 p.m., at the Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate office in downtown Lewisburg. Anyone interested in working with our Democratic Party is welcome to attend.

Carnegie Hall Annual Meeting

Carnegie Hall will hold its Annual Membership Meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 13, in the Hamilton Auditorium. Individuals or families who contributed at least \$50 to the Hall during the last fiscal year of July 1, 2022, through Jun. 30, 2023, are considered members of the Hall and are invited to attend. The agenda includes the year-end report for FY 2022-23 and the election of new board members. Light refreshments will be served and the Ivy Terrace Concert featuring MA'AM will follow at 6:30 p.m. Please email ceo@carnegie-hallwv.org if you plan to attend.

Entries open for State Fair

Entries are officially open for the 98th Annual State Fair of West Virginia's livestock and home, arts, and garden competitions. All rules and regulations, as well as registration instructions are posted on the State Fair's website. The deadline to enter is July 14.

Morrisey's Mobile Office schedules July stops

Attorney General Patrick Morrisey announced a representative from his office will meet with central and southeastern West Virginia residents in July 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:

- July 21: 2 to 3:30 p.m. at Wendy's, 38232 Midland Trail, Caldwell

For information on additional requirements specific to any location, attendees are encouraged to contact Justin Arvon at 304-590-6462. In case of inclement weather, please call ahead.

Employment program helps WV seniors increase income

By Nadia Ramlagan for WVNS

A West Virginia program helping adults age 55 and older return to the workforce is seeing renewed interest as inflation and high gas prices squeeze the budgets of the Mountain State's older residents, many of whom are living on fixed incomes.

The Senior Community Service Employment Program, managed by the National Council on Aging and funded under a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, provides job training, job-search services and on-the-job experience.

Becky Rasperry, program manager for the National Council on Aging West Virginia Resource Center, explained many older adults face barriers understanding technology and finding employment which is not physically demanding along with transportation challenges.

"A lot of seniors don't have the support system that they need," Rasperry pointed out. "They don't have the financial means to live above poverty."

She added most employment program participants receive six months of training before landing a permanent job. The latest United Health Foundation's America's Health Rankings Senior Report found nationwide, the number of older adults who do not have enough money for housing, food, medical care and other basic needs is on the rise.

Rasperry noted qualifying individuals must be a West Virginia resident age 55 and older, meet financial eligibility requirements. A family of one cannot make more than around \$18,000 a year and cannot be employed at the time of enrollment.

"They can contact the West Virginia resource office; it's 304-218-2873," Rasperry pointed out. "And if it's not in my grant area, I can find out who has that area."

According to the National Council on Aging, more than 16 million older adults age 65+ are economically insecure, with older women more likely to live in poverty as a result of wage discrimination and leaving the workforce for caregiving.

Suits

In Re: The Marriage of: Joseph Lee Stout and Amanda Louise Stout

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For the Record

Deeds

Martin L. Tarbox and Brenda L. Tarbox to Thomas A. Fontalbert and Cynthia S. Fontalbert, Lots Nos. 9 and 10, Abbott Land Subdivision Lands, White Sulphur Dist. Richard A. Payne and Joyce S. Payne to John Terry, Lot No. 31, 32, 33 and 34, Town of Marfrance, Meadow Bluff District

Raymond L. Ferguson, III to Benjamin Windon, Lot No. 41, Block 1, Revised Addition of White Sulphur City of Town of White Sulphur Springs, White Sulphur Municipality

Giggenbach Development, LLC. to William Henry Wallace, V, 0.15 Acre, White Sulphur District
Fleshman Brother Properties LLC. to Tina D. Turner, 0.831 Acre, City of Charmco, Meadow Bluff District
Heather K. Martyn and Dana W. Timer to CF Holdings, LLC., 0.944 Acre, Lewisburg District

Crystal Hatfield, Angela Bliffin, and Candy Bliffin to Steve Withrow and Tabitha Withrow, Lot No. 1, George Lynch Subdivision, 0.60 Acre, White Sulphur District

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.

Historic Landmarks Commission

will meet Monday, July 10, at 5 p.m. in the Paul R. Cooley Council Chambers, 942 Washington Street West, to hear the following applications:

- Approval of Minutes - June 12, 2023
- Jennifer Hamilton, 413 Randolph St. - new hanging sign and door sign, new awning and lights, replace vinyl shutters with wood shutters to match existing wood color
- Mike Tremann, 1621 Washington St. East - replace existing shed with 12x24 side lofted shed that will have a burnished slate metal roof with a Snow Bound trim
- Virginia Land Co., 900 Washington St. West - cedar ship lap siding (painted same color as rest of building, add faux brick veneer to cover cinderblock foundation
- Jessica Chestnut-Hall, 1599 Washington St. East - detached garage structure, changed siding and roofing to a metal roof, wood trim and hardy plank siding
- Colin Rose, 730 Jefferson St. South - design approval for garage addition, porch and Hardiplank siding

The next Historic Landmark Commission meeting will be held Monday, Aug. 14 with a deadline of Tuesday, July 25.

Special Council Meeting

The City Council of the City of Lewisburg will hold a special session Tuesday, July 11, at 6:30 p.m. in the Paul R. Cooley Council Chamber at Lewisburg City Hall, 942 Washington Street, West. The following topic is scheduled for discussion:

- Resolution 527, to correct scrivener's error in Ordinance 318, the Floodplain Ordinance

Marriages

Michael Todd Yates, Renick to Heather Marie McCormick, Renick

Gregory John Parseghian, St. Petersburg, FL to Stefanie Rose Jacobson, St. Petersburg, FL
Noah James Leggett, Pennsboro to Allyson Taylor Cutlip, Warm Springs, VA

Carr McKinley Evans, Crawley to Bobbie Jean Hanna, Lewisburg

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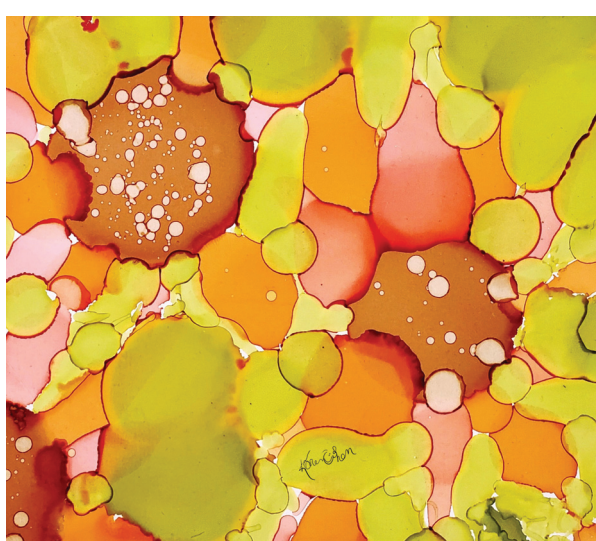
By Karen Cohen

Many years ago when I lived in my birth state, the Garden State - New Jersey, I worked full time at an organic produce farm and worked weekends at another farm milking goats. I will be absolutely truthful and will divulge that the weekend milking job was often accomplished by my strong sidekick, my husband, who had off from his fulltime job on weekends. Let me explain.

Milking goats takes determination. Along with that, brute strength is needed. And even with those abilities which I possessed, a good goat milker requires a heart that won't allow these animals to take advantage of them, like I tended to do. I am a person who cannot and will not kick a horse when riding one. That act makes me feel as if I am hurting the horse. All the sensible explanations in the world will not change my mind. I can get on a horse, but I cannot properly give that little or big kick in the ribs that gets them moving. So, I gave up that sport.

Back to goats. Some headstrong goats would prefer to lie down during milking. That's just my nice way of saying that they won't submit to milking. (Can't blame them). I could easily lure them onto the milking stand, secure their heads gently in a strap that they cannot back out of, because they will, and I can place the bucket right under their bellies. The goat will often kick - oops- accidentally (sure), the bucket and there goes the little bit of milk I've gotten right into my face. OK, so my tactic was to place my head right against the side of their bloated, sometimes smelly stomachs. Next grab the appropriate body parts that can produce milk, grasp those, gently pull down and aim the skirting milk into said bucket. Even with my shoulder tucked not so firmly under the goat's belly, the animal would just push down into a sitting position, head still in the strap, and successfully remove its belly area away from my hands. I failed at milking goats, but I am not ashamed. I still thought they were adorable with their big eyes and curious attitudes.

My husband would take over my job and firmly insert his shoulder under their ribcage and milk away. Well, well, what can I say that won't sound sexist or insulting?! (snort!) The couple who owned these goats were elderly, which happens to be my approximate age right now. May I add that I don't consider myself elderly at all! The husband was a college professor and dashed out on Saturday mornings with a tweed jacket and wool cap on, to teach his class. His wife was a cheerful, heavy set, English lady with a Julia Child voice and a flowery apron, and she loved her goats. While she set me out in the barn to milking, she would be in her vast kitchen hanging cheesecloth bags that sifted goat curds over huge bowls and such to make goat cheese. The pay for my task of milking was agreed to be containers of goat cheese based on



Flower Power artwork by Karen Cohen

how many hours I worked at milking. If my husband came along, which he often did, we used his hours to procure her homemade cheese. It was worth every tug!

I learned much from this lady. She would also ask me to weed her garden and she would demonstrate her exact technique to follow. She would go down one row of veggies, rip out the weeds by gloved hands, and lie the weeds down in rows next to the veggies. These weeds would act as both mulch and compost. I thought it was a brilliant and easy to follow plan that gave back to the garden rather than extracting things. Repurposing! I used a "scoot along" little rolling chair and never had to get up or down, just roll merrily, merrily along.

I still use this technique in my own garden many years later. Folks may think I am a messy gardener because the weeds are not sprayed or hoed in my veggie garden. Once a week, I just sit on my "scoot and do" and travel up and down the rows to pull out weeds by hand. I interplant varieties such as radishes under zucchini leaves, so hand pulling after careful identification is accurate. Looking at plants at such a closeup range alerts me to trouble, too. Maybe there are insect eggs being laid on the underside of leaves; I can remove those. Maybe there are flea beetles eating holes in my eggplant or arugula leaves; I can put a light cloth over the plants to keep out bugs.

I enjoy seeing the fruits of my labor up close and personal. I enjoy seeing the fruits of my labor up close and personal. Pulling weeds is a task I enjoy far more than milking some ole goat!

(Karen Cohen is an organic gardener of many decades, not a skilled goat milker or milker of any kind, and an avid explorer. Email your goat comments to: natureswaykaren@gmail.com)

Public Notice

PSC opens investigation of fire hydrants

Last week, the Public Service Commission initiated a general investigation to examine the maintenance and testing of fire hydrants.

Although the Commission has no requirements for water pressure or volume for fire suppression, the state Department of Health and Human Resources requires that, "Under no circumstances shall fire flows be less than 250 gallons per minute."

One of the primary charges of the Commission is to require public utilities to perform in a manner designed to safeguard the interests of the

public and the utilities. Whether a fire hydrant is owned by a public utility or served by a utility, the utility has responsibilities to assure that the hydrant will perform adequately. If adequate flow cannot be delivered by a particular hydrant, that hydrant is not fulfilling its purpose as part of the water distribution system and the utility owning or serving the hydrant is not providing adequate service.

For that reason, the Commission has ordered that on or before July 28, 2023, all public utility owners of fire hydrants or that serve private fire

hydrants shall provide certain information to the Commission. Information sought includes the number of hydrants owned or serviced, their age, descriptions of the infrastructure supporting them, problems or complaints encountered, and maintenance schedules and practices.

PSC Chairman Char-

lotte Lane said, "We are seeking information and will evaluate when we receive it and then we will determine if further action is necessary."

More information on this case can be found on the PSC website: www.psc.state.wv.us. Click on "Case Information" and access Case No. 23-0555-WGI.

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- 3) All letters must be signed by the author and include the city in which they reside. Please note all submissions are subject to individual editorial approval. Please do not mail or hand-deliver letters, email news@mountainmessenger.com

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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

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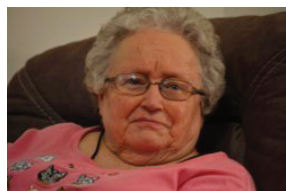
ACP program details can be found at www.fcc.gov/affordable-connectivity-program-consumer-faq

OBITUARIES

In Memoriam

There will be a memorial service to celebrate the life of Joan Scarlett Winebrenner on Saturday, July 15, 2023 at the General Lewis Inn in Lewisburg, WV. People will gather at 11 a.m., with a service to begin at 11:30. The family welcomes you to attend this event, with light refreshments to follow.

Nancy Sue Shafer



White Sulphur Springs
Nancy Sue Shafer, 81, of White Sulphur Springs, passed away Tuesday, July 4, 2023 at her home in White Sulphur Springs.

Born Sept. 28, 1941 at Corbin, KY, she was a daughter of the late Delbert Strange and Gladys Mildred Grimes Randall.

Nancy was a homemaker and was a member of Eakle Chapel United Methodist Church in White Sulphur Springs.

In addition to her parents, Nancy is preceded in death by her husband, Harry Allen Shafer, Sr. and her daughter, Pamela Shafer Bonvillian.

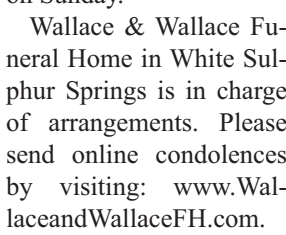
She is survived by two sons, Harry Allen Shafer, Jr. of Ruckersville, VA and Norman Ray Shafer and wife Jeanette of White Sulphur Springs; grandchildren, Jacqueline Faye Burgess (Tyler), Larra Leigh Farnack (Tanner), Brenna Suzanne Shafer and Evan James Shafer; great-grandchildren, Brooklyn Sue Burgess, Declan Ray Burgess, Charles Jenson Burgess and Easton Lee Burgess; brother, Steven Douglas Randall of Jacksonville, FL; niece, Michelle Montoya and nephew, Robert Randall.

Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, July 9, at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Chapel in White Sulphur Springs with Pastor Lowell O'Dell officiating. Burial will follow in Greenbrier Memorial Gardens in Lewisburg.

A visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the funeral home on Sunday.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in White Sulphur Springs is in charge of arrangements. Please send online condolences by visiting: www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com.

Nancy Lee Shawver



Lewisburg-Nancy Lee Shawver, 88, passed away peacefully at her home on Wednesday, June 28, 2023.

She was born Jan. 10, 1935, a daughter of the late Alva William and Hazel Grace (Rider) Shawver.

After graduating from Nuttall High School in 1952. She went on to work for the Equitable Life Assurance Society as an Agency Service Manager, where she proudly retired after 31 years of service. Nancy always enjoyed quilting and painting landscapes. Her favorite things included reading,

and spending time with her family, especially her sister Sammy Lewis.

Nancy is survived by her brother, Keith Shawver, of Morganton, NC; her nieces and nephews, Craig Lewis and wife Brenda of Alderson, Dinah Lewis King and husband Elvis "Buddy" of Dallas, GA, Mark Lewis and wife Carolyn of Forest Hill, Lisa Lewis Stacy and husband William "Bill" of White Sulphur Springs, Kelly Shawver and husband Dennis Lillard of Morganton, NC, Kevin Shawver and wife Amanda of Valdese, NC, Justine Shawver of Valdese, NC, Jeff Shawver and wife Patricia of Staunton, VA, and Rebecca Black, as well as many loving great-nieces and nephews.

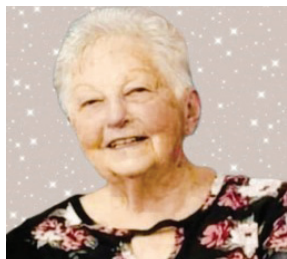
In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her sister, Samuella Labelle Lewis; her brothers, Richard Shawver and William Shawver; and her two nephews, David Shawver and Gary Reese Lewis.

Family and friends are welcome to attend at Lobban Funeral Home, 205 S. Monroe Street, Alderson, on Saturday, July 15, from 12 noon until the memorial service at 1 p.m., at the funeral home, with the Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Kanode officiating.

Lobban Funeral Home is honored in being entrusted with the arrangements.

Condolences and memories may be shared with the Shawver family online at www.lobbanfh.com.

Shelby Cremeans



Lewisburg-Shelby (Judy) Cremeans, 84, passed away on Saturday, July 1, 2023, while in the care of the Peyton Hospice House of Lewisburg, WV.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Burman "Pat" Cremeans; son, Lane Cremeans; father, Sheldon Judy; mother, Adeline (Scott) Judy; mother-in-law, Irma (Mitchell) Powell; sister, Sharell (Judy) Renick; sister-in-law, Phyllis (Cremeans) Dolan; and sister-in-law, Frances (Powell) Farren.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Kathy and Grant Serreno of Linthicum Heights, MD; grandson and granddaughter-in-law, Michael, and Tracey Bowers and great grandson, Chase Bowers, all of Pasadena, MD; brother and sister-in-law, Clyde "Rusty" and Mary Sue Judy of Williamsburg, WV; and many extended family and friends.

Mrs. Cremeans was born in Williamsburg, WV, on Nov. 19, 1938.

She attended Williamsburg High School, graduating in 1956. She received a B.S. Degree in education from Concord College in 1959. Her first teaching position started January 1959 at White Sulphur Springs Elementary, then came to her alma mater to teach.

Shelby and her husband both taught at the high school, and it was to close in 1961. They moved to Maryland, and both taught in Anne Arundel County until retirement. Rearing

two children, teaching and community activities made those years pass quickly.

Shelby and Burman moved back to Williamsburg in 1989. She provided care for both sets of parents and later, her husband. Shelby still found time to be active in volunteering for many organizations. One of her greatest joys was producing and directing for the Community Arts Council. She was a faithful member of Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church; they were her family. She remained as active as her health allowed right up to her death.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Williamsburg Community Action, PO Box 185, Williamsburg, WV 24991 or Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 110, Williamsburg, WV 24991.

As per her wishes, there will be no visitation or services.

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

Ralph David Moore



Lewisburg - Ralph David "Dave" Moore, 75, passed away, Sunday, July 2, 2023, at CAMC Memorial Hospital, Charleston, WV.

Born May 30, 1948, in Richwood, he was the son of the late Ralph and Letha Groves Moore.

Dave retired from Mon Power. He was a US Air Force veteran. Dave loved watching the Pittsburgh Pirates, Steelers and Nascar.

Survivors include his loving wife, Danita Whitt Moore; sons, Dan and Mike Moore of Lewisburg; stepmother, Opal Moore of Fenwick; and a host of friends and extended family.

Funeral service was held on Wednesday, July 5, at the Morgan Funeral Home Chapel, Lewisburg, where Pastor Ron Miller officiated. Visitation was at the funeral home before the service. Burial will follow the service in the Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church cemetery, Carroll Hill Road, Lewisburg, WV.

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

Shirley Ann Christian

Keister-Shirley Ann Christian, 68, passed away Tuesday, June 27, 2023.

Shirley was born June 22, 1955 in Ronceverte to Doris H. Christian and the late Waldo D. Christian.

Shirley was retired from First Energy in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, and was a member of the Pacific Church of God.

Other than her father, she was preceded in death by a niece, Kimberly Welch and nephew, Nathan Christian.

Survivors include her mother, Doris H. Christian of Keister; sister, Linda Welch and husband Tim of Shelby, OH; brother, David Christian and wife Mary of Lewisburg; nieces and

nephews, Katie Welch of Gnadenhutzen, OH, Daniel Christian of Rock Hill, SC, Tabatha Monroe and husband Kevin of Greensboro, NC and Amy Christian of Greensboro, NC; great-niece and nephews, Alexander Christian, Anastasia Christian and Nathaniel Monroe.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 8, at the Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg with David Christian speaking. Friends may call one hour prior to the service.

Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com.

Betty Ellen White



Frankford-Betty Ellen White, 88, passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by her family, Tuesday, July 4, 2023.

Born May 22, 1935, in Frankford, she was the daughter of the late James Roy and Nellie Gray Spencer Decker.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Emery Eugene White; sister, Carolyn Harris; and nephew, James Paul "Arnold" Hanna.

Betty and Gene spent most of their life in Middlesex, MD, raising their family and working. Following retirement, they moved back to Frankford to spend their retirement years.

Survivors are her children, Donald White of Middle River, MD, Ronald White (Michelle) of Middle River, MD and Carol Lynn Fogus of Frankford; brother, Michael Decker of Frankford; sister, Shelby Hanna of Frankford; grandchildren, Casey Bragg (Ron), Jennifer White (Kevin), and Tessa Fogus (Randy Short Jr.); great-grandchildren, Laila, Mia and Devin Bragg, Sage, Cooper and Henry Short; special niece, Julie Erskine; and several other nieces and nephews.

Funeral service will be at 1 p.m., Saturday, July 8, at the Morgan Funeral Home Chapel, Lewisburg, with Pastor Sam McClung officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Entombment will follow the service in the Rosewood Mausoleum, Lewisburg, WV.

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

Annual Quilt and Wall Hanging Exhibition on display at Culture Center



The West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History (WVDACH) unveiled the annual exhibition, Quilts and Wall Hangings 2023, in the Great Hall of the Culture Center, State Capitol Complex, and announced the winners of the juried exhibition at the opening concert of the annual Vandalia Gathering.

This year, the popular juried exhibition features 67 creative quilts and wall hangings representing the talents of West Virginians from 21 counties. There are 43 quilts and 24 wall hangings in the exhibition, which will remain on display through Sept. 20.

"Quilt making is one of West Virginia's oldest and most treasured art forms," said Charles Morris, museums director. "This annual display is a favorite for many West Virginians and for quilters and quilt lovers from around the country. It is one of our most popular displays."

The exhibition features the work of 54 quilters. Winners were selected by Karen Kendo, a quilter since 1995, longarm quilting business owner and NQA Certified Judge from Charleston, S.C. Kendo selected winners in four categories: pieced quilts, applique quilts, mixed/other quilts and wall hangings. Quilt awards are \$750 for first place, \$400 for second place and \$300 for third place. The wall hanging awards are \$400 for first place, \$300 for second place and \$200 for third place. The department made one purchase, and the juror designated a Best of Show prize of \$100. In addition, four nonmonetary honorable mention distinctions were made.

First place winners in this year's exhibition include Carol Miller of Bruceton Mills, Preston County, for Baltimore Album in the Applique category (Best of Show); Rhonda Braham of Independence, Preston County, for Candied Fans, in the Pieced Quilt category; Linda Dotson Vaughan of Caldwell, Greenbrier County, for Gardner's Alphabet in the Mixed/Other Quilt category; and Amy Pabst of LeRoy, Roane County, for Sari Not Sari in the Wall Hanging category.

The Culture Center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

For more information about this year's exhibition, contact Rachel Keeney, exhibits coordinator, at 304-558-0220 or Rachel.M.Keeney@wv.gov.

The Mountain Messenger is proud to publish obituaries free of charge.

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- 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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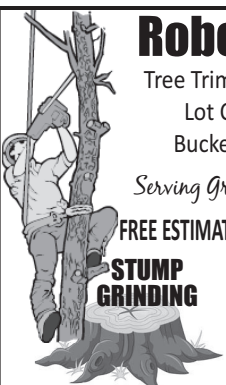
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Please send resumes to the attention of Laura Eagle, Director of Behavioral Health: leagle@rmchealth.org.



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Dr. Wickline is a graduate of West Virginia University and the WV School of Osteopathic Medicine Class of 2011.

She has eleven years of experience as a physician working in a hospital setting, urgent care, and family practice.

A native of Pocahontas County, she now resides in Renick with her husband, Jamie, and two children, Levi and Macy.

Dr. Wickline is currently working at Lewisburg health Center, located at 296 Fair Street, and is accepting new patients.

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Fulton BSH LBWV, LLC/Secure Store - 135 Maple Carriage Drive, Lewisburg, WV 24901, has a possessory lien on all of the goods stored in unit 192. The auction will end on July 13, 2023 at 12 noon. All these items of personal property are being auctioned online through lockerfox.com This auction will run until July 13, 2023. Pictures of the unit can be inspected online. Cash payments only. For more details visit www.lockerfox.com/storage-auctions/

LEGAL

PUBLIC ONLINE AUCTION
Secure Store IV, LLC - 1367 Maplewood Ave, Ronceverte, WV 24970, has a possessory lien on all of the goods stored in unit 240. The auction will end on July 13, 2023 at 12 noon. All these items of personal property are being auctioned online through lockerfox.com This auction will run until July 13, 2023. Pictures of the unit can be inspected online. Cash payments only. For more details visit www.lockerfox.com/storage-auctions/

Dear Recycle Lady

A Look Back

Dear Recycle Lady,

Why is the month of July called Plastic Free July?

Curious

Dear Curious,

The month of July was first called Plastic Free July in 2011 by the Australian Plastic Free Foundation. Its purpose was to raise awareness of the harmful effects that single-use plastics have on the environment, to encourage individuals to make more sustainable choices, and to inspire everyone to reduce their use of single-use plastics. It is now a global movement with people from 190 countries striving to make positive changes in their daily lives and to live more sustainably. According to an IPSOS survey conducted in 2021, 29% of global consumers were aware of Plastic Free July. Of those aware, 13% participated in the challenge. These figures represent an estimated 140 million people from 190 countries getting involved in Plastic Free July! Think of the impact we could make if all of us participated in Plastic Free July by making just one positive change in the use of single-use plastic! For example, purchase compostable eating utensils instead of plastic ones for your picnics, or keep a reusable coffee cup at the office instead of using single-use Styrofoam cups.

Dear Recycle Lady,

I am cleaning out my home office, and I have several manuals that are out of date. Some have slick covers and others have covers that are office paper. Can these manuals be recycled?

Techie

Dear Techie,

The answer to your question has many facets. If your manuals are bound books with a soft cover, they can be recycled with magazines, as paperback books do. If your manuals are hardback books with office paper pages, they can only be recycled if you first remove, and trash, the hardback covers. The pages then can be recycled with office papers. If your

manuals have a metal or plastic binding, this binding must be removed before recycling the pages. Pages that are office paper are recycled with office paper; pages that are slick or colored are recycled with magazines.

Dear Recycle Lady,

Yesterday I came across the word pre-cycling in a magazine article. What is pre-cycling?

Wondering

Dear Wondering,

According to recyclingsimplified.com, pre-cycling is about reducing waste. It is sometimes called a low-waste lifestyle as it is about making initial choices that will minimize waste or maximize reusable or recyclable materials. For example, it is about choosing items that are unpackaged, have less packaging, or have packaging that is recyclable. It is doing simple things, like taking a reusable bottle or bag with you, buying only what you need, or using rags instead of paper towels for cleaning. If you are trying to decide between a plastic, paper, or cardboard container, paper and cardboard boxes are the best option. Ultimately, pre-recycling is making choices that reduce consumer waste and have the smallest possible impact on the environment.

Good News for the Environment:

Sea cucumbers are marine animals living on the sea floor and are known to consume plastic particles at an astounding rate. They eat it by scooping up sediment from the ocean floor, and they ingest over 100 times more plastic than expected, based on its numbers.

Bad News for the Environment:

A new Oceana report estimates that Amazon's plastic packaging waste in 2021 totaled 354,500 tons, an 18% increase over 2020 estimates.

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.



By William "Skip" Deegans

Shown in this undated photo is Dr. Thomas Cary Johnson. Born in 1859 on a farm in the Wolf Creek area of Monroe County, Johnson became one of the leading scholars and historians in the Presbyterian Church. He graduated from Hampden-Sydney College and Union Theological Seminary. He also studied at the University of Virginia and Yale University. He became a professor of the Old and New Testament at the Austin (TX) Theological Seminary. He returned to the Union Theological Seminary at Hampden-Sydney where he taught for seven years before the seminary moved to Richmond, Virginia. He continued teaching for 32 more years at the seminary until his retirement in 1930.

When the Presbyterian Church split over the issue of slavery, Johnson was part of the Southern Presbyterian Church and supported the southern cause. He married Ella Faulkner Bocock whose father was a Virginian statesman, slave owner, and speaker of the Confederate House of Representatives.

Upon Johnson's death in 1936, the Richmond Times-Dispatch wrote that he was "a man of splendid educational background and unusual intellectuality, he labored prodigiously through his long life in training of Presbyterian ministers and in limning the careers of the great leaders of that religious faith." Johnson is buried in Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery.

Photo from the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Sources: Richmond Times Dispatch, Richmond News Leader, Library of Virginia.

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CLUB & CHURCH

Practicing, non-practicing Catholics and families invited to area Catholic picnic



All Catholics and their families are invited to join the Greenbrier Valley Council 8689 for the Area Catholic picnic, Sunday, July 16, at 2 p.m. in the Shelter #1 of the Greenbrier State Forest, located four miles south of the Caldwell/White Sulphur Springs exit off I-64.

The Knights will be providing the hamburgers and hot dogs, buns, fixings for both, all the paper products, soft drinks, bottled water, and in-

vite those attending to bring a covered dish of salads, vegetables, or desserts.

In addition, a number of table games and lawn games will be available and anyone attending may also bring their favorite game to play. A few admission tickets will be available for children under 12 who wish to use the State Forest swimming pool.

For further information, contact the office of the Catholic Churches of the

Greenbrier Valley 304-536-1813 or the Knights of Columbus Greenbrier Valley Council 8689 304-645-1373.

The area served by the Greenbrier Valley Council Knights of Columbus includes Pocahontas, Greenbrier, Monroe, eastern Fayette, and the Alleghany Highlands area served by the St. Joseph/Sacred Heart Council in Virginia is included in this picnic which will conclude with a vesper service later in the afternoon.

Reunions

Johnson Family Reunion

The S.N. Johnston (Johnson) will celebrate a family reunion on Sunday, July 9, at 12:30 p.m. at the McMillian Church Shelter with a covered dish meal. McMillian Church is off of the Friars Hill Road in Renick.

Estep-Jones Family Reunion

We will be having our annual family reunion on Saturday, July 15, 2023 at the Asbury Community Center Building at 1 p.m. Bring a covered dish and hope to see you all there.

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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 goal!

Logic

ASNORE

Tier

EARLY

Grin

SKRIM

Group

PLANE

TODAY'S WORD

"Tell me all about yourself—your dreams, your ambitions, your..."

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

1. Right is missing. 2. Mirror is missing. 3. Picture is smaller. 4. Sock is missing. 5. Cap is different. 6. Picture is missing.

Super Crossword IT'S MEANINGLESS

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Carter-era FBI sting	1 James A. Garfield's "A"
7 "It costs — and a leg"	2 — -Seltzer
12 "Likely story!"	3 Occupy, as a desk
16 Learning inst.	4 USN VIP
19 Spanning structure	5 Become older
20 Gorme with Grammys	6 See 72-Across
21 Mag online	7 — Fables
22 Boxer Clay, renamed	8 Somninx competitor
23 Withstanding decay	9 Have — with destiny
25 Dak., in the 1800s	10 — Tin Tin
26 Sawmill item	11 Got together
27 Org. for drs.	12 Old Mexican
28 Haughty type	13 Seven, in Seville
29 Reggae singer with the Wailers	14 As to
31 Pureed fruit product since the mid-1800s	15 Luxury Italian car
36 Top-drawer	16 Second-largest city in Greece
37 Is storming	17 Shut entirely
38 Antonym: Abbr.	18 Tall
39 Maker of Tater Tots	24 With an inky implement
41 It induces an immune response	29 Stage after larva
44 Trash collection service	30 Bicycle pedal attachment
48 "Our Gang" girl	32 Soft felt hat
	33 Actress Katey
	34 Categorize
	35 PD alert
	39 Big oil gp.
49 Evict	40 College-level H.S. courses
50 Raw resource	41 Some vipers
51 Racing units	42 "Skyfall" actress Harris
52 Furniture with four sleeping units	43 Writer Capote
55 Trachea-to-lung tubes	44 Holster item
58 TV trophy	45 Invite (to)
59 Partake of	46 Get reduced in price
60 French for "good"	47 Suffix with north
61 Winfrey of "Selma"	49 Surpass in competition
65 Small inlet	53 Wriggly fish
66 Medieval stronghold near Cork, Ireland	54 Sheep's cry
71 "— had it!"	55 Razor brand
72 With 6-Down, relay some information	56 Stephen of films (pilots' stunts)
74 Rustic hotels	62 Ran amok
75 Eighth mo.	63 Brand of bath additives
76 Like both-sex dorms	64 Actress Tippi
77 Experienced again	66 Slangy "sweetie"
80 Seepage in a boat's bottom	67 Denver-to-Bismarck dir.
83 Exhaust conduit, e.g.	68 Call a halt to
86 Cavity-fighting org.	69 Pull sharply
87 Golf great Ballesteros	70 Size bigger than med.
88 Actress Graff	73 Imagine
89 Chef who was a judge on ABC's "The Taste"	76 Young and in-experienced
	78 Really weak
	79 First lady McKinley
	80 Stinging flier
	81 Wall creeper
	82 Hold and use
	83 Part of many a kid's lunchbox meal, for short
	84 Shimmer, as an opal
	85 It's stuffed into an olive
	87 Potato cover
	90 After point number eight
	91 Bar on a car
	92 2016 Summer Olympics locale
	93 1992 Summer Olympics locale
	94 Frankness
	97 Fall flowers
	99 Regional life
	100 Church parts
	101 Bert's bestie
	102 Some RSVPs
	103 Defiant kid's declaration
	104 About, timewise
	105 Masks
	106 College VIP
	107 Rakish guy
	112 "SNL" airtel
	113 NHL's Bobby
	114 'Fore
	115 Pale-looking

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
 ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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SCHOOL

Locals graduate from Mountaineer Challenge Academy



Cadet Kylee Godfrey

The Mountaineer Challenge Academy is pleased to announce Class 1-23 as the 60th class to complete this West Virginia National Guard Program. Commencement exercises were held Friday, June 16 at Camp Dawson in Kingwood. A total of 70 graduates from 27 counties across the State of West Virginia successfully completed the requirements for graduation. Major Holli Nelson congratulated the Cadets and gave the commencement address.

The following Cadets participated from Greenbrier County.

Cadet Kylee Godfrey, daughter of Rebecca Morgan of White Sulphur Springs, was in Platoon 2. Cadet Godfrey was recognized for receiving the Instructor's List (2), Mentorship, Good Conduct Award as well as obtaining the six Individual Values Recognition Ribbons.

Cadet Caden Sheppard, son of Scott and Shannon Sheppard of Renick and Hannah Vance of Narrows, was in Platoon 4. Cadet Sheppard was recognized for receiving the Honor's List, Instructor's List (5) Comman-



Cadet Caden Sheppard

dant's Cup (2), Mentorship, Cadre Distinction Award, Good Conduct Award, Adjutant General's Award for Academic Excellence as well as obtaining the six Individual Values Recognition Ribbons. During their time at the Academy, Cadet Sheppard served in the following leadership positions: Asst Plt Leader (2) and Plt Leader.

All graduating Cadets have completed the residential phase of Challenge, which includes activities in eight core component areas ranging from Service to Community to Employability Skills. Cadets in this class provided 3864.61 hours of Service to Community for such organizations as Operation Gratitude, Chestnut Ridge Park, Adopt A Highway, Trout for Cheat, PATCH Coalition of Taylor County, and Friends of Cheat. Following graduation, these Cadets will begin a one-year post-residential phase of Challenge that includes placement activities in education and/or employment.

Applications are currently being accepted for Class 2-23 South that begins in October. Call toll-free at 1-800-529-7700 for more information.

June WV Board of Education meeting overview

The West Virginia Professional Educators prepared the following summary of the West Virginia Board of Education Meeting on June 14.

Recognitions: Randal Reed-Smith, Commissioner of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, introduced the 2023 History Bowl winners. Sherrard Middle School West Virginia History Bowl Team 1 captured this year's state title, making them back-to-back Mountain State champions. Coached by Dan Gatts and Jeff Stephens, this year's team consisted of Ella Finley, Allison McGraw, Sarah Naome, and Zoe Zervos.

School Safety Update: Jonah Adkins of the WVDE reported on the needed changes in scheduling of the Mingo County graduation ceremony due to the incident involving the death of Mingo State Trooper Cory Maynard, and all the safety precautions that took place. It was also reported that there are currently 170 School Resource officers hired across the state at a cost of \$34 million. The three-month training for these positions takes place at the West Virginia State

Police Academy.

Consent Agenda/Routine Business:

- Monongalia County Schools system was granted a one-year limited waiver for implementing a pilot program reselling USDA-approved snacks during student lunch periods. The county will comply with all state and federal regulations and procedures while working with the WVDE Office of Child Nutrition
- Marshall University was given approval for the addition of a Clinical Teacher of Record program with Webster County as allowed in Policy 5100.
- All 2023 County Summer School programs have been submitted to the West Virginia Board of Education and have been approved.
- All county school systems and the West Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind have submitted and received approval for their 2023-2024 calendars.
- Policy 5202 was approved. This policy establishes requirements for licensure of educators. Revisions were made to reflect legislative changes along with restructuring and format-

ing changes.

- An update from the WV Schools for the Deaf and the Blind was received.

New Business:

- Kanawha County Board of Education's request to amend its 2020-2030 Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) was approved. The project priority list includes changes approved by the county board of education: Marmet Elementary will close and consolidate into Chesapeake Elementary, Grandview Elementary will close and consolidate into Edgewood Elementary and Mary C. Snow Elementary, and George C. Weimer Elementary will close and consolidate into Alban Elementary and Bridgeview Elementary. Closures and consolidations of these schools were approved by the board.
- The Upshur County Schools Special Circumstance Review Report was given by Jeffrey Kelley, Office of Accountability, WVDE. He stated that the review team has uncovered dozens of spending issues with only about 1% of the documents reviewed. Kelley shared some of

the state BOE Wednesday including 12 receipts of non-compliant spending for food and beverages, charges for staff retreats for Stonewall Resort for more than \$49,000, another 14 receipts that include nearly \$22,000 of food and beverage charges at a local restaurant, and a payment of \$1,500 for a staff retreat at a Buckhannon B&B located six miles from the Upshur County Board of Education office. Also discovered were \$75,000 in improper payments to staff not approved by the county board, and that some employees received payments in addition to their regular salary.

The state board approved an 18-point motion that includes declaring a state of emergency in Upshur County and appointing a new school superintendent. The local school board now has limited authority.

The following recommendations were approved and presented by the state board:

- Non-approval status for Upshur County school system.
- Declaration of a state of emergency.
- Limiting the authority of the county board of

CONT. ON PAGE 10

Christopher McCullough named to Dean's List at Georgia Tech

Christopher McCullough of Lewisburg made the Dean's List for the Spring 2023 semester at the Georgia Institute of Technology. This designation is awarded to undergraduate students who have earned a 3.0 or higher academic average for the semester.

The Institute offers business, computing, design, engineering, liberal arts, and sciences degrees. Its more than 45,000 undergraduate and graduate students, representing 50 states and more than 148 countries, study at the main campus in Atlanta, at campuses in France and China, and through distance and online learning.

Ohio University shares 2023 Spring Dean's List

the initial findings with education while state of

The following local area students have been named to Ohio University's 2023 Spring Dean's List:

College of Arts and Sciences student Edie McMillion of Lewisburg.

College of Arts and Sciences student Charlie Tolson of Lewisburg.

The Dean's List recognizes undergraduate students who complete a particular semester with a GPA between 3.5 and 3.999 with a minimum of 12 credit hours attempted for letter grades that are used to calculate GPA.

In spring semester 2023, 4,953 Ohio University undergraduate students qualified for the Dean's List.

STEPPIN' OUT

Ivy Terrace Concert Series continues with MA'AM



MA'AM

Carnegie Hall's 2023 Ivy Terrace Concert Series continues Thursday, Jul. 13, at 6:30 p.m. with female duo MA'AM. Sponsored by City National Bank, the concert takes place outside on Carnegie Hall's Ivy Terrace as attendees watch from the expansive lawn in front of New River Community and Technical College. Concertgoers are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or blanket and pack a picnic to enjoy live music. All Ivy Terrace concerts are free, open to the public, and alcohol free.

MA'AM is MA, Mary Ashton and AM, Amy McIntire – two BA songwriters and vocalists from the New River watershed of West Virginia. The duo rotates through an array of acoustic and electric instruments including acoustic guitar, banjo, electric guitar, and pedal steel. MA'AM is delighted to perform songs from their first LP, Fire Pink, in addition to well-loved covers in the rock, country and Americana genres.

Greenbrier Dairy's Cow Licks Dessert Trailer and Kitchen 304 will be on location. Cow Licks ice cream is mixed by hand in freezing pans, together with a wide variety of toppings. Then it's rolled up and served in your choice of a fresh-made waffle cone taco shell or bowl. Kitchen 304 is Greenbrier County's newest late night food option and will have a variety of dinner items available.

Carnegie hall will offer bags of popcorn and nonalcoholic drinks. Bella Gourmet will presell charcuteries cups to be picked up at Ivy Terrace.

Concerts may be canceled due to inclement weather, so follow and like Carnegie Hall's Facebook page for updates. For more information, please visit www.carnegiehallwv.org or call 304-645-7917.

Carnegie Hall WV is a nonprofit organization supported by individual contributions, grants, and fundraising efforts such as TOOT and The Carnegie Hall Fantasy Gala. The Hall is located at 611 Church Street, Lewisburg.



MA'AM

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Greenbrier County musicians featured at New Skyline Bluegrass Festival on the River

Greenbrier Grass will perform at the upcoming New Skyline Bluegrass Festival on the River on Saturday, July 15, at 7:15 p.m. The group features Greenbrier County natives Garrett Sheppard (on guitar) and Brennan Wood (banjo). They will be joined by Connor Nevin (guitar), Eric Capellini (mandolin), and Emily Ilyes (violin/fiddle).

Greenbrier Grass covers bluegrass, newgrass, and multiple genres to keep the audience energized, on their feet, and dancing. Utilizing four-part vocal harmonies and singing new and old crowd favorites, the group loves to let loose and have fun with the crowd. The festival will take place on Friday, July 14 and Saturday, July 15 in the Island Park Amphitheatre in Ronceverte. Show time each evening is 5 p.m. Admission is free. Additional entertainment includes After Jack Band, Troubadour Blue, Mud Hole Control, A Tribute to John Prine from Jim Snyder & His Prime Prine Band, Trey Wellington, Richard Hefner and The Black Mountain Bluegrass Boys, Blue Steel and The Gibson Brothers.

Funding to date includes the James F.B. Peyton

Foundation, Friends of Pat Bauserman's Retirement Party, John Manchester, and the Greenbrier County Commission/Arts and Recreation Grant. In addition to great music, a beer truck and a variety of food trucks will be on hand to quench your thirst and feed your culinary desires.

The City of Ronceverte will also be hosting another summer Food Truck Festival this weekend on the main street downtown. Along with even more great food, arts and crafts vendors will be on hand along with a variety of children's activities. The public is also invited to view additional memorabilia from The Skyline Bluegrass Festival "Peace, Love, and Bluegrass Music" 1976 - 1985 as part of Lewisburg's First Friday on July 7 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Visitor's Center in downtown Lewisburg. Special musical guests are Distant Light. A photographic documentation of 2022's New Skyline Bluegrass Festival on the River will also be on display featuring the amazing work of WV photographer, Pat Bauserman. Pat served as the original festival's official photographer from 1976 - 1985.



Hammons Family Fiddle and Banjo Contest and World Class Jam returns to Marlinton

Mark your calendars and get ready for an electrifying day of music as the second annual Hammons Family Fiddle and Banjo Contest and World Class Jam returns to Discovery Junction in Marlinton on Saturday, July 8.

This highly anticipated event promises to be even bigger and better than before, featuring jams with music giants throughout the town, leading up to unforgettable concerts. The contest will showcase the extraordinary talent of fiddle and banjo players from near and far, with participants competing for prestigious prizes. The first-place winner will receive an impressive \$500 cash prize, the second-place winner will be awarded \$200, and the third-place winner will receive \$100. Additionally, ribbons will be awarded through fifth place in each category, including special recognition for youth participants.

The Hammons Family Fiddle and Banjo Contest and World Class Jam is a unique opportunity for musicians and music enthusiasts to celebrate the rich fiddle and banjo playing traditions. The event will feature jam sessions with renowned musicians spread throughout the charming town of Marlinton, creating an immersive and unforgettable experience for attendees.

Masters of Ceremonies for the event will be Bobby Taylor and Kirk Judd, both highly respected figures in the traditional arts community. Their expertise and passion for the craft will

add extra excitement to the festivities. A panel of esteemed judges will lend their expertise to the contest, ensuring a fair and insightful evaluation of the participant's performances. Judges include Blaine Sprouse, Bobby Lundy, Dave Bing, Hunter Berry, Tim Bing, and TJ Lundy.

To top off the day of incredible music, a not-to-be-missed free concert will be held after the contest. The concert will feature captivating performances by renowned artists such as Danny Paisley & The Southern Grass, The Black Mountain Bluegrass Boys, and The Bing Brothers & Jake Krack. Prepare to be enthralled by their exceptional musical talents as they take the stage to entertain and inspire.

The Hammons Family Fiddle and Banjo Contest and World Class Jam is a must-attend event for anyone passionate about bluegrass, folk, and traditional American music. Whether you're a seasoned musician, a dedicated fan, or simply someone who appreciates the power of live music, this event is sure to leave a lasting impression.

For more information about the Second Annual Hammons Family Fiddle and Banjo Contest and World Class Jam, including contest registration and performance schedules, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/556074362926845>.

"Board Meeting" CONT. FROM PAGE 9

emergency is in place.

- Authority given to deputy state school superintendent to oversee Upshur County system.
- Declaring vacant the Upshur County superintendent's office immediately.
- Appointment of former Preston County School Superintendent Stephen Wotring as new superintendent.

During the discussion, Superintendent Roach was asked to share a timeline of when he was informed of these non-compliances. Roach was then questioned by the board on why they weren't informed of these concerns in a timely manner. The board also questioned the involvement of Deputy Superintendent Sarah Stankus in the investigation, including her inappropriate participation in a WVDE spending review meeting on Feb. 10, since she previously was the Upshur County Superintendent during the time when these violations took place. NOTE: Superintendent Roach terminated the employment of Dr. Stankus on May 12. Board President Paul Hardesty was very alarmed that the information on the Upshur County non-compliances had not been presented to the state board until late May 2023. The special Circumstance Review can be accessed online here:

<https://wvde.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/27590-Upshur-County-Special-Circumstance-Review-v2.pdf>

WVBE Evaluation of the State Superintendent of Schools, WVBE Attorney, and WVBE Secretary: The board entered into Executive Session to approve these annual evaluations. Upon returning from this session, it was reported that Superintendent Roach, hired in August of 2022, received a satisfactory rating.

NOTE: After adjournment of the meeting, later in the day, it was reported that Superintendent Roach submitted his resignation and retirement. On Friday, June 23, the State Board of Education accepted Roach's resignation and appointed Michele Blatt as his replacement.

WVDE Reports:

- Literacy Update: WVDE Communications Director Christy Day reported progress on the Ready, Read, Write WV Numeracy Initiative. A new video on writing has been produced and is currently on the website at <http://readyreadwritewv.com>.

The next regular meeting of the WV State Board of Education will be held on Wednesday, July 12.

Record breaking open mic night held in Alderson

Nearly a hundred musicians and audience members established a new attendance record for Alderson's Open Mic at the Depot on July 1. Buoyed by visitors to Alderson's wonderful 4th of July activities, and great weather, there was a constant stream of people coming and going and listening to great music.

This was the third month in a series that runs from May to October on the first Saturday of the month from 6 to 9 p.m. Alderson Main Street hosts the event to provide family friendly activities, and a chance for local musicians to try out new material and learn from each other.

Event organizer Marcia Sutherland said, "The level of musician certainly increased this month, and we're glad to provide the oppor-

tunity to showcase their talent."

For more information on Open Mic at the Depot, visit Alderson Main Street's Facebook page or contact Don Sutherland at donsutherland2003@yahoo.com



Roger Poore, singer (Don Sutherland photo)



Jenna Molaro, guitar (Don Sutherland photo)

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