



Mountain messenger

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

Mountain Messenger nets multiple WVPA awards

The West Virginia Press Association has released the results of their 2023 Newspaper Editorial and Advertising Contest, which they host annually. Newspapers from across the state compete with other publications in their circulation division in multiple editorial and advertising categories.

This year, Mountain Messenger Head Editor Sarah Richardson was awarded first place in the Best News Feature category for her piece "Local Dancer Pursues her dreams in California," published April 9, 2022.

Richardson also won second place in two categories: Best Business, Economic, or Labor Reporting and Best Governmental Affairs Reporting for her pieces "Stardust Café Changes Hands" and "Lewisburg City Council Votes 4-2 to Remove Banners From Lampposts."

Mountain Messenger staff also placed first in the Best Special Section category for the 2022 State Fair of West Virginia Guide, and swept the category Best Front Page with a first, second, and third place win for front pages throughout 2022.

All articles and e-editions are available to read online at www.mountainmessenger.com.

Harmony Ridge Gallery announces closure

By Sarah Richardson

Last week, Monica Maxwell announced that one of downtown Lewisburg's staple stores, Harmony Ridge Gallery, will be closing. Monica and her husband Aaron have operated Harmony Ridge for nearly 20 years, and have been heavily involved in organizing downtown events such as Girl's Day Out, First Fridays, and more.

After working retail all these years, the Maxwells put out feelers earlier this year for selling their building, and say they got a good offer very quickly. With 5,000 sq. ft. of upstairs space and just as much in the basement, it's no surprise it was snapped up by Jody and Kate Wooten, who have yet to make an announcement on their plans for the space.

"We decided to take this opportunity to take a break from retail after 30 years, even though it's a job that we absolutely love," said Monica. "It's bittersweet. It's really hard to leave."

She reports that since they broke the news on Facebook they have had a strong influx of early Christmas shoppers, and visitors who want to make some final purchases. While they plan to stay open until mid-September, that will depend on how much inventory is left in the upcoming weeks. "We are still fully

See "Harmony Ridge" Page 5



Monica and Aaron Maxwell have announced the closure of the Harmony Ridge Gallery, but say they look forward to staying in the area and enjoying Lewisburg from a different point of view.

It's Fair time in the Greenbrier Valley



It's the first weekend of the always-anticipated West Virginia State Fair, which runs until Aug. 19 this year. There are plenty of jam-packed days ahead with live demonstrations, carnival rides, fair food, and concerts. Anticipate heavy traffic around town both before and after Grandstand concerts, which start between 7 and 8 p.m. each evening, with doors opening for concert-goers at 6:30 p.m. With several sold-out shows this week, plan your evening errands accordingly. Visit www.statefairwv.com for more information.

Board of Education celebrates proclamation of Freedom Week

By Adam Pack

The Greenbrier County Board of Education met briefly on Tuesday, Aug. 8, to declare that the week of Nov. 6 will be "Celebrate Freedom Week." An initiative coming as the result of legislation recently passed by the state legislature states that county boards of education shall, "establish a week recognized as 'Celebrate Freedom Week' during the regular school year. The purpose of 'Celebrate Freedom Week' is to educate students about the sacrifices made for freedom in the founding of this country and the values on which this country was founded."

The declaration goes on to specify that this will include instruction centered around The Constitution of the United States, The Declaration of Independence, and The Emancipation Proclamation, with special emphasis on "firmly establishing the historical background leading to the establishment of the provisions of the Constitution and The Bill of Rights by the Founding Fathers for the purpose of safeguarding our Constitutional Republic."

The Board approved the declaration and look forward to Celebrate Freedom Week in Greenbrier County later this year.

The board was also treated to a brief "meet and greet" with new Greenbrier West High School principal Adam Young. Young spoke about his upbringing in Nicholas County and career experience, which included a stint in the State House of Delegates while teaching Social Studies at Nicholas County High School and the assistant principal position at Webster County High School. When asked if there was anything he would change, Young replied that "com-

ing into a place and changing everything on day one is a very bad decision, generally speaking" in his view. Instead, he said that he was more interested in watching and listening all the way to the needs and opinions of his staff. He praised his staff for keeping "a wonderful facility, both from the sports side and the campus side."

The Greenbrier County Board of Education will meet again on Sept. 12 at the Kyle & Ann Fort Arts and Science Center. As this is the first meeting within the 2023/24 school year, the meeting will be moved to 6 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend. Interested parties should call 304-647-6470 to confirm meeting time, date, and location prior, as they are subject to change.

Missing man found deceased

On Monday, Aug. 7, the Lewisburg Police Department announced that they were actively investigating a missing person, Jarred David Shultz, 39, of Barbourville, after he was reported missing by a friend at 2:05 a.m. on Aug. 6.

"We were informed that Mr. Shultz had been visiting the Lewisburg area to attend a golf tournament and that he was last seen at approximately 11:40 p.m. in the area of Coleman Drive in Lewisburg," stated the release.

Hours later, police reported that a deceased body of a male believed to be Mr. Shultz was located "in a wooded area near I-64 and Route 219 in Lewisburg."

The released noted, "There is no foul play suspected in this incident at this time. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Mr. Shultz family and friends in this very difficult time."

County Commission suspends COVID-19 employee policy

By Adam Pack

The Greenbrier County Commission met Tuesday, Aug. 8, to align their policies with the situation regarding COVID-19. Britt Ludwig, Legal counsel for the county, informed the Commission that, "As a result of COVID, we were allowing employees to take extra sick days when those days were related to COVID-19." With the Governor lifting the State of Emergency earlier this year, Ludwig recommended that the Commission rescind those extra sick days for county employees. The Commission did so, approving a return to a pre-COVID sick leave policy. Ludwig made the Commission aware, as well, that "if COVID were to reemerge or see a resurgence, the county could reinstate the former policies, as this is technically a suspension."

In other news, the Commission heard from two different local organizations. First, Ruthanna Beasley of the Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Council (EDC) briefed the Commission on the recent work of the EDC. The EDC was happy to announce their recent reception of a "AA" grading for biomass from the lumber and timber industries in Greenbrier County. This is significant as, "it helps businesses who produce biofuels like biogas and

biodiesel that we have the infrastructure, the timber assets, and other assets recognize that this is a great place to do business. And it really does do that because we are the first region in the state to receive this grading, and only the fourth in America to do so, so we're very excited about this." Beasley also discussed issues facing the EDC. Chief among them are the lack of housing for potential workforce, with short-term rental properties "constricting" the housing market in the area, and a lack of land zoned for manufacturing and or warehousing. Beasley also requested that Jennifer Mason be appointed to the council to replace the outgoing Steven Keadle, for a term ending on June 30, 2027. The Commission approved this request and instated Mason to the seat on the Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Council. The Commission also reappointed Jeff Davis to the Greenbrier County Planning Commission for another term, which will also end on June 30, 2027.

The Commission then heard from the Greenbrier County Farmland Protection Bureau, represented by Amy Maloney, Director of the Greenbrier County Farmland Protection Board. Maloney began by reminding the Commission and public that her organization has existed

since 2000, offering landowners the opportunity to have their land protected, "primarily from subdivision and soil disturbance" via selling it to the Bureau in order to have that land designated as a "conservation easement." Since that time the Bureau has worked with state, local, and federal agencies as well as the County Commission to protect roughly 3,000 acres of farmland. Maloney requested the approval of purchase of a conservation easement on property offered by the McCormick Family. The property, 92.6 acres in the Irish Corner District, would cost \$112,000. The Commission approved the purchase of this conservation easement.

The Commission also transferred \$1,816.20 to the Greenbrier County Airport Authority as a result of a Potential Noncompliance Dismissal Letter from the Federal Aviation Administration and approved the hire of Lucinda Hanna for the 911 Dispatch Center. She was described by Commissioner Tammy Tinchler as, "an interested applicant with a very good work history."

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Inside This Week
Number of Sections: 1

GENERAL

Briefly 3
Classified 6
Club/Church 8
For the Record 3
Obituaries 5
School 10

ENTERTAINMENT

Puzzles 8
Steppin' Out 11 & 12
Dining Guide 12



Summersville Lake to become WV's newest State Park

177 acres on the state's largest lake to become the 36th West Virginia State Park

Gov. Jim Justice announced this week that West Virginia will soon be opening its 36th state park, Summersville Lake State Park. The northern shore of the state's largest lake in Nicholas County will be transformed into a premiere outdoor adventure park in one of West Virginia's most iconic spots.

A bill that will officially designate the land as a state park was sent to the West Virginia Legislature by Gov. Justice. Once the bill is passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, new recreational opportunities at the park will be opened to the public. As the state's first new park added in more than 30 years, this designation is symbolic of the recent growth in West Virginia's tourism industry.

"I couldn't be more proud to announce our newest State Park," Gov. Justice said. "Summersville Lake is an iconic place in our beautiful state filled with a lot of special memories that span generations of families. Now, all those who travel to Summersville Lake will be treated to the greatest outdoor adventure park in the country on the shores of our state's largest lake."

"The opportunity to add another State Park is a testament to the major impact that our investments in tourism and in our parks is having in West Virginia. I thank the Legislature for agreeing with me and supporting these investments, and I thank all those that work hard every day to operate our parks and market our state to the world. I can't wait to see people from far and wide enjoying Summersville Lake

State Park very soon." The 177-acre park is perched on the northern shore of the state's largest and most picturesque lakes. The lake has been a national and international destination known for its clear blue waters and unique rock formations since opening in 1966. Estimates show more than 1 million visitors enjoy watersports there each year. The new park, just off US-19, will immediately open the lake to additional recreational activities

such as hiking, biking, and picnicking. The new park also includes an additional parking lot for those coming to enjoy the incredible views and world-class outdoor recreation.

The site is slated to be developed through a public-private partnership and the amenities will make it the greatest outdoor adventure park in the country. Planned amenities include additional climbing and bouldering opportunities, hiking and biking trails, water activities, aerial

sports, camping, cabins, and more. The Division of Natural Resources will host a public meeting in the near future to receive input from the public.

This development comes on the heels of a historic investment in our state park

system. State Parks are completing more than \$150 million in improvements, which include upgrades at every single state-operated lodge and every cabin across the state. Last year's state park revenue was the fourth year of record-

breaking revenue, showing growth both in in-state visitation and out-of-state visitation.

An event will be held in the near future to officially designate the park and open it to the public. See "State Park" __ Page 3



Gunshots reported in Fairlea

On Monday, Aug. 7, at approximately 6:56 a.m., members of the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office responded to a 911 call of damage to a vehicle and a residential home in Fairlea. Upon arrival officers determined that the sustained damage resulted from gunshots.

Officers have determined that an altercation occurred between multiple individuals and gunfire subsequently ensued. NOTE: Gunshots were reportedly heard at approximately 8:47 p.m. on Sunday evening, Aug. 6. The affected homeowner was unaware of the damage to their home until the discovery on the 7th. The homeowner is

an innocent party with no involvement or connection to the altercation.

Members of the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Team are processing the scene for evidence and investigators are currently canvassing the neighborhood and conducting interviews.

Anyone with any information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office at 304-647-6634 or the Greenbrier County 911 Center.

The area of occurrence is the C and W Road #2 in Fairlea, which is located on the 219 South side across from the IGA and Frontier building.

Corporal Seth Havens, of the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office, is the lead investigating officer. See "State Park" __ Page 3

PICK OF THE LITTER



MAXIMUS
Maximus is a two-year-old boxer mix and weighs 47 pounds



HONEY
Honey is a two-year-old female domestic shorthair

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

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

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

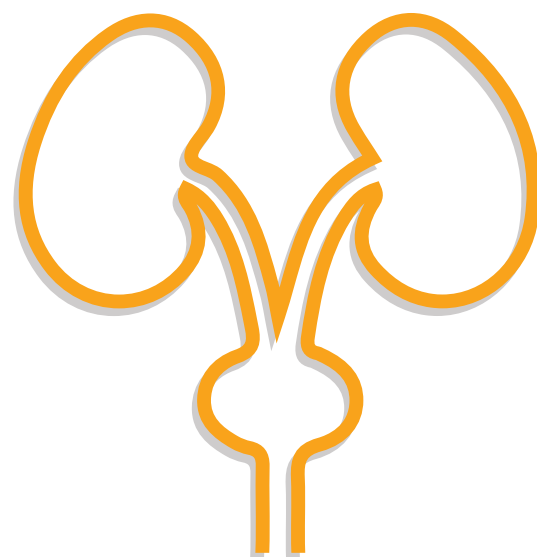
Call 304-645-4775 for more information.

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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From The Staff Of

The Mountain Messenger

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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. **Dance Saturday, Aug. 26 will feature Country Pride Walter & Richard 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.

Suits

In Re: The Marriage of: James Mical Jarrett and Amber D. Jarrett
 In Re: The Marriage of: Jacob Ray Bladen and Vanessa Faye Bladen
 In Re: The Marriage of: Tommy Wayne Dixon, Jr. and Sarah Ann Dalton
 In Re: The Marriage of: Erin Brooke Bryant and Brooks Bryant
 In Re: The Marriage of: Victoria Rose Clay and Luther Dale Clay
 In Re: The Marriage of: Michael Wayne Sims and Shannon Elizabeth Sims
 In Re: The Marriage of: Nicole Lynn Syner and John Dillon Syner
 In Re: The Marriage of: Sherrie Ellen Balsler and Cody Eugene Balsler

Three anniversaries noted at Greenbrier East Spartan Band Camp last week

Members of the Class of 2024 of Greenbrier East High School's Spartan Marching Band are shown with the cornerstone of the first building constructed 70 years ago at the Greenbrier County Youth Camp at Anthony, denoting the date of August, 1953. The first building was a combination of cafeteria, kitchen, restrooms and assembly hall.



Holding their 45th annual Greenbrier East Band Camp Jul. 30 through

Aug. 4 at the Youth Camp, the students also noted that this was the beginning of the 25th year with Mr. James Allder as director of instrumental music at GEHS.

The 60 high school band members spent the week striving towards learning the 2023 band's competition show which is based on "The Greenbrier Ghost." Assisting Mr. Allder with the some of the music was Cathy Sawyers Burtram who is the former director of the Greenbrier Valley Theatre and along with her late husband, Joe Burtram, composed the music for the stage production of "The Greenbrier Ghost."

In addition to four times a day practice, the students also participated in two campfire programs, a talent

show, game night and vesper programs with the members of the Class of 2023 leading the candlelight welcoming ceremony for the Class of 2026.

The support group, the Greenbrier East Music Boosters, provided over night and day time chaperones as well as a nightly snack between the evening practice and special camp type activity.

The Spartan Band will be presenting the introduction to "The Greenbrier Ghost" at halftime of the football game with Bluefield on Sept. 8, the first home game for the Spartans.

State Park

Continued from Page 2



"Our state parks would not be where they are today without Governor Justice's vision. When he came into office, we had tens of millions in deferred maintenance and declining revenues" said Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Tourism Chelsea Ruby. "I'm thrilled to stand beside him today as we celebrate more than 150 million in investments, record revenue, and our first new state park in more than 30 years. We could not be more appreciative of the Legislature's continued support of our investments in expanding and improving recreation in our great state. West Virginia has truly become a national leader."

"Under the Governor's leadership, West Virginia State Parks just finished another record year, and I'm just thrilled to see us add another 177 acres into our state parks system," said Director of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Brett McMillion, who oversees the State Park system. "We are looking forward to adding Summersville Lake as our 36th park and spending the next couple of months hearing from West Virginians on the amenities they'd like to see added in Nicholas County."

"Summersville Lake already has internationally-known amenities, and we are looking forward to greatly enhancing the visitor experience with this park," said Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Commerce James Bailey, who oversees the Division of Natural Resources. "With Governor Justice's vision, we're going to develop this site to make it the nation's premier outdoor adventure park."

Mountain Messenger

The Weekend Newspaper for the Greenbrier Valley

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WV Legislative Interims: Committee on Children and Families hears presentations on affordable housing issues and food insecurity

By Autumn Shelton
 West Virginia Press Association

During their Monday interim session, members of the West Virginia Legislative Joint Committee on Children and Families heard presentations on both affordable housing issues and food insecurity in the Mountain State.

The first speaker, Craig Petry, executive director of Community Works West Virginia, an organization designed to create housing and community development solutions through a network of organizations, discussed affordable housing issues.

"It's become very much a hot button topic across the country," Petry said.

According to Petry, some of the affordable housing issues in West Virginia include the increased cost of goods, which makes it difficult to develop housing, as well as aging homes that are in need of rehabilitation, high interest rates and a general increase in home prices.

The state is also seeing an increase in the number of short term rental units, which has "squeezed out" affordable housing," Petry said, adding this is primarily occurring in the high tourism areas surrounding the Hatfield-McCoy Trail, the New River Gorge region in Fayette County, and in the Davis and Thomas areas.

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.

Greenbrier Co. Farmland

Protection Board

meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at 804 Industrial Drive, Suite 5, in Maxwelton. The public is invited to attend. Call 304-520-3221 for more information.

Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Convictions

Mark Anthony Maiello, Frankford, red light violation, NCP, fine \$10
 Logan Jeffrey Camp, White Sulphur Springs, driving revoked for DUI - 1st offense, NCP, fine \$100, jail 45 days to be served on Greenbrier County Home Confinement
 William H. Herndon, Rainelle, 1) no operators, GP, fine \$25; 2) improper registration, fine \$25
 Jack Marcus, Renick, expired motor vehicle inspection, GP, fine \$10
 Austin Heaster, Quinwood, speeding, GP, fine \$26
 Brian S. Brackenridge, Alderson, 1) no operators, GP, fine \$50; 2) no insurance, fine \$200

Marriages

James Michael Steuterman, Sherrill's Ford, NC to Cheryl Lynn Steuterman, Sherrill's Ford, NC
 Seth Kelly Kidd, Lewisburg to Jessica Knight Howard, Lewisburg
 Zachary William Stidom, Frankford to Ashton Maddison Hoke, Frankford
 Adam Ray Lester, Frankford to Rebecca Ruth Brown, Frankford
 Justin Tyler Hylton, Lewisburg to Karli Jo Pomeroy, Danese
 Teeshawn Lamar McKoy, White Sulphur Springs to Abigail Lyn Shortridge, Smoot
 James Holbert Kelley, Rainelle to Connie Bennett Watson, Rainelle
 David Bradley Eggleston, Ronceverte to Michelle Leigh Henson, White Sulphur Springs
 David Allen Odell, Lewisburg to Jennifer Gail Richardson, Alderson
 Christopher Michael Hawver, Ronceverte to Taylor Diane Harrison, Ronceverte

Works West Virginia, an organization designed to create housing and community development solutions through a network of organizations, discussed affordable housing issues.

This is also something that Sen. Patricia Rucker, (R-Jefferson), said she witnesses in her district.

"In my area of the eastern panhandle, the rising cost has literally driven people out of their homes," Rucker stated, adding that, "Unfortunately, those rising costs are those from outside the state, so a lot of those homes are turning into vacation homes or rentals and the folks in the actual area, who live and need to live there to work, can't afford it."

She continued that a lot of the homes are privately owned, but the homeowners, often retired, cannot afford the cost of rising taxes.

"I, of course, have advocated to increase our home-stead exemption, which has not been taken up, but is there any program to help folks to keep their homes?" Rucker asked.

See "Legislative Interims" Page 11

For the Record

Deeds

Betty Cookendofer, Raymond Lewis, III, Mary Lewis Delaney, William Russell Grimmett, Sandra K. Ratterman, Larry Preston Spence to Jonathan D. Spence and Linda L. Spence

Donald R. Brady and Donna L. Brady to Kenneth Nichols and Carina Kimberly King, 15.40 Acres
 Laurie Ann Lockwood and Kelly Lynn Kulpinski to Garland Hugh Harris, Jr., Lots Nos. 8 and 9, Hedrick Addition to North Alderson, Alderson Corporate District
 Seneca Trustees, Inc., to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC., Lot No. 15, Rupert Corporation District
 Goldie A. Lambert to Melody Thomas and David Thomas, 1.00 Acre, Frankford District

Aubrey L. Hanson and Lisa K. Abbott to Stacy J. Billos and Robert S. Billos, 2.00 Acres, Fort Spring District
 Eric Kent Harrah to Wilma Jean Clark and Sandra Faye White, Lots Nos. 104 and 105, Riverview Addition to the Town of Alderson, Alderson Corporation District

Aaron L. Maxwell and Monica C. Maxwell to West Washington Properties, LLC., 5,280 Sq. Ft., Lewisburg Municipality.

Ted E. Hernandez, II and Cynthia L. Hernandez to Joseph Shane Rajczak, Lot No. 33, Phase II, Brier Hills Subdivision, Ronceverte Municipality
 Roger D. Benge to Jacob Austin Scott, 5.50 Acres, White Sulphur/Irish Corner District

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OBITUARIES

David Leroy Thrasher

Lewisburg-David Leroy Thrasher, 68, passed away Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2023 at Brian Nursing and Rehab Center.

David was born Jan. 16, 1955 in Amarillo, TX, the late Leroy C. Thrasher, Jr. and late Joan Wardrop Thrasher.

David was a retired Chief Mechanic and worked in the Oil and Gas Industry.

Other than his parents, David was preceded in death by his wife, Nora Strahan Thrasher.

Survivors include his daughter, Leslie Thrasher (Collins) of Orlando, FL; grandchildren, Austin and Shailey Collins of Orlando, FL; brothers, Kevin R. Thrasher of Perry, NY and Larry C. Thrasher of Lewisburg.

Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com

Danny Edward Morgan



Ronceverte-Danny Edward Morgan, 63, passed away Sunday, Aug. 6, 2023, at the Peyton Hospice House following an extended battle with dementia.

Born Feb. 21, 1960, he was the son of the late Elizabeth Jane Morgan. Danny was best known for preaching the word of God and his love for the Lord.

In addition to his mother, he was preceded in death by two sisters, Daisy Koepp, and Becky Buzzard.

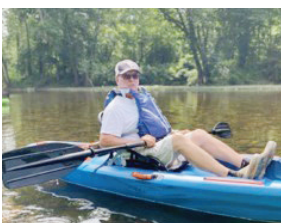
Survivors are his loving wife of 42 years, Stella Morgan; son, Jonathan Morgan (Julie) of Ronceverte; daughters, Stephanie Morgan (Jeremy Rickard) of Alderson, and Kali Morgan (Justin Musick) of Lewisburg; brother, Billy Morgan and sister, Elizabeth Munson, both of Alderson; grandchildren, Adalynn, Benjamin, Caraline, James, Willow, Lena and Sammie; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral service will be Friday, Aug. 11, at 12 noon at the Graystone Baptist Church, Skylar Drive, Lewisburg, with Pastor Darrell Wilkins and Pastor Youel Altizer officiating. Burial will follow the service in the Morgan Cemetery, Ronceverte.

Visitation was held Thursday evening at the church.

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

William Lee Dillon



Ronceverte-William Lee Dillon, 81, passed away Friday, Aug. 4, 2023 at GVMC following a short illness.

Bill was born on June 28, 1942 in Ronceverte, the son of Robert and Dallas Dillon. He was preceded in death by his parents and a twin brother, Bobby.

In 1963 Bill married Carol Hale of Waiteville and had two children, Terri (Larry) of Lewisburg and Todd (Chastity) of Hollywood.

Bill retired from Westvaco in 2004 after 38 years of service and was a Deacon at Ronceverte Christian Church. He loved hunting, fishing, golf, and playing cards with his family. He also loved his best buddy, "Pepper" who was always at his side.

Other than his wife and children survivors include his grandchildren, Ryan Dillon (Eisha) of Lewisburg; Britney Bucklen LaFon of Lewisburg; Cody, Olivia, and Olin Dillon of Hollywood; great-grandchildren, Gabe, Ireland, Kadem, Aiden, and Arabella of Lewisburg, and Kori and Jack LaFon of Lewisburg. Also, a special friend and neighbor, Kim Erskine who cared for him deeply.

Bill will be fondly remembered and missed by his family and many friends who treasured time together with him. At his request, there will be no funeral or memorial service.

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

Dwayne Darin McLaughlin

Fairlea-Dwayne Darin McLaughlin, 56, passed away on Sunday, Aug. 6, 2023.

Born Mar. 28, 1967, in Marlinton, he was a son of the late Roger Lee McLaughlin and Margaret Ann White McLaughlin.

Other than his parents he was preceded in death by a son, Kevin McLaughlin and a sister, Sara Morgan.

He worked as an assembler for Four Jaks Manufacturing in Fairlea.

Survivors include sister, Denise Jones of Hampton, VA; and brother, Kevin White of Renick, WV.

There will be no service.

Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com

Public invited to review flood maps in Monroe County

FEMA is proposing updates to the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for Monroe County, West Virginia. Community partners are invited to participate in a 90-day appeal and comment period.

The updated maps were produced in coordination with local, state and FEMA officials. Significant community review of the maps has already taken place, but before the maps become final, community partners can identify any corrections or questions about the information provided and submit appeals or comments.

The 90-day appeal period will begin on or around Aug. 3, 2023. Residents, business owners and other community partners are encouraged to review the updated maps to learn about local flood risks and potential future flood insurance requirements. They may submit an appeal if they perceive that modeling or data used to create the map is technically or scientifically incorrect.

An appeal must include technical information, such as hydraulic or hydrologic data, to support the claim. Appeals cannot be based on the effects of proposed projects or projects started after the study is in progress.

If property owners see incorrect information that does not change the flood hazard information - such as a missing or misspelled road name in the Special Flood Hazard Area or an incorrect corporate boundary - they can submit a written comment.

The next step in the mapping process is the resolution of all comments and appeals. Once they are resolved, FEMA will notify communities of the effective date of the final maps.

Submit appeals and comments by contacting your local floodplain administrator: Richard Miller, Senior 911/EOM Director, Monroe County, rmiller@monroecountywv.gov. The preliminary

maps may be viewed online at the FEMA Flood Map Changes Viewer: <http://msc.fema.gov/fmccv>. Changes from the current maps may be viewed online at the Region 3 Changes Since Last FIRM Viewer: www.arcgis.com

For more information about the flood maps:

- Use a live chat service about flood maps at <http://go.usa.gov/r6C> (just click on the "Live Chat" icon).

- Contact a FEMA Map Specialist by telephone; toll free, at 1-877-FEMA-MAP (1-877-336-2627) or by email at FEMA-FMIX@fema.dhs.gov.

- Most homeowner's insurance policies do not cover flooding. There are cost-saving options available for those newly mapped into a high-risk flood zone. Learn more about your flood insurance options by talking with your insurance agent and visiting <https://www.floodsmart.gov>.

Monroe County Flood Mapping Milestones
May 31, 2022 - Flood Risk Review Meeting to review draft flood hazard data.

Oct. 31, 2022 - Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map released.

Dec. 8, 2022 - Community Coordination and Outreach Meeting to review Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map and discuss updates to local floodplain management ordinance and flood insurance.

On or Around Aug. 3, 2023 - Appeal Period starts.

June 2025* - New Flood Insurance Rate Map becomes effective and flood insurance requirements take effect. (*Timeline subject to change pending completion of the appeal review process.)

If you have any questions, please contact FEMA Region 3 Office of External Affairs at 215-931-5597 or at femar3newsdesk@fema.dhs.gov.

GRWA starts water quality monitoring project



Margaret Worth and Geoff Hamil take water quality meter readings as Margaret's granddaughter Ivy states her observations on stream quality. Photo by Louanne Fatora, coordinator.

The Greenbrier River Watershed Association has begun its water quality monitoring project in collaboration with the WV School of Osteopathic Medicine. The Greenbrier River is a multi-use

watershed with lots of people enjoying contact by boating, fishing and swimming. The goal is to gain a view of the overall health of the river by long term monitoring and offer assistance if any

problems are detected. Volunteers are assisting by teaming up into sections of the river and taking samples once a month on the same day, all year long. The samples are taken to the Osteopathic school lab for

testing. The monitoring begins at Durbin and ends at Hinton on the main stem of the river. Want to volunteer? Send us an email at greenbriewatershed@gmail.com or call 304-647-4792.

Harmony Ridge

stocked, and still have a lot of great jewelry and gifts," reports Monica. "We expect the next couple of weeks to be busy, but if you come in early you won't be disappointed with the selection."

The couple states that while their store may be closing, they have no plans to move away from the area, and say that they are planning some future endeavors that aren't all the way fleshed out yet. Follow their Facebook page at "Harmony Ridge Gallery" or subscribe to their newsletter to stay in touch on future plans. Call the store at 304-645-4333 or email monica@harmonyridgegallery.com to be added to their mailing list.

"We're also just going to be able to participate as a visitor to events downtown, instead of a planner," Monica joked, "Normally we are working these things, so it will be nice to be able to visit spots downtown."

A sign on their door states:

"For 19 years, Harmony Ridge has been proud to call Lewisburg home.

There's never a perfect time to decide when to close a business, but that time for us is now.

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Continued from Page 1

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FOR SALE: Square bodied 4x4 Chevrolet 4WD, 6ft. brand new rebuilt automatic transmission & very solid cab. New front and rear fenders. For more information call 540-395-2083.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED: Mechanic. Apply in person at Simms Service Center. 1092 Washington Street East, Lewisburg. Call 304-645-1494.

YARD SALE

YARD SALE: 4744 Highland Trail, Alderson, WV 24910. August 11-13, 7:30 AM-5:00PM. Everything must go. Construction supplies, elliptical bike, filing cabinets, lots of miscellaneous tools and household items.

WANT TO BUY

WANT TO BUY: 1949-1952 Chevrolet 4 door Fleetline car. Restored or not, running or not. 540-395-2083.

WANT TO BUY

WANT TO BUY: 1964 Ford Falcon 2 door left & right post doors. Also, 1963 Ford Falcon 2 door hardtop doors. 540-395-2083.

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JOB OPENING

DENTIST OPPORTUNITY

Rainelle Medical Center is looking for a Dentist to provide services at our Maxwelton Dental Center.

As a Federally Qualified community Health Center, located in a medically underserved area, applicants are eligible for student loan repayment. Our annual salary is competitive for the area, and our benefit package is exceptional (includes vacation, sick days, and retirement options). Continuing education time and money are available, apart from salary. Malpractice insurance is provided through the Federal Tort Claims.

For more information or to apply, email Kristi Atha-Rader at karader@rmchealth.org and/or Lisa Redden, Director of Human Resources at lredden@rmchealth.org.

EOE

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Front Desk Registration Clerk

We are currently seeking a front desk registration clerk. Duties will include, but not be limited to the following: proper registration of all patients, scheduling appointments, accepting incoming calls and forwarding as appropriate, processing incoming records, and copying/scanning documents into charts. The candidate should have good computer and organization skills, good communication skills and the ability to deal with the public in a pleasant and professional manner. This will be a full-time position, Monday-Friday. Some travel may be required. Excellent Benefits package included.

Send resumes to the attention of Lisa Dennison, Director of Billing at ldennison@rmchealth.org.

Employment Opportunity

Cook Positions Available Full-Time and Part-Time

Must be at least 18 years of age and available to work holidays. Food Handlers permit required. Call for more information and apply in person.

Dutch Haus Restaurant

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JOB OPENING

FAMILY MEDICINE PHYSICIAN OPPORTUNITY

Rainelle Medical Center is looking for a dedicated, compassionate Family Medicine Physician to work full-time on the Eastern end of Greenbrier County.

Rainelle Medical Center offers a competitive salary, an excellent benefits package, paid time off, paid holidays, a flexible schedule to accommodate a healthy work/life balance, or a 4 day work week schedule.

Interested candidates can send a resume to the attention of Lisa Redden, Human Resources at lredden@rmchealth.org.

EOE

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JOB OPENINGS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY LICSW, LCSW & LGSW

Rainelle Medical Center has a full-time position (approximately 40 hours per week) open for a **Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW), Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW), Licensed Graduate Social Worker (LGSW), Licensed Clinical Psychologist, or Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)** to work with our Behavioral Health team. The candidate will provide therapeutic services to children in elementary schools on the eastern end of Greenbrier County. Some travel will be required. Certifications in Addictions preferred. RMC promotes a healthy, family friendly work environment and work/life balance. RMC is a federally qualified health center. (FQHC).

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

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Check out available properties at 4thwayproperties.com

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PREVENT FOREST FIRES

Dear Recycle Lady

Dear Recycle Lady,

Several nonprofit organizations are sending coins glued to their letters requesting donations. After removing the coins there are globs of glue left on the letter. Must this glue be removed before recycling the letter?

Recycler

Dear Recycler,

Yes, the glue dots that hold the coins on the letter must be removed before recycling the letter with green dissolve in water. This causes problems for the company that buys our paper. Most glue dots can be removed simply by rubbing your thumb over them, or they can be cut out.

Dear Recycle Lady,

What are tree-corridors? I think they are found in forests, but I am not sure.

Curious Reader

Dear Curious Reader,

You are correct. Tree-corridors are found in forests, particularly in the Rainforests that have been cleared and left in large fragments. According to dw.com, 500 years ago Brazil's Atlantic Forest was the size of South Africa, but today over 90 percent of this global biodiversity hotspot has been deforested to make way for booming industries such as soy, sugar cane and cattle ranching. The Rainforest Alliance is helping to connect fragmented forests with green tree-corridors to "provide a lifeline" for animals, threatened species, and pollinators. Research has shown that when patches of forest are isolated from each other, pollinators are less abundant, and plants frequently fail to reproduce. Connecting forests with a pathway of trees, shrubs, and native plants that have been broken up by clearcutting contributes to a richer biodiversity of plant species. Pollination by bees, bats and hummingbirds is increased when they can travel from one part of the forest to another. Healthy forests are an important part of the solution for global climate change.

Dear Recycle Lady,

What is green methanol?

Want to Know

Dear Want to Know,

According to freetheocean.com, green methanol is a cutting-edge fuel extracted from food wastes in landfills. (This process is similar to the one at the Raleigh County landfill that generates enough electricity to heat 2,400 homes in the Beckley area with processed methane captured from their landfill.) The shipping giant Maersk will embark this summer on its first voyage from South Korea to Denmark powered by green methanol. This eco-friendly fuel can reduce emissions from the ship by 65 – 70%. Kudos to Maersk that has ordered that 25 more of their current vessels be retrofitted to run on green methanol. Globally, shipping companies are working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce air pollution in ports as they contribute approximately a billion tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) annually. Green methanol is one way they can reduce their carbon footprint.

Good News: According to Oceana.com, countries around the world are working to protect 30% of their land and sea by 2030. It is contributing toward this goal and working with its allies to protect even more marine habitat. Marine protected areas and other marine reserves have been proven to preserve biodiversity, help overfished species recover, and make habitats more resilient to climate change.

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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

Performing at the 1937 West Virginia State Fair was Winifred "Winnie" Colleano who was, at the time, one of the world's most accomplished aerial artists. She pioneered the heel and toe catch on the trapeze as described by Mark St. Leon: "swinging on her trapeze bar as much as 70 feet aloft, she would suddenly let go in a free fall, catch the trapeze bar with her heels, and then swing back and forth by her heels." She was also known for her dramatic dismount, called the leap of life, when she would throw her body off the swing, do a somersault, and catch a rope and slide to the ground.

Colleano was born into a circus family in Australia in 1897. She was of aboriginal descent at a time of discrimination by white Australians. Her family took the Spanish pseudonym Colleano that allowed them to travel and perform in the Australian outback when Winnie developed her act. She and her brother, Con Colleano, a tight wire performer, came to the United States, and in the 1920s, they were star attractions of the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey circus. She died in Miami in 1973 and was elected to the Circus Hall of Fame in 1976.

Photo: Courtesy of the West Virginia Daily News.

Sources: The West Virginia News, The Wizard of The Wire by Mark St. Leon, Feminine Free Fall: A Fantasy of Freedom by Peta Tait, Female Aerialists in the 1920s and early 1930s: Femininity, Celebrity and Glamour by Kate Holmes.

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CLUB & CHURCH

Open House, Mass of the Feast of the Assumption scheduled



The oldest Catholic Church still in use in the state will be open to the public Aug. 15 in the village of Sweet Springs in northeastern Monroe County. St. John, the Evangelist, Catholic Chapel was constructed as early as 1839 by slaves on the Lynnside Plantation, owned by the Governor of Virginia John Floyd and his wife.

During his previous federal government service in Washington, DC, the Governor sent his daughters to Catholic schools, the only schools which would accept girls and then did the same in Richmond, VA, when he was elected Governor. The Church was built to serve the daughters who converted and because of the Governor's status, the Bishop of Richmond made certain it was well served by clergy riding horseback from Wytheville, VA, to have Mass and administer

sacraments in the Chapel. For Aug. 15, the Chapel will be open for tours, beginning at 4 p.m. and Mass will be celebrated at 6 p.m. with music provided by members of the Hymns and Hers, the choir of St. Catherine of Siena Church in Ronceverte. The public is invited to the tours and the Mass.

Following the Mass, there will be ice cream and cookies and soft drinks on the grounds of the Chapel, compliments of the Altar and Rosary Society of St. Catherine of Siena and the Women of the Church at St. Charles Borromeo and the Church will be open for a short time after the service. Father James Conyers, pastor of St. Catherine of Siena and St. Charles Borromeo Churches, will preside at the Mass along with other possible visiting priests from the Dioceses of Virginia, Wheeling

Charleston and Raleigh, NC.

Other than this service, the Church is used occasionally for weddings, anniversary exchange of vows, or funerals.

From West Virginia, take I-64 to the Crows exit and proceed on VA/WV 311 to the intersection with WV 3 West; from VA take I-64 West to the Callaghan exit and proceed on VA 159 to VA 311 to Sweet Springs which is only one mile from the WV/VA border with Alleghany and Craig counties. From the south take US 219 north to downtown Union and WV 3 East to Sweet Springs.

For additional information, telephone the office of the Catholic Churches of the Greenbrier Valley 304-536-1813 or the Greenbrier Valley Council of the Knights of Columbus 304-645-1373.



Seated: Linda Spencer (left), Barbara Deeds, and Loretta Shirley; Standing: Burl Post (left), Cassandra Perkins, Blanche Knically, and Shela McCosney at the Williamsburg Historical Foundation Museum.

Williamsburg CEOS Club reviews and renews

August is reorganization month for Community Educational Outreach Service Clubs and the Williamsburg Club is now prepared to continue to pursue their goals in education with lessons developed by the West Virginia Extension Family and Community Development Service and sharing them with the community. New club officers were also elected to begin in 2024. These positions include Purposeful Reading, Continuing Education, Family, Marketing and Membership and Health Motivator.

Cooking to Children" was presented by Patricia Post. The club members shared their cooking experiences and enjoyed the cookies made by "grandma" and her granddaughter Nora.

On Sept. 12 at The Williamsburg Historical Foundation Museum the lesson "From Coal Towns to Tourist Attractions: West Virginia's Newest State Park" will be presented by Burl Post.

The club meets on the second Tuesday of each month at noon. All are welcome to attend.

The lesson "Teaching Appalachian Heritage

Reunions

2023 Hodges/O'Brien Reunion

Descendants of James H. Hodges and Jeremiah O'Brien will enjoy a reunion Sunday, Aug. 20, at noon with dinner at 1 p.m. We will meet at the First Church of God Fellowship Hall, North Avenue, Ronceverte. Bring pictures, family tree information, past reunion information, and other memorabilia to share. Also bring addresses for family members that have moved so we may add them to our mailing list.

The descendants are dying and we, the reunion committee, need for you and your family to help in continuing this RICH tradition. Please bring anyone and COME enjoy the FINE food and GOOD fellowship.

Come and catch up on family news and reminisce about the good old days. Please share this announcement with family members and relatives who may not be on our current mailing list. If your address has changed, we need your new address. Please call Nancy Hodges at (home) 304-647-3451 or (cell) 304-520-1754 with changes in your address. Hope to see you there!

GEHS Class of 1973 Reunion

The Greenbrier East High School Class of 1973 will celebrate its 50-year class reunion the weekend of Oct. 6 and 7. Wonderful News! We have had so many generous donations from fellow classmates that the mixer on Friday night at the Brier Patch at Quality Inn, and Saturday's catered dinner and dance at the WVSOM Alumni Center are now FREE. The registration deadline is Aug. 15. Contact Donna McDaniel Bahorich at (832) 303-9091, or donna.gehs1973@gmail.com Online registration: www.eventcreate.com/e/gehs1973reunion

SCRAMBLERS

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

Follow
HEADER _____
 Slant
GLEAM _____
 Team
POLUCE _____
 Clamor
ONES! _____

TODAY'S WORD _____

"That's our _____ plan"

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

1. Arm is missing.
 2. House is missing.
 3. House is moved.
 4. House is missing.
 5. Arm is different.
 6. House is missing.
 7. House is missing.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
 ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Super Crossword

UNTHEMED

ACROSS

1 Upside-down-sleeping mammal
 8 Economizes to a fault
 14 Untrustworthy sort
 20 One way to serve apple pie
 21 Very solitary sort
 22 Monkey (with)
 23 Frigid-weather readings
 26 Military missions, in brief
 27 Old Ford div.
 28 Tennis great Chris
 29 Classic Coca-Cola slogan
 39 "Son of," in Arabic names
 40 Thurman of "Kill Bill" films
 41 Volcanic flow
 42 Watershed draining dozens of U.S. states
 53 Busy crawler
 54 Make sport of
 55 Cocktail party spread
 56 School in England's East Midlands

DOWN

1 Explorer John or Sebastian
 2 Letter before beth
 3 Triple-time dance, in France
 4 Broody rock subgenre
 5 Bend at a curtain call
 6 Woodworking tool
 7 Swarms (with)
 8 Not at all tall
 9 Mustard alternative
 10 Cholera
 11 "Delicious!"
 12 One of 11 in a Christmas song
 13 Carell of "The Office"
 14 Knighted Ringo
 15 Cappuccino alternative
 16 Ostrich relative

ACROSS

61 The Emerald Isle
 62 Play — in (contribute to)
 63 Heap
 64 Graduate student's position that might include conducting experiments
 74 "Give — ring"
 75 Plantain lily, familiarly
 76 Actress Ward of "Sisters"
 77 Polite cut-in words
 86 Drains of color
 87 Heaps
 88 Tulsa-to-Topeka dir.
 89 Metropolises, e.g.
 94 Climb
 95 — pro nobis
 96 Flight guess, in brief
 97 "In time the reason shall be made clear"
 109 Furnish with new weapons
 110 Mean Roman emperor
 111 Kung — chicken
 112 "The Magic Flute" composer

DOWN

17 Mo. in spring
 18 Final letter
 19 Hosp. triage sites
 24 Riddle-me —
 25 KO counter
 30 Some sorority letters
 31 Grab — (eat quickly)
 32 AI who won four Indy 500s
 33 French buddy
 34 Driveway-topping goo
 35 Stinging hits
 36 Lays into
 37 Something to RSVP to online
 38 More stable
 42 Longtime Twins catcher Joe
 43 Navel type
 44 Swizzles
 45 Airline to Oslo
 46 Basketball — Thomas
 47 2014 Wimbledon winner Kvitova
 48 Sickly
 49 Compete (for)
 50 "Don't Cry for Me Argentina" musical

ACROSS

51 Military mission, in brief
 52 Spinner of "Star Trek" films
 57 Neckline shape
 58 Dinosaur in Nintendo games
 59 Actress Kaitlin
 60 Singer with the 2007 hit "1234"
 65 Whac — (reflex-testing game)
 66 Of kidneys
 67 Slyly spiteful
 68 Engraved stone pillar
 69 Divining card
 70 Old JFK jet
 71 "Die Lorelei"
 72 poet Heinrich
 72 Actress Massey
 73 Window segments
 77 Baseballer Martinez
 78 Stayed home for a meal
 79 Washer cycle
 80 Gave two pills to, say
 81 Cool, in jive talk
 82 That, in Peru

DOWN

83 Singer Carly — Jepsen
 84 A cow milker tugs on it
 85 H.S. juniors' exams
 90 Campaigning pro
 91 Net address
 92 Wash clothes
 93 Untrustworthy sort
 98 Have a spat
 99 Pine (for)
 100 "— Can Cook" (old culinary show)
 101 Brain, for one
 102 Food taste associated with MSG
 103 Must have
 104 Actress Joanne
 105 Red lab dye
 106 Divided
 107 Drug dealer
 108 Overly fond sort
 112 Baby's cry
 113 Yes, to Gigi
 114 British "Inc."
 115 Govt. agent
 116 Of city govt.
 117 Enzyme suffix
 118 L-P center
 119 Frequently, to poets
 120 Suffix meaning "animals"

Freshwater Folk Festival returns next month

On Saturday, Sept. 9, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Freshwater Folk Festival will take place at the White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery at 400 E Main Street, White Sulphur Springs. It'll be a fantastic fun-filled day for the whole family with live music by Billy Jonas, Beau-coup Blue, The Elk River Ramblers, The MacArthur Inn Gang, and local young artists in the Young Musicians Showcase. There will be food and crafts, a bounce house and pony rides, and a big tent full of demonstrations, educational exhibits and hands-on activities! It is also a celebration of the rich culture and natural history of West Virginia. Admission is free!

The displays, demonstrations, and activities are designed to foster understanding, appreciation and conservation of freshwater resources and will range from wildlife presentations and scientific phenomena to educational exhibits. They'll be offered by groups such as the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Hanging Rock Raptor Observatory, Indian Creek Watershed Association, Project Healing Waters, and Sweet Springs Resort. Roy Moose will be there with Snakes of West Virginia. iNaturalist photographer Susan Ryan, award-winning WV wildlife artist Kathryn Lehotsky, stilt-walker Marcus Fioravante, and Jessica Levine will all be returning. Levine will teach you about local wild bees and give you everything you need to build your own bee hotel. She'll even give you a packet of pollinator-friendly flower seeds so you can plant a garden for the bees that will live in your hotel! Tours of the fish hatchery will also be available.

This year, the Freshwater Folk Festival is proud to present the Young Musicians Showcase – a new addition to the festival that will feature young West Virginia artists and give them an opportunity to share their talent with all of us. Fourteen-year-old Lydia Jackson will kick off the fest with her own rendition of "Take Me Home, Country Roads." She has been studying violin at Heart-Strings Academy under the instruction of Russell Fallstad since the age of four. Teens Ella Butler, Kylee Fury, and Aubrey Adkins, all students of singer Susanna Robinson, will grace the stage with their beautiful harmonies. Christian Montgomery, another student of Russell Fallstad, will be playing the violin, tenor and alto saxophone, electric guitar, and bass using a looping station. Singer-

songwriters Molly Sutter and Jenna Molaro will perform their own original songs. The festival will open with the showcase at 10 a.m.

At 11:15 a.m., The MacArthur Inn Gang will perform. The MacArthur Inn Gang hails from Narrows, Virginia, where every Thursday night they jam at the MacArthur Inn. They'll be bringing their good ol' fashioned string band and old-time music to the festival stage. Members are Leea Smith and Charlie Ashworth on fiddle, Paul Smith on upright bass, Mickey Branyan and Jim Wright on guitar, and Ben Poe and Janie Trobaugh on banjo.

From 12:30 to 2 p.m., Billy Jonas will take the stage. His funky folk music is fun for the entire family, and participation is the name of the game! What is funky folk music, you might be wondering? Well, it's genre-bending, style-blending singalongs, bang-alongs, and improvisations using a quirky mix of instruments. Jonas' musical mission is to honor and empower the creativity, inherent intelligence, and desire to learn in young folks, as well as their elders. And for everyone to have fun!

For over thirty years, Billy Jonas – a performer, singer-songwriter, composer, multi-instrumentalist, and educator – has perfected the art of the neo-tribal hootenanny with audiences around the world. Using voice, guitar, and industrial re-percussion – which refers to musical instruments made from found, foraged, and recyclable objects, like pots, pans, tin cans, buckets, keys, and broomsticks – each concert is a soul-spelunking, heart-healing, joy-filled journey.

Jonas' PBS special, albums and decades of live concerts have generated a following throughout North America. He's been honored with an American Federation of Independent Musicians 1st place award, a USA Today Top 10, a New York Times "Best for Kids" listing, and a Parents' Choice Gold Award for his CD "What Kind of Cat Are You?" And in 2010, The Billy Jonas Band was honored to perform at the White House.

From 2:15 to 3:30 p.m., Beau-coup Blue will fill the air with the sound of soulful blues. Beau-coup Blue is the Americana, Philadelphia-based father and son duo of David and Adrian Mowry. With voices that blend only as a father's and son's can, and smooth guitar work on 6- and 12-string guitars, slide guitar, and resonator, they've created a sound that is uniquely theirs. And, although Blues is their "thing," you can hear



Beau-coup Blue influences of Folk, Soul, Jazz, Country, Bluegrass, and Rhythm'n Blues in their original songwriting.

With several CDs to their credit, Beau-coup Blue has garnered numerous accolades and honors - Grand Prize Winner of the Billboard World Song-Writing Contest, #25 on AMA's Americana Top 40, #8 on Roots Music Report's Folk Top 50, and Grand Prize Winner of the Telluride Blues & Brews Acoustic Competition, to name a few.

From 3:30 to 5 p.m., The Elk River Ramblers will be onstage. If you like Bluegrass, Celtic, Klezmer, Jazz, Classic Rock, and Old-Time Appalachian music, this is the band for you! With their original arrangements and compositions, The Elk River Ramblers really know how to mix it up. For example, have you ever heard Norwegian

Wood on the Sitar? It's awesome!

The Elk River Ramblers are Paul Marganian on fiddle, guitar, and vocals; Galen Watts on 5-string upright bass, 6-string electric bass, and vocals; and Seth Maynard on guitar and vocals. But, at the fest, they'll be joined by Matt Harrison, who will be sitting in for Maynard. Harrison was trained in classical and jazz piano. Then one day, he picked up the guitar and loved it. Now, he plays over a dozen instruments - but says he has the most fun playing guitar, especially when making music with Paul Marganian and Galen Watts.

The Freshwater Folk Festival takes months of planning and hard work by an all-volunteer committee and is funded by grants and donations. Contributions in support of this great community event are needed and much

appreciated and may be made by check payable to Friends of the White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery, Inc. (FWSSNFH, Inc.) and mailed to PO Box 461, White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986. At the festival, a donation box will be available at the stage.

So, those who are interested may pitch in there!

For more info about the festival call 304-646-0602 or visit Freshwater Folk Festival on Facebook. And follow the fest on Instagram at freshwater.folk.festival.



Elk River Ramblers - Paul Marganian and Galen Watts



30th annual Kids' College a success

Carnegie Hall celebrated two weeks of arts and fun during the month of July as the 30th annual Kids' College program took place July 10-21, hosting campers from 12 counties in WV and 10 other states, including Colorado, Florida, Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and Washington. One student came all the way from Wuhan, China.

Students enjoyed selecting up to five separate classes per day, and participated in many different arts, such as needle felting, watercolors, jewelry making, giant art, astronomy, archaeology, and drama. At the end of each week's program, families and friends were invited to an Arts Showcase, where performing arts students had the opportunity to demonstrate their hard work on stage, and the visual arts projects were displayed in a curated exhibition. Demonstrations were presented for music, movement, drumming, drama, tie dye and ki aikido, and weekly awards were presented for the finalist of the pin-car derby races.

At the afternoon showcase each week, Carnegie Hall presented the second annual round of Kids' College Spirit Awards (KCSA), offered in honor of Andrew

Carnegie, who, during his lifetime, demonstrated generosity of spirit and community investment on a grand scale, and who was known for his recognition of the impact that education and the arts can make during a person's life.

The KCSA was created to recognize those students that went above and beyond, that participated joyfully in their coursework and demonstrated kindness, helpfulness, and generosity. The program instructors, staff, and volunteers were asked to take special note of any student that stood out for these reasons, and there were more than thirty recommendations received each week, with many students receiving multiple nominations.

The winner of the KCSA for the week of July 14th was Sebastian Muhs, a rising sixth grade student from Muddy Creek Mountain, and the winner of the KCSA for the week of July 21st was Zach Bland, a rising 4th grade student from Lewisburg.

Planning is already underway for next year's 31st Kids' College Program to be held July 8-12 and 15-19, with registration opening in early May of 2024.



Billy Jonas

STEPPIN' OUT

Carnegie Hall's volunteer orientation scheduled for Aug. 30

Carnegie Hall is recruiting volunteers for its 2023-2024 season as it celebrates its 40th anniversary. Volunteer opportunities include ushering, assisting at receptions and Main Stage Lounge, educational programming, office assistance, mailings, special events such as Taste Of Our Town, and serving on various committees.

Carnegie Hall will conduct two volunteer orientations on Wednesday, Aug. 30, at 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon or 4:30 to 6 p.m. Trainees will learn all aspects of volunteering at Carnegie, as well as take a tour and learn more about the Hall. Volunteering is fun and a great opportunity to meet new people while making an impact on Carnegie Hall's ability to continue providing quality programming. The

training is mandatory if you would like to usher for performances.

During last season over 180 volunteers logged more than 2,600 hours at Carnegie Hall by volunteering as ushers, ticket-takers, administration assistants, poster distributors, archivists, Kids' College helpers, exhibit assistants, special events assistants, and committee members. By volunteering, you help keep the arts and education thriving at Carnegie Hall.

For more information and orientation sign-up, please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Teri Hartford, at 304-645-7917, volunteer@carnegiehallwv.org, visit www.carnegiehallwv.org/support/volunteer, or stop by 611 Church Street in Lewisburg.

Williamsburg Back Home Festival upcoming

The Williamsburg Back Home Festival will be held on Saturday, Sept. 2 and will deliver music, great food, fire dance performances, street music performance, a demo on spinning wool into yarn, Tahoe Group Cruise-In, a live food auction showcasing local talent with auctioneering by our own Gregory Hurd, Paint by Sandy - a beautiful "Home" decor poster for \$25, a gun drawing, and multiple vendors including wood craft, hobo bags, jewelry, and flowers. There will also be a rolled ice cream vendor.

The festival will be an outdoor event so bring lawn chairs, and a pop up tent if you choose. Camping spots are available without hookups.

This is a major fundraiser event for the Williamsburg Volunteer Fire Department and all proceeds will go to the Department for upkeep and replacement of equipment.

Legislative Interims

Continued from Page 3

Petry responded that he doesn't believe there is a program like that, but that is a concern that should be addressed.

He explained that some of the opportunities for affordable housing state leaders should consider includes subsidizing single family and small multi-family developments, increasing lending capital, rehabilitating Main Street buildings, for both business and upper-floor rental units, and considering alternative housing options, such as modular homes and pre-built box houses.

Following Petry's presentation, Del. Ric Griffith, (D-Wayne), stated that a lot of the empty Main Street storefronts are the result of corporations like Walmart and Amazon, however, another handicap Main Street areas experience is lack of adequate parking.

"It's the hurdle they can't get passed," Griffith said, asking if there were programs to help address parking issues throughout many of West Virginia's communities.

Petry said right now there is a lot of funding to tear down buildings that will never be used again.

"There's been funding for several years to tear things down," Petry said. "There's annual funding from CDBG (Community Development Block Grants) and others to do demolition programs. That is definitely a topic that we would look at."

Of Community Works West Virginia, Petry said, "Consider us partners. I don't have all the answers today. I wasn't coming at you today with some kind of magic bullet. I don't have it, but I think housing has to be a conversation that we have going into these sessions going forward. We have to discuss housing, or we are going to get further behind, and we are looking to bring more people in."

The second speaker of the meeting, Jeremiah Samples, senior advisor to the state's legislature, discussed food insecurity.

Samples stated that food insecurity can cause health and medical complications, especially for the state's seniors, and can damage a child's ability to learn and grow.

"There's a lot of different programs out there, in government, tackling these issues," Samples said. "One may argue that perhaps that is one of the problems - that it is so complex and confusing of

a policy area that that is why we are not really making gains, having success like we would want to. We have individual successes, and there's individually great programs, but, holistically, we are not universally solving the food insecurity, food desert issue."

Citing recent data, Samples said that 14 percent of the state's population suffers from food insecurity.

Additionally, when it comes to food scarcity, 153,131 households in the state experienced food scarcity from June 28-July 10, Samples said, adding this is 12.6 percent of the state's population.

West Virginia ranks the third highest nationally for the percentage of school aged children who receive food assistance, at 28.9 percent, Samples continued. The five counties that experience the highest food insecurity rates include Mingo, Calhoun, McDowell, Wyoming and Clay.

Samples also noted that the state's seniors also experience issues with access to food.

"Our issue with hunger and food insecurity for seniors is particularly a problem," Samples noted. "It's one that I would emphasize."

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits have helped many of the state's residents afford food, he continued, adding that 306,913 residents received SNAP benefits in 2021.

Unfortunately, Samples said, many residents are eligible for SNAP benefits, but are not enrolled in the program. The same can be said for WIC (women, infants and children) benefits.

Committee Chair, Senator Mark Hunt, (R-Kanawha), then asked what legislators can do to help with food deserts and other food accessibility concerns.

"Some of it may be simply getting the word out that it's available," Hunt stated of assistance programs.

Samples responded that the easiest thing to do would be to increase case management to help eligible families become aware of programs as well as public outreach.

"I think, right off the top, both for seniors, as it relates to SNAP, and children, as it relates to WIC, those are two areas where we can focus and, I think, make up a lot of ground for food insecurity," Samples said.



Applebutter Soul

Carnegie Hall's Fantasy Gala at The Greenbrier returns September 1

Tickets are now on sale for Carnegie Hall's Fantasy Gala: Rubies & Rhododendrons which is scheduled to take place Friday, Sept. 1, at 6 p.m. on the newly-expanded Colonial Hall Terrace at The Greenbrier. Tickets are \$195 per person, and tables of 10 are available for \$1,950.

The original Fantasy fundraisers were themed parties held from 1999 through 2009 at multiple locations in the Greenbrier Valley. Past Fantasies included Fantasy in White, Fantasy in the Jungle, Fantasy on the Farm, Rock and Roll Fantasy, and last year's Fantasy in Black & White. The theme for 2023 is Fantasy in Rubies & Rhododendrons. Be creative or be conservative - just make sure your attire includes rubies or rhododendrons.

Gala Fantasy guests will enjoy a-dine-around dinner, one complimentary drink, a cash bar, live entertainment, and both a live and silent auction. The Greenbrier is offering complimentary casino access and a special discounted nightly room rate of \$399 for the night of the event for Fantasy guests (based on availability). Call 877-935-0423 to make your reservation while rooms last.

Live music entertainment will be provided by Applebutter Soul from Lynchburg, Virginia. One of the region's most electrifying bands, Applebutter Soul integrates a range of genres from soul, funk, and jazz to R&B and Motown. Their unique signature sound features lead vocalist/keyboardist, Ty Scott, at the helm along with brass sensations Josh Brinkman (saxo-

phone), Kendall Kress (trumpet), Charles "CT" Bailey (bass), and Fred Jackson (drums). The group is best on stage where its high infectious energy and incendiary live performances have captivated audiences on the east coast for the last four years.

Carnegie Hall Board President Sharon Rowe chairs the Gala committee, which includes Suzanne Cronquist, Mimi deOlloqui-Turner, Maggie Hutchison, Debbie Kilcollin, Kit Lindsey, Jill McIntyre, Nathalie Oates, Cathy Rennard, Sally Bray, Terry Thompson, Mary Catherine Tuckwiller, and Tara Wooton.

The Fantasy Gala's Title Sponsor is Meraki Fund. Other sponsors include Gold Sponsors - CAMC/Vandalia Health, Friends from Texas, The Greenbrier, and Gillespie's Flower's & Productions; Silver Sponsors - Yarid's and Bank of Monroe; Bronze Sponsors - The Schoolhouse Hotel, Kilcollin Dental, Dinsmore & Shohl LLP, and Three Points Farm. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Please contact Development Director Sally Bray at development@carnegiehallwv.org.

The 2023 Fantasy Gala Honoree is Angus Peyton.

For tickets or more information, please visit www.carnegiehallwv.org, call 304-645-7917, or visit Carnegie Hall at 611 Church Street, Lewisburg. Ticket sales end Aug. 25.

Proceeds from this event support Carnegie Hall's arts education initiatives and world-class performing/visual arts programming.

Ronceverte Woman's Club continues beautification efforts



RWC members: Jeanne Bostic (left), Sally Parker, Barbara Morgan, Karen Slaven, Deanna Walton, Darla Walton, and Deb McIntire. (Inset): One of the planters in Ronceverte

Each spring the Ronceverte Woman's Club (RWC) purchases and plants flowers in approximately 21 barrels in downtown Ronceverte. Club member Karen Hoylman, owner of The Potting Shed in Ronceverte, donated four flats of flowers which were greatly appreciated. The RWC also wants to acknowledge Melo-

die Pester, owner of Primitive Goods in Ronceverte and the president of the Ronceverte Development Committee, and her husband Ben for helping to water and maintain the flowers. Citizens working together get great results. Please visit Ronceverte and see all the good things that are happening.

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STEPPIN' OUT

Healing Conference to feature variety of speakers September 2

A Healing Conference that will focus on how we as individuals can “Awaken To The Divine Within” will take place at 10716 Hollywood Glace Road in Union on Saturday, Sept. 2, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Those interested in attending this conference or who want more information may contact Carol at merriamna@msn.com or by calling 484-459-3810.

There will be five speakers at this event, including Robert Baker - Reiki Master.

About Robert Baker: As a student of life, Baker has been on campus for 58 years, and as with many of us, not all of those years have been as happy or well-adjusted as one would like. Along the way learning from experience, guidance, and luck Robert realized that we all have ways to empower ourselves in whatever situation, at any age we are in. Us humans are dynamic beings and with even the smallest discomfort we are often moved to overcome, and in doing so we bring forth any available talent, skill, or knowledge I would like to share with you some of the more interesting parts of my journey, I would like to encourage you to stay enrolled in life school, to stay dynamic and I would like to give you some suggestions on how to increase your intuition, your energy, your empowerment! The basics of Reiki, why Chinese medicine works best and some general lifestyle and diet guidelines for health will also be included.

Another speaker for the event is Augustus Saldana - “Natural Born Shaman.”

About Augustus Saldana: Within each of us is the foundation and source of life - our spirit. It is the most subtle and powerful part of our being on earth. There are many forms yet only one spirit/source within. How to communicate effectively within our healing spirit is the work of self-healing and selfcare and the Natural Born Shaman. We will experience this power and transformation in a demonstration personal healing without our group setting.

Also speaking will be Sheila James – Astrologer.

About Sheila James: Sheila James has been a practicing astrologer for 25 years having commenced her studies of astrology at the age of 14 and continues to expand her knowledge. She also works as an intuitive and is qualified as a color therapist and, in bringing these and other related skills together, is able to offer a range of detailed knowledge and services unique to every client. Her passion for astrology has only deepened through her long experience of examining charts of many types, particularly the natal chart which undeniably sets out the indications for an individual's fundamental outlook and life trends. Knowledge of astrology is a fundamental tool in healing, not just that of physical problems but just as important, all other life situations where there is a desire to return any situation to wholeness. Astrology describes cycles in life and learning to understand these cycles and work with them provides the tools needed for all forms of healing.

Sherry McLaughlin - Intuitive Healer will also speak at

the conference.

About McLaughlin: Sherry Blake McLaughlin is a West Virginia native, mother of three, and mimi of one, who believes the intelligence of the heart and our connection to the divine is essential to healing ourselves and our planet. A former teacher and massage therapist, a current online divine mother healer and soul coach, Sherry has used her intuition and connection to the Holy Spirit to heal naturally from degenerative disc disease, Lyme Disease, and a very traumatic childhood. Through her own experiences, her connection with the Angelic and Christ Sophia energies have informed her work to also serve and help heal others. Sherry's unique ability to recognize the innocence and empowered spirit within humanity enables her to guide others back to honoring their own inner child as a way to integrate the shadow and anchor the higher self to move forward as powerful co-creators, fully supported by

the Divine Mother Heart, which holds the key to transform and transcend many of our most challenging initiations as humans. Sherry believes now is the time to come back to the heart and to claim our sovereignty as the beautiful souls that we are meant to be, and that each of us is worthy of and responsible for doing so. It is her honor and privilege to guide others back to their own authentic power.

The final speaker will be Alaina Hower - Farmer and Florist.

About Hower: Alaina Hower, owner of True Heart Flower Farm, grows all of her flowers from seed, a unique aspect of her business that sets her apart from many other floral designers. Over these last several years, Hower has become well-known for her stylish and innovative approach to floral design. Her use of native, wild plants and found feathers alongside more traditional blooms result in arrangements that are both whimsical and elegant.

Tribute to Bricktop returns to Alderson



Susanna Robinson with the “special guest” voice students.

On Sunday, Aug. 13, from 6 to 8 p.m. the annual “Tribute to Bricktop” concert returns to the Alderson Memorial Bridge with Susanna Robinson leading a great group of musicians.

Writer/artist/vocalist Susanna Robinson has been a fixture and creative force in the Lewisburg area for more than 25 years. She was a founding member of long-lived jazz combo Ghost Town Swing, well-known state-wide and beyond for their sultry interpretations of jazz standards and has often been featured as guest vocalist for the Manhattan Jazz Quartet. Robinson has also appeared with Ancestor Radio and Sam and Janet Evening, as well as the eclectic Squawkin' Henry. She still returns to her jazz roots by belting it out with her jazz back-up group, Hoffman, Penn, and Miles, formerly known as the Robinson-Kenya Trio.

The group will be entertaining in the spirit of Ada “Bricktop” Smith, once the toast of Paris, who hailed from Alderson. Her rich life and many stories were regaled throughout the world, and her warm and decadent ways delighted the elite of

the elite, who frequented her establishment, Bricktop's, in Paris.

Joining her at the 8th annual “Tribute to Bricktop” will be guitarist extraordinaire Bill Hoffman, who hails from Roanoke, Virginia. Hoffman is known for his flawlessly smooth style, and his sweet renditions of jazz standards. He is an exceptional musician with an amazing technical knowledge of jazz. Hoffman currently plays with several groups including Roanoke's big band, The Old Timers.

Keyboard player and crooner William Penn, whose legendary reputation in Roanoke's jazz and R&B musical worlds speaks for itself, will be adding his special style to the concert.

Rounding out the combo is upright bassist Blake Miles, a superb musician and experienced player. Hailing from Tulsa, Oklahoma, he has been a teacher of Orchestral Music and has played in everything from garage bands to symphonies. This will be his first performance with the group for the Bricktop tribute, and he is welcomed!

As a special addition to the evening's performance, the group welcomes three lovely young voice students as spe-

cial guests. Ella Butler, Aubrey Adkins, and Kylee Fury will join Susanna to sing a few tunes.

This annual concert is sponsored by Alderson Main Street with financial assistance from the Arts and Recreation Fund of the Greenbrier County Commission.

Alderson Main Street President Emeritus Doris Kasley said, “Bring your own lawn chair and perhaps a parasol. Watch the sunset over the Greenbrier River from a beautiful setting. It's a wonderful way to spend a summer evening.”



Susanna Robinson singing in the spirit of “Bricktop,” an internationally famous jazz singer who was born in Alderson.

DINING & entertainment guide

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Lewisburg Elks Country Club at 368 Brush Rd., Lewisburg



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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2023

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(Formerly - Enota Location)

Presenters:

- 10:00 - Bob Baker Reiki Master
Experiencing Your Own Energy
- 11:15 - Augustus Saldana Natural Born Shaman

Demonstration:

- 12:30 Lunch Bring a Packed Lunch / Picnic Area Available
- 1:30 - Sheila Carey James Astrologer
Astrology Healing
- 2:45 - Sherry McLaughlin Intuitive Healer
Divine Mother Energy Messages
- 4:00 - Alaina Hower Farmer/Florist
Reconnecting with Nature
- 5:15 - Closing Circle

COST: Pre-Registration - \$65 - Before August 1, 2023
Door Registration - \$70 (Closes 9:45 September 2, 2023)

To Register, email or call
Carol (merriamna@msn.com) 484-459-3810

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