

# Mountain Messenger

Vol. XL, No. 35

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

September 2, 2023

## Mike Honaker appointed as Inspector General of WV Dept. of Homeland Security



**Mike Honaker** (WV Legislative Photography Photo by Perry Bennett)

By Matthew Young, RealWV

“The Governor has appointed me to serve as the new Inspector General for the Department of Homeland Security,” Del. Mike Honaker, R-Greenbrier, told RealWV Wednesday afternoon. “That is effective tomorrow.”

Honaker made this statement shortly after announcing his resignation from the West Virginia House of Delegates, a position which he has held since December 2021, via social media.

Honaker will be the first to serve the state as Inspector General for Homeland Security - a position and office created by the recent passage of HB 3360. The bill specifies “the Office of Inspector General [shall be] a separate and independent operating agency within the department.” The bill further states that the Inspector General shall be appointed by the governor to serve a five-year term.

“When they got about 90-days out from that bill being signed is when they started talking to me,” Honaker

See “Mike Honaker” — Page 2

## U.S. Marshals arrest Arkansas escapee in WV

*Samuel Hartman arrested, along with mother and wife in Lewisburg*

The U.S. Marshals, along with West Virginia State Police, Lewisburg Police Department and Greenbrier County Sheriff’s Office, this afternoon arrested at the Quality Inn in Lewisburg, a man who escaped from an Arkansas prison facility in 2022.

Samuel Paul Hartman, 39, an inmate at the East Arkansas Regional Unit, was sentenced to life in 2013 after being convicted of raping his 14-year-old stepdaughter, but he escaped on a work detail in a field near the detention facility.

Also taken into custody were Hartman’s wife Misty Hartman, 39, his mother Linda Annette White, 61, and White’s boyfriend Rodney Trent, 52, of Lester, WV. Both women are alleged to have helped Hartman escape using a pickup truck and jet skis. Trent faces felony charges for allegedly harboring a sex offender and for assisting the trio while on the run.

While Hartman was on a work detail Aug. 12, 2022, a vehicle approached the work crew, and two women,

later identified as Linda White and Misty Hartman, exited the vehicle and fired several shots toward the work crew as inmate Hartman ran to the awaiting vehicle. The vehicle then fled as DOC officers pursued. DOC pursued the vehicle to the area just short of the Mississippi river where all three fled to two pre-staged jet skis.

After a short time, law enforcement officers from Mississippi and Arkansas went to the Mississippi side of the river and located the abandoned jet skis on the riverbank. An eyewitness on the Mississippi side of the river reported seeing one man and two women riding jet skis across the river.

In March, USMS investigators from the agency’s Cold and Complex Case

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## GEHS gains new therapy dog through Friends with Paws Program

By Sarah Richardson

On Tuesday, Aug. 29, the entire student body of Greenbrier East High School gathered in the school gymnasium for a special announcement. Much like a pep rally, the Greenbrier East Spartan Marching Band and cheerleaders welcomed everyone into the gym as Governor Jim Justice and First Lady Cathy Justice made an appearance. They brought with them as a surprise Babydog herself, much to the excitement of the students. However, this event was actually centered around a different canine.

Gov. Justice announced that GEHS is the newest school in the state to get a therapy dog through the Friends with Paws Program, which is a partnership between the Governor’s Office, the West Virginia Communities In Schools (CIS) Non-profit, and the West Virginia Department of Education. Therapy



Ruby makes her grand entrance in the GEHS gym

dogs are placed in schools within CIS counties where students are disproportionately affected by poverty, substance misuse, or other at-risk situations, and are in the greatest need of a support animal. The dogs serve as a healthy and friendly outlet for these students to address trauma and other social-emotional issues.

The student body then welcomed Ruby, a 10-month-old Golden Retriever. Ruby is the 13th therapy dog

to be placed in schools through the program around the state.

“Ruby loves everyone she meets and is bound to brighten your day like Babydog does for my family,” Gov. Justice said. “It is truly inspiring to see so many schools across West Virginia participating in our Communities In Schools program, and the First Lady and I cannot be more proud of this incredible program. We

See “Friends with Paws” — Page 2

## Details released on truck traffic patterns in Lewisburg

West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) District 9 has installed signs in downtown Lewisburg along US 60 Westbound indicating “No Right Turn For Trucks Longer Than 50 Feet.”

This is a measure aimed at mitigating large interstate trucks failing to navigate the intersection from US 60 west onto US 219 north, while continuing to allow smaller delivery trucks and commercial vehicles to navigate through the city. On several occasions, large trucks have struck buildings while trying to negotiate the intersection.

Commercial traffic is asked to schedule their routes accordingly because the turn restriction requires interstate trucks greater than 50 feet long to continue on US 60 westbound for approximately 11 miles before reentering Interstate 64 at Alta.

The signs are a collaborative effort between WVDOH District 9, the City of Lewisburg, and the WVDOH Traffic Engineering Department.

The effectiveness of the turn restriction will be monitored and may be adjusted if necessary.



The signs are temporary and will remain in place while the WVDOH coordinates with a consultant to complete an extensive traffic study to recommend potential improvements that could lessen traffic congestion from Holt Lane, through down-

town Lewisburg, to Brush Road. The study should also provide recommendations to improve turning movements at this critical intersection. The Division will consult with city officials as soon as the recommendations become available.

The public, and especially commercial traffic, are advised to follow all traffic control measures. The WVDOH appreciates their patience.

The WVDOH will keep the public informed of future changes in the area.

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# Monroe County Farmland Protection Board acquires conservation easement

The Monroe County Farmland Protection Board (MCFPB) partnered with the WV Agricultural Land Protection Authority and the Natural Resources Conservation Services to fund a voluntary conservation easement on a farm in Monroe County.

Rita and Charlie Pitzer protected 92 acres of land in the Red Sulphur District of Monroe County. The Property possesses state and locally recognized agricultural soils, which is of high importance to the program. When asked about the land being protected by the conservation easement, Mr. Pitzer stated, "This is how I want it to stay."

The purpose of the Farmland Protection Program is to preserve land for farm use. The farmland protection board acquires conservation easements under the West Virginia Voluntary Farmland Protection Act §8A-12-21. Since its inception in 2002, 26 easements and 4,537 acres have been placed under protection in Monroe County. 2,175 of those acres have been donated to the Program.

The farmland protection board has successfully leveraged local resources to bring in over \$2.2 million dollars of State, Federal and nonprofit organization funds to protect farms in Monroe County. This money goes directly into the hands of our farmers.



**Amy Moloney - Director (left), Laura Smith - NRCS, Rita and Charlie Pitzer, Rod Graves - WV State Authority, Anna Ziegler - Attorney, and Jack Kaluk - Chairman**

For more information about this program contact Amy Moloney at 304-667-4877 or send an email to amy@saddlebackservices.org. Sept. 15 is the deadline for applications in 2023.

## Mike Honaker

Continued from Front Page

said. "There's a tremendous amount of responsibility with being an Inspector General, especially when it involves the Department of Homeland Security and all those agencies that fall under it."

"The Inspector General is much more than internal affairs," Honaker added. "It's more the high-level investigations of fraud, waste, abuse, sexual harassment, or criminal matters that rise to that level."

Agencies such as the State Police, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitations, the State Parole Board, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the Division of Justice and Community Service, and others all fall under the umbrella of the Department of Homeland Security. As outlined in HB 3360, the Inspector General will coordinate and perform inspections and investigations independently, and without interference from the office of either the Governor, or the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

"I'll have some staff, an attorney, and probably a couple Deputy Inspector Generals," Honaker said. "There's a lot of work to be done."

Honaker, who served previously with the U.S. Marine Corps, the Virginia State Police, and as Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for Greenbrier County, was surprised to learn that Justice had selected him for the position, saying, "I about fell out of the chair - I didn't see it coming."

"It's a great honor," Honaker said. "I'm very passionate about exposing wrongdoing in government, and making sure people are held accountable. But I have also, even in my law enforcement career, taken a great sense of fulfillment in vindicating or exonerating the innocent when false allegations are made."

"I think the leadership in Governor Justice's Admin-

istration saw that in me," Honaker added. "I think my background and my experience is why I was selected. My attitude toward all of this is simple: if people have been doing things wrong, they need to be held accountable. But at the same time, we've got to get the rest of the public safety community moving forward."

Wednesday's announcement marks the second time Justice has appointed Honaker to a service position. In 2021, Justice appointed Honaker to the House of Delegates after the resignation of former Delegate Barry Bruce. Honaker was subsequently elected to the seat in 2022. Honaker's resignation from the House became effective at 5 p.m. Wednesday.

Honaker's replacement in the House will once again be determined by the Governor's appointment. The Greenbrier County Republican Executive Committee now has 15 days to submit three names for Justice's consideration. Justice will then have five days to make his selection.

As for Honaker's future plans, he said he is focused solely on the task ahead.

"I want to see us turn the corner on any doubts that people have about public safety in West Virginia," Honaker said. "I want people to understand that we have got so many great men and women serving in law enforcement, in emergency management, in corrections. The only way we can continue to affirm that is to tell the truth if we find wrongdoing. But also, be just as strong with allegations that are unfounded."

"I won't make any bones about it - this is a great, great honor," Honaker added.

RealWV will provide updates regarding Honaker's replacement in the House of Delegates as additional information is made available.

## Friends with Paws

Continued from Front Page



thank you all for welcoming Ruby with open arms, and I know she will be a beloved member of the Spartan family."

"Ruby is a wonderful addition to Greenbrier East High School," First Lady Justice said. "I know she will make a big difference in the lives of the students. Jim and I are so proud to introduce Ruby to her new home today."

"From the first time I met Ruby, I realized how much

of a difference she will make in the culture of the school," Superintendent of Greenbrier County Schools Jeff Bryant said. "Amidst students' challenges, she'll offer daily support and become an asset to the school. Her presence will bring such solace and peace to the students."

A press release from Gov. Justice states: "A 2019 study published by the National Institute of Health found that a dog's presence in the classroom promotes positive mood and provides significant anti-stress effects on the body."

In addition, research shows that the simple act of petting animals releases an automatic relaxation response. Therapy animals lower anxiety and help people relax, provide comfort, reduce loneliness, and increase mental stimulation. They are also shown to lower blood pressure and improve cardiovascular health, reduce the amount of medications some people need, help control breathing in those with anxiety, and diminish overall physical pain, among other profound benefits."

## Arkansas Escapee

Continued from Front Page

Unit paired up with investigators from the Eastern District of Arkansas to find the three. Investigators developed information that Linda White had ties to West Virginia and contacted the Southern District of West Virginia for assistance in the case.

"Today's announcement is the culmination of a year of outstanding, dedicated work by our heroic law enforcement officers. Now that they have brought this dangerous fugitive to justice, all Arkansans can sleep safer at night," said Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

"Today's capture was the result of deliberate and determined law enforcement work," said Joe Profiri, Secretary of the Arkansas Department of Corrections. "The United States Marshals Service, Arkansas State Police, and the Arkansas Department of Corrections have kept this case on the forefront and followed hundreds of leads over the course of the last year. We appreciate the support and assistance from all agencies involved, the

Arkansas Governor's office, and the State of West Virginia in bringing this case to a successful conclusion."

"In my nearly 30 years of law enforcement, I cannot recall a task force that has the level of dedication to accomplishing the mission and making our communities safer than that of CUFFED (Cops United Felony Fugitive Enforcement Division Task Force)," said Michael Baylous, U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of West Virginia. "The apprehension of these dangerous fugitives demonstrates the close and outstanding relationship that CUFFED enjoys with our local and state partners, other USMS Districts, and the USMS Domestic Investigations Branch."

"Attempts to evade justice for this dangerous criminal ended today thanks to the tireless efforts of the U.S. Marshals fugitive task force and our law enforcement partners," said Cory Harris, Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

## PICK OF THE LITTER



### MAXIMUS

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



### CHERRY

Cherry 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.

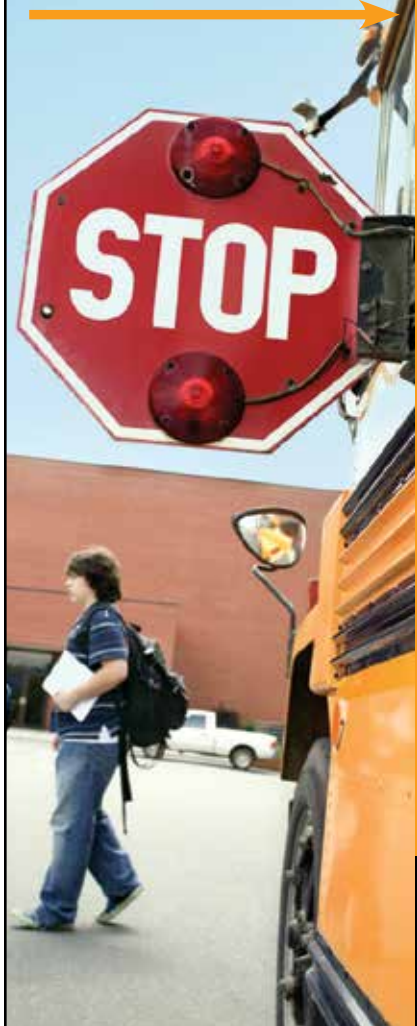
Their dog adoption fee is \$85 and covers spay/neuter surgery, first dog vaccinations, rabies vaccine, de-worming, toe nail trim, flea bath and flea treatment.

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.

**DON'T SHOP • ADOPT!**

## Know the Rules.



# KEEP KIDS SAFE.

- Make sure you know and follow these school bus safety rules for motorists.
- It's not only smart; it's the law!

- Yellow Flashing Lights signal that the bus is getting ready to stop and load or unload children.

This means you should slow down and prepare to stop.

- Red Flashing Lights & Extended Stop Arms signal that the bus has stopped, and children will be entering or exiting the bus.

This means you should stop your car and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop sign is withdrawn and the bus resumes moving.

- As always, be alert and watch out for children whenever you are behind the wheel.

- Please watch out for our children to ensure everyone has a safe school year.

## The Mountain Messenger

860 Court Street N., Lewisburg

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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. **Craft & Vendor Show Friday, Sept. 8 from 2 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 9 from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dance Sept. 23 features Buckeye Creek Band 7 to 10:30 p.m.** The Music Hall is available for weddings and parties. For more information call the Music Hall at 304-645-4667; Bill Evans at 304-392-6079; Grace Poe at 304-992-5852.

## Blood Drive September 5

All blood types needed! American Red Cross Blood Drive at WVSOM Alumni Center, Auxiliary Room, 400 Lee Street, Lewisburg, WV 24901, Tuesday, Sept. 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsored by the Greenbrier Valley Board of Realtors

## Kroger offers customers \$10 off groceries with in-store flu shot

Beginning Wednesday, Aug. 16, all Kroger Mid-Atlantic stores offer customers \$10 off groceries when they receive a flu shot in-store at the Kroger pharmacy.

"As a community-focused company, we are here to help associates and customers stay healthy ahead of flu season and are pleased to offer a promotion that rewards shoppers for taking care of their health and wellbeing," said James Menees, corporate affairs manager of Kroger Mid-Atlantic. "It's our hope that by providing everyone with access to nutritious food and medicine, we can all be stronger together going into the fall."

Customers can access the \$10-off coupon by loading the digital offer on their Kroger Plus card by visiting Kroger.com or the Kroger app and "clipping" the digital coupon. The pharmacy team will then scan a barcode to activate the \$10 offer.

Customers that are eligible for federally funded healthcare programs are excluded from this offer.

Kroger is also helping associates stay protected from the flu by offering free flu shots to associates.

To schedule an appointment to receive a flu shot, visit [www.kroger.com/health/clinic/schedule-appointment](http://www.kroger.com/health/clinic/schedule-appointment).

## Marriages

Zachary Chase Henson of Orlando, FL to Bethany Marie Bealko of Orlando, FL  
James Walter Nemitz of Lewisburg to Nancy Houck Bulla of Lewisburg  
Teeshawn Lamar McKoy of WSS to Abigaile Lyn Shortridge of Smoot  
James Hobert Kelly of Rainelle to Connie Bennett Watson of Rainelle  
Spencer Thomas Myers of Decatur, IN to Lauren Abigail Johnson of Fort Wayne, IN  
Ariles R Zimmerman of Caldwell to Bonnie Catherine Hanson of White Sulphur Springs  
David Curtis Medley Jr of Lewisburg to Karizma Lee Vermillion of Lewisburg  
Cleveland Keith Benedict of Lewisburg to Alice Suzanne Nalker of Bridgewater, VA  
Zachary William Stidom of Frankford to Ashton Maddison Hoke of Frankford

## Local Food Pantries seek donations

In the last few months local food pantries have experienced a significant increase in the number individuals, families, and bags of food distributed. The decrease in SNAP benefits after the COVID emergency funds were halted and the increase generally in the costs of food are often cited as the reasons for needing food assistance. Also, many families live on very tight budgets and one crisis can easily upset that budget.

Local Food Pantries receive food - some free and some purchased - from the Mountaineer Food Bank in Gassaway, WV. All the pantries must purchase additional food to supplement their distributions. The local pantries welcome and are in need of both financial and food donations. Please consider making a donation to assist our neighbors in need.

Food Pantries in Greenbrier County are located in Alderson, Lewisburg, Quinwood, Rainelle, Renick, Ronceverte, White Sulphur Springs and Williamsburg. Additional feeding programs in Greenbrier County include Wellspring of Greenbrier, the Greenbrier County Committee on Aging and the Shepherd's Center.

If you need food assistance or wish to make a donation to your local food pantry, please call 304-645-7842 or 304-647-0069 for details about dates, times and contacts for the food pantry in your area. "First we eat, then we do everything else."

## 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.

### Renick Town Council

will meet Monday, Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. at Renick Town Hall for their regular monthly meeting: Agenda items include:

- Community comments
- Approval of minutes
- Financial reports
- Old business
- New business: first reading of ordinance setting forth the rates, fees and charges for service to customers of the water system of the town of Renick, first reading of Ordinance No. 11 - Section 1- an ordinance to increase the rates, fees, and charges for service to customers of the water system of the town of Renick, committee reports, and other.

### Historic Landmarks Commission

will meet Monday, Sept. 11, at 5 p.m. to hear the following applications:

- Comments from the public

## Suits

In Re: The Marriage of: John Ballard King and Jennifer King  
In Re: The Marriage of: Adam Matthew Clark and Amanda Ann Clark  
In Re: The Marriage of: Kasey Marie Treadway and Adam Douglas Treadway

## Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Convictions

Dillon Andrew McGhee, Rainelle, 1) driving suspended or revoked, GP, fine \$100; 2) defective equipment, fine \$15  
Jackie R. Reed, Alderson, underage consumption, NCP, fine \$20  
William J. Hambrick, Renick, unlawful to litter from a motor vehicle, GP, fine \$100, civil penalty \$200  
Lynn Houston Lagrange, Rupert, public intoxication, NCP, fine \$50  
Timothy Brannon, Ronceverte, 1) driving while license suspended or revoked, GP, fine \$100; 2) expired registration, fine \$50  
Haydn J. Holliday, Caldwell, driving too fast for roadway conditions, GP, fine \$20  
Mark A. McCallister, Alderson, driving while license suspended or revoked, GP, fine \$100  
Alfred Roscoe Walker, Pickaway, improper use of evidences of registration, NCP, fine \$25  
Samantha Robinson, Hinton, expired registration, GP, fine \$50  
Taylor Nicole Hardiman, White Sulphur Springs, possession of a controlled substance, NCP, jail 90 days - suspended and placed on 18 months unsupervised probation

## For the Record

### Deeds

James Campbell and Nathaniel Lavendar to Nicholas S. Cornwell and Laura R. Cornwell, 13,566 Sq. Ft., Lewisburg District  
Barbara C. Holt to Thomas Gannon and Ladonna Gannon, Lot No. 149, Rolling Hills Estate Subdivision No. 2, Lewisburg Corporation  
Brayden H. Cutlip to Christopher Scott Rogers, Lillybrier Subdivision, Lots Nos. 25 and 26, Meadow Bluff District  
Orland Allen and Sarah Allen to Joseph Phillips and Tamatha Phillips, Lot No. 266, Railroad Avenue Park Addition, Meadow Bluff District  
Mary E. Hinkle to Matthew Wills and Norma Jean Ferguson, Lot No. 18A, Lewisburg Municipality  
Kenneth Lee Sims II, Sandra Ann Tuckwiller, Larry B. Simms and George Mason Simms to Samuel Garret Vess and Steven Ellery Vess, Lots Nos. 16, 18, 20, Block No. 3, Sullivan Subdivision No. 3

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# NATUREWAY

## The Web of Life

By Karen Cohen

I often remark to visitors (and myself!), if you look down at just one square foot of the natural world: forest floors, a veggie garden, maybe your compost pile, you will discover a life or all sorts. Even the log cabin's exterior walls provide cubby holes for ants, carpenter bees, and bats.

Sometimes you just have to slow down to a complete standstill and then observe. Try it outside. No need to hold your breath! Within a few minutes, you will see a yellow swallowtail butterfly flit by. Two cabbage moths play tag in the garden. Goldfinches undulate in flight as they seemingly bounce through the weeds. Whitetail deer move through the woods silently. Acorns by the dozens bounce off a nearby tin roof. A lone hummingbird sips from the rose of a sharon tree; you hear its zipping buzz. A gnat flies into your eye or worse yet, into your open mouth.

Diversity is everywhere. Diversity is natural and thrives if we allow it to do what it does. The world around us is alive!

If you are outside in your yard and you don't notice any signs of life, that is not a good sign. Your lawn may be green from chemical applications but it acts as a desert for other life forms. Herbicides and pesticides kill everything except green grass blades. Maybe you will admit that you have fought to kill off everything that lives, breathes, and moves around in what you consider as your own property. Is it hard to accept that other living creatures including snakes, mice, chipmunks, frogs, rabbits, spiders, weeds, (the list goes on and on), don't know that only YOU have exclusive rights to not just your house but also the ground it sits upon.

Before you get riled up over the thought of sharing your space with outsiders, let's examine why keeping diversity alive and well is beneficial. Take a deep breath and dive into how the natural world works. Everything under the heavens is co-dependent on other living beings. The parasitic mushrooms, for example, thrive on decaying trees. They help to decompose fallen wood. In turn, humans harvest and eat oyster mushrooms, shiitake mushrooms, and lion's mane mushrooms, just to name a few of the edibles that nature provides. Bees, despite some humans being allergic to them, are little pollinators. Tomatoes, strawberries, and beans, are just some of the crops that bees play a key role in producing food.

Butterflies, the most cherished of insects due to their beauty and grace, also pollinate. They drink the nectar of flowers and cross pollinate the pollen. Have you noticed that butterflies are just as busy as bees, collecting from their food source all day long. If you haven't already, try tossing some flowers that insects also love into your salads: nasturtiums, pansies, and borage flowers have distinct, appealing tastes and beneficial vitamins and minerals.

Birds can be regarded as pests in large numbers but bluebirds and tree swallows eat tons of harmful insects

daily. In your orchard, they consume moths, caterpillars and larvae. Bats act as mosquito control squads. Hire them for free by putting up some bat boxes and they'll eat up to 1200 insects per hour at night. They prefer dark areas so turn off outside lights at night to allow them to go to work. Use motion lights if you need to get around at night outside.

Here is news worth spreading which came from my internet search and I quote:

"While many insects can seem like pests, they provide a wide range of services to other plants and animals in our environment. In fact, a diverse range of insect species is critical to the survival of most life on Earth, including bats, birds, freshwater fishes and even humans! Along with plants, insects are at the foundation of the food web, and most of the plants and animals we eat rely on insects for pollination or food. For example, 96% of songbirds feed insects to their young." How can we increase diversity and share our yards, gardens, and parks with crawling, flying, hopping critters, and live according to 'nature's way?' First off, recognize that pesticides kill all kinds of bugs, good and bad, just like bullets. Neem oil, which many gardeners consider non-toxic, kills caterpillars and their eggs. It works as a neurotoxin and kills them within hours. One caterpillar cannot be distinguished from another by a spray bottle. Handpicking is the least destructive way to remove the caterpillars that may turn into cabbage worms, army worms, or corn earworms. Many caterpillars have small hairs that can cause a stinging sensation so use garden gloves and a bug identifying book to be sure who is who. The beneficial caterpillars are monarch butterfly and swallowtail caterpillars, and woolly bear caterpillars. If you must spray, use caution and target your enemy. Don't spray the whole garden to kill off some aphids or earwigs.

"Neem is thought not to harm certain beneficial insects including ladybugs and predatory mites, and does not impact honey bees and other pollinators like butterflies as long as they're not sprayed directly."

We have the power to encourage diversity. The power is in our hands, our brains, and our hearts.

Additional Facts: The University of California considers Neem Oil as moderately toxic to bees and recommends application only during late evening, night, or early morning and when plants are not blooming, i.e., when bees are not typically out foraging. The National Pesticide Information Center claims Neem oil is practically non-toxic to birds, mammals, bees and plants. Neem oil is slightly toxic to fish and other aquatic organisms (frogs). Azadirachtin, a component of neem oil, is moderately toxic to fish and other aquatic animals such as frogs, seahorses, and fish.

(Karen Cohen writes her garden journals, Nature's Way, and is an avid nature explorer. Email your tips and comments to: natureswaykaren@gmail.com)

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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## SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Close
2. Sneak;
3. Anchor;
4. Secure

Today's Word  
**SHOCK**

### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

### Super Crossword

Answers

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

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## Commentary

# Capito highlights sustained economic impact of New River Gorge redesignation

U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) highlighted the economic impact resulting from the redesignation of the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve. Specifically, the U.S. National Park Service's (NPS) 2022 National Park Visitor Spending Effects report found that over the past year, the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve generated \$96.1 million in economic output and supported 1,044 jobs in West Virginia.

In 2022, over 1.5 million park visitors spent an estimated \$79.3 million in local gateway regions while visiting the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve, with 88.1% of visitors from out-of-state. In total, West Virginia benefited from \$133.8 million in economic output across all NPS units in the state.

"It's wonderful to see that the New River Gorge

National Park and Preserve is maintaining the success that we saw immediately following its redesignation in 2020, and that it continues to make a major economic impact in our state. When I began advocating for the redesignation, this was exactly the impact I knew the New River Gorge could make," Senator Capito said. "This would not be possible without the gracious hospitality and hard work from West Virginians in the gateway communities around the park. From Hinton to Fayetteville, Meadow Bridge and all places in between, residents of the region have been fantastic ambassadors for our state. I look forward to seeing the continued success of the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve and the economic ripple effect that it generates."

## HELP WANTED CAREGIVER

Looking for someone caring, understanding, compassionate and trustworthy to stay various shifts with elderly woman with dementia. Mainly to provide company and supervision. Very light cooking may be required. Monroe County. 60+ preferably. References required. Please contact us at 304.667.7265 or julie@mountainmedianews.com, 304.520.4062.

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# OBITUARIES

## Charles D. Ridgeway and Lana B. Ridgeway

Missy Anderson (Brad) of Frankford, Ernie Reynolds (June) of Frankford, Cecil Reynolds of Ronceverte and Jack Lucas (April) of Fort Spring; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

Joint funeral services for Charles and Lana were held on Sunday, Aug. 27, at the Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Ronceverte where Pastor Scott Kapple and Pastor Andy Howdock officiated. Interment followed in Elizabeth Chapel Cemetery, Organ Cave. (Military graveside rites for Charles were conducted by American Legion Post #26).

The family received family and friends at the funeral home before the service.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Ronceverte in charge of arrangements. Please send online condolences by visiting [www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com](http://www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com).

## Donna Sue Price



**Caldwell-**Donna Sue Price was born in Clifton Forge, VA, on June 6, 1957. On Sunday, Aug. 27, 2023, Donna went home to be with Jesus, finally reuniting with some of her most precious loved ones.

There to greet her with warm hugs were her parents, Lawrence and Ruth Adwell; her son, Ronnie Price; her siblings, Mike Adwell, Cheryl Ervin, Donnie Adwell, Sherian Means; and her special furry friends, Wrinkles and Butterscotch.

Those left to cherish her are her daughter, Jennifer Fox; her husband of 50 years, Jimmy Price; her granddaughter, Madisyn Fox; her siblings, Elaine Christian (Raymond), Patty Totten (Gordon), and Earl "Buzzy" Adwell (Sheila); her sisters-in-law, Pam Adwell and Shirley Adwell; her brother-in-law, Joe Ervin; her several nieces and nephews; and many more loving family and friends whom she impacted greatly.

Donna grew up in Ronceverte and for the past 20 years has lived in Caldwell with her

husband, daughter and granddaughter.

She was known for her headstrong nature and willingness to speak for what she believes in. She was described by many as one of the strongest women around, an impressive attribute that her family will forever admire and continue to carry on.

Donna could be found always doing what she loves, such as: watching Hallmark movies and Game Show Network year round, laying down at 1 p.m. to watch her soaps and take a nap with Butterscotch, eating fresh tomatoes and cucumbers, preferably with ranch dressing, scratching off lottery tickets, especially at the State Fair of WV, talking to her friends on the phone, wearing the comfiest pajamas she could, every day, tending to her garden and her beautiful flowers in and outside her home, talking about her granddaughter to anyone who asks and encouraging her family to always be the best they can.

Donna's beautiful life will be celebrated privately with her immediate family by her request.

In lieu of flowers, those who wish to contribute to Donna's memory can donate to the Donna Price Donation Fund at any Peoples Bank location. For more details, contact the bank directly or the family at [memoryofprice@gmail.com](mailto:memoryofprice@gmail.com). People's Bank (304) 647-4530 (<https://locations.peoplesbank-corp.com/>)

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

## In Memoriam



A memorial for Nancy Lynn Church will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 3, at Trinity United Methodist Church in Ronceverte.

## USDA invests to support Rural Partners Network communities

This week, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development West Virginia State Director Ryan Thorn joined U.S. Senator Joe Manchin III to announce investments of \$9.5 million in Fayette, Nicholas, Raleigh and Summers counties. These are part of a larger \$14.8 million investment in Rural Partners Network communities across West Virginia to foster long-term economic growth and prosperity.

"The USDA Rural Development led Rural Partners Network initiative is working to ensure that rural West Virginia communities have the opportunity to succeed, and the people that live in those communities have an opportunity to not just survive - but thrive," said Thorn. "We understand that a stronger, more successful community doesn't effortlessly appear after one federal award. It's a years-long process of visioning, planning, and investing. The funding announced today is a commitment to that process and a testament to the work being done by the Rural Partners Network across twenty counties in our state. This funding will help West Virginia communities carry out projects that strengthen basic infrastructure, spur economic growth, enhance community services, and lead to more resilient communities."

Rural Development is providing grants, direct loans, and loan guarantees to help people living in rural communities in the Rural Partners Network (RPN) access good-paying jobs, improved infrastructure, and affordable housing.

The investments total \$14,810,642 and will support 12 projects in six RPN designated counties in West Virginia. Local investments include:

Monroe County:

- The Red Sulphur Public Service District will receive a \$3,803,000 loan and a \$996,000 grant through the Water and Waste Disposal Program to extend its waterlines to bring over 80 new residential customers to the PSD and provide safe drinking water to citizens within the proposed project.

- Belle Vue Dairy LLC will receive a \$19,921 Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grant to purchase and install a 19.71-kilowatt solar array. This project will realize \$5,502 per year in savings and will replace 23,553 kilowatt hours per year, or 47 percent, which is enough electricity to power two homes.

- Panucci Orthodontics, PLLC will receive a \$39,821 Rural Energy for America Program grant to purchase and install a 42-kilowatt solar array at its Farming Smiles office. This project annually will save \$4,771 and replace 52,378 kilowatt hours per year, or 94 percent, enough energy to power four homes.

Rural Partners Network is an all-of-government program of more than 800 federal, state and local partners that collaborate to address specific needs in communities that have long struggled to access government programs and funding.

## Mary B. Nickell Foundation, Inc. accepting grant requests

The Mary B. Nickell Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization, is now accepting grant requests from qualified organizations for suitable projects and purposes in Greenbrier County, West Virginia.

This Foundation was organized for the charitable and educational purposes of administering funds entrusted to it for the promotion of the arts and for educational purposes to encourage the development and appreciation of the arts and for the promotion of the happiness and well-being of the community centered in and around Greenbrier County, West Virginia,

by expending funds itself for such purposes and in cooperation with institutions qualified to carry out these objectives most efficiently, all to the end of benefiting charity.

You may request a grant form by email to [jjohnson@summitfgi.com](mailto:jjohnson@summitfgi.com) or by mail to Summit Community Bank, Inc. Attn: Julie Johnson, P. O. Box 1559, Bluefield, WV 24701. Grant requests must be postmarked by 9/30/2023.

The Mary B. Nickell Foundation, Inc. reserves the right to make awards in its sole discretion and without explanation as to any decisions made or denial of requests.

## Be a hero to a homeless pet



The Greenbrier County Humane Society is excited to announce the start of a foster program. We are looking for foster homes that can provide a temporary place for a shelter pet to call home until they are adopted.

Never fostered before? Not to worry! GHS will work alongside you every step of the way to ensure both you and your foster pet have a successful experience. Foster pets will receive medical care and pet supplies from GHS.

"You already do so much to help homeless pets and we are so grateful for your compassion and kindness," says GHS. "If you have ever longed for a way to directly help cats and dogs, fostering is a great way to get

involved. Come see us at the facility for a foster application!"

Why do some animals need foster care?

- Some animals don't do well in a shelter environment because they are frightened or need a little extra care.

- Newborn animals that need to be nursed or bottle-fed usually need foster care.

- Some animals need time to recover from an illness or injury before adoption.

Whatever the reason, these animals need some extra love and care until they are adopted. Providing foster care for a few days, weeks, or months can be a lifesaving gift for an animal.

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### YARD SALE

YARD SALE: 8415 Williamsburg Road, Frankford. Saturday, September 2nd, 8 AM - 12 Noon. Large green house behind the fire department.

### WANT TO BUY

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

### HELP WANTED

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

### 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.

### HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED: Someone to clean apartment in White Sulphur Springs. For more information call 304-536-3712.

### FOR SALE

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: Carpenter. We are a high-end residential construction company located in White Sulphur Springs looking to hire experienced carpenters interested in long-term, full-time employment with benefits. Most of our work is at the Greenbrier Sporting Club. Please email us at agstehomebuilders@gmail.com or call us at 304-536-0116.

### FOR RENT NO WAITING LIST

One Bedroom, Section 8 Apts. Elderly 62+ Handicapped or Disabled, Regardless of Age. All Utilities Included. On Site Laundry Facilities. Apply At **Hinton House Apts.** 495 Stokes Drive. Office Hours M-F 8-4. 304-466-5299



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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](mailto: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](mailto:leagle@rmchealth.org).



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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](mailto:karader@rmchealth.org) and/or Lisa Redden, Director of Human Resources at [lredden@rmchealth.org](mailto:lredden@rmchealth.org).  
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### JOB OPENINGS

#### Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)

Rainelle Medical Center is hiring a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) for our MACC (Mobile Access Care Center). Must have a minimum of 1 year experience to apply. This candidate will provide roving healthcare nursing services upon the MACC and at various locations. When MACC is not scheduled, the nurse will work at RMC locations and provide nursing services according to RMC policies.

This is a full-time position and comes with a full benefits package.

Interested candidates should send their resume to the attention of Terra Skaggs, School Based Health Director at [tskaggs@rmchealth.org](mailto:tskaggs@rmchealth.org).



### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

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# Dear Recycle Lady

## A Look Back

**Dear Recycle Lady,**

I have several partial sheets of left over white and colored cardstock. Can this cardstock be recycled?

*Crafter*

**Dear Crafter,**

Yes, cardstock of any color can be recycled. White cardstock can be recycled with office paper or with cardboard. However, colored, or dark cardstock is recycled only with cardboard. For your next cardstock purchase, please consider recycled cardstock. Eco-friendly cardstock is now being sustainably produced by certified paper mills in both the US and Europe. It is made from natural fibers and post-consumer/post-industrial waste materials that reduce the ecological footprint. There are several excellent websites available that have directions for interesting craft projects made from left over cardstock.

**Dear Recycle Lady,**

This spring I put in a new flower bed, so I now have lots of empty, black plastic pots for plants. They have a recycle symbol with a #5 in it. Can these pots from nurseries be recycled?

*Gardener*

**Dear Gardener,**

Unfortunately, black plastic pots cannot be recycled, but they can be reused. Locally, Hurley's Flowers across the road from Greenbrier East High School happily accepts all used plastic pots and plant containers. After these used pots and containers are cleaned and disinfected, they will be reused to start the next year's plants and flowers or to prepare growing plants for sale. A great example of a circular economy.

**Dear Recycle Lady,**

My family eats lots of bananas. Is there any way to reuse the banana peels?

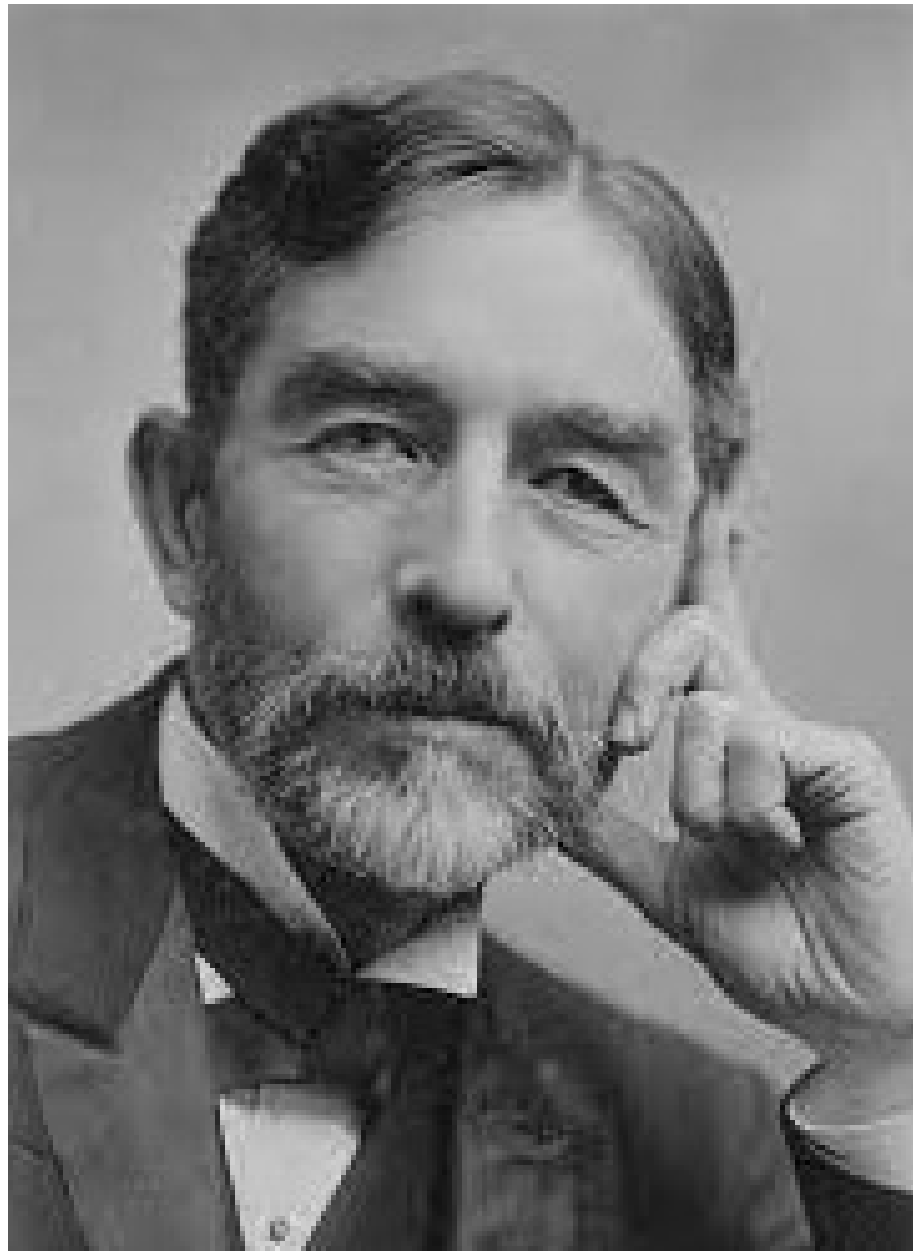
*Healthy Eater*

**Dear Healthy Eater,**

You are not alone in wanting to reuse your banana peels. According to a 2013 study, about 40 million tons of banana peels are disposed of or go unused each year worldwide. However, banana peels do have a second life. For example, peels can be used to polish leather by rubbing the inside of the peel against the outer side of the leather, then buffing with a soft cloth. Peels can also be used to fertilize your plants. First soak the peels in a jar of water, then mix five parts tap-water to one part banana-water. A 2011 article in Applied Biochemistry and Biotechnology found that banana peels contain many healthy antioxidants like carotenoids and polyphenols, so some people use the banana peels to enrich dishes and drinks. Chop the peels, boil them for 10 minutes and add to your favorite dish. Who knew banana peels had so many uses!

**Interesting information:** Blue whales are the largest animals to have ever existed and can weigh up to 200 tons (400,000 pounds)! That's 30 times heavier than an African elephant. Astonishingly, just their tongue can weigh as much as an elephant! Blue whales are formally classified as an endangered species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act as there are only 1,500 - 2,500 Blue whales left. Before whaling began there were 50,000 - 200,000 Blue whales in the oceans. Although they are protected, Blue whales are often injured or killed by vessel strikes or by getting entangled with ghost fishing gear. Environmental changes such as loss of habitat and toxics in water also threaten them.

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**

A short list of radical thinkers who have lectured at Lewisburg's Carnegie Hall would probably include Dr. Wilbur Crafts (pictured). Crafts, who spoke in 1917, was a leading proponent of the prohibition of alcohol and, while collaborating with the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, held a leading role in the movement toward National Prohibition. Moreover, he was opposed to movies, gambling, divorce, smoking, close dancing, and Sunday baseball. He said joy rides at carnivals "often provide a ride of lifelong shame and woe." He opposed temptations: saloons, gambling dens, houses of prostitution, and revealing clothes.

Born in 1829 in Maine, Crafts was the son of a Methodist minister. After graduating from Wesleyan University and the Boston University School of Theology he became a Methodist, Congregationalist, and Presbyterian minister- in that order.

In 1895, he organized the International Reform Bureau in Washington,

DC, and was an indefatigable lobbyist of Congress. He felt it was government's responsibility to acknowledge God's authority and to promote Christian morality. In an effort to make churches and their members a political force in this country, he gave as many as six lectures a week all over the United States and in many foreign countries. He sought laws banning pornography, birth control, and abortion. According to Professor Gaines M. Foster, Crafts differed from today's Christian Right because he believed in working closely with female reformers to expand the public role of women, never made taxes part of his agenda, and didn't identify himself with any political party.

On the morning of his talk at Carnegie Hall, he spoke to the Methodist Church's Sunday School and preached the Sunday service at the Old Stone Church. Wilbur died in 1922.

*Photo from the Library of Congress.*

*Sources: Conservative Social Christianity, the Law and Personal Morality; Wilbur F. Crafts in Washington; New York Times.*

## West Virginia Statewide Classified Network

Featured in WVPA Newspapers Across West Virginia

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Check out available properties at [4thwayproperties.com](http://4thwayproperties.com)

### FOR RENT

124 FEAMSTER ROAD, APT. 8  
DOWNTOWN LEWISBURG, WV

One bedroom apartment in downtown Lewisburg. Walking distance to the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, local restaurants and shops. Pet friendly with \$100 per month fee. Annual lease.

Go to [4thwayproperties.com](http://4thwayproperties.com) for pictures and additional information.

**\$850** Monthly

Plus \$850 security deposit.

860 COURT ST., N., STUDIO 8  
LEWISBURG, WV

Beautiful one bedroom apartment located in downtown Lewisburg. Walking distance to the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, local shops and restaurants.

All utilities included, free Wi-Fi, free on-site laundry facilities, Pet friendly with additional \$100 per month fee.

Annual lease. Go to [4thwayproperties.com](http://4thwayproperties.com) for pictures and additional information.

**\$900** Monthly

Plus \$900 security deposit.

Call Terry or Isela @  
(304) 647-8943

SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

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# Greenbrier East High School's Golfer of the Week



Name: Isaac Hutchison  
 Grade: Freshman  
 G.P.A.: 4.0  
 Parents: Sue and Neil Hutchison  
 Hometown: Lewisburg  
 Favorite Golfer: Scottie Scheffler  
 Favorite Quote: "I can do all things through CHRIST who strengthens me." Philippians, 4:13  
 Began Golfing: At age 6 for fun and started competing at age 8.

Why he plays Golf: "It's my passion and it is what I want to do in my future; whether I go pro or teach."

Coaches Comments: Isaac was the Team Medalist at Glade Springs as he helped the team beat Woodrow Wilson, Shady Spring and Westside to capture first place. Isaac is a tremendous student at academics and on the golf course. He is just a pleasure to be around. His kindness, attitude and willingness to help is a great asset to the team. They say good things happen to good people, if that's the case... expect great things for Isaac.

Miluk Golf Humor: Golf is a game invented by God to punish people who retire early. Ha!

# Watoga State Park gains Dark Sky Park information sign

The Watoga State Park Foundation board is happy to present our Dark Sky Park Information sign, designed by Lens Creek Studios. The sign explains that Watoga State Park is in the darkest region in the mid-Atlantic states and is certified by the International Dark Sky Association.

The images and messages are superimposed over a dark sky photo by J. Perez, a local volunteer amateur astronomer taken at the Watoga dam at night. As the sign notes the importance of the preservation of our unique wildlife, birds and insects, it also mentions what you can do to help

preserve the dark skies in this area. Lighting that glares upwards into the sky does nothing to help with security or lessen crime as it is wasted. Only use lighting where and when it is needed. Install fully shielded light fixtures with low-intensity bulbs that directs light downward to the ground or use motion or timed lighting.

This beautiful information sign was made possible by a grant from the Snowshoe Foundation and donations to the Foundation from the public. Please visit our website, watogafoundation.org for events and star party dates coming up!

VISIT US ONLINE AT  
WWW.MOUNTAINMESSENGER.COM

### SCRAMBLERS

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

Light **SCALE**

Creep **ASKEN**

Ballast **RANCHO**

Fusion **RECUSE**

**TODAY'S WORD**

"We'll try \_\_\_\_\_ treatment—bring in his bill!"

### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Sign is missing. 2. Pen is missing. 3. Hand is moved. 4. Shoe is shorter. 5. Number is different. 6. Hair is different.

## Super Crossword

### MILK-AND-HONEY POOCHES

**ACROSS**

- 1 Web page directories
- 9 Espressos, e.g.
- 16 Basic lessons
- 20 Open to suggestion
- 21 Solar or lunar phenomenon
- 22 U.S. island territory
- 23 Start of a riddle
- 25 Paree "to be"
- 26 Tar's "Help!"
- 27 Wrinkly tangelo variety
- 28 Cavaliers' org.
- 29 Stuff expelled from a volcano
- 31 West Aleutian island
- 33 Brand of contact lens solution
- 35 Outbreak of zits
- 37 Reply to "Which girl?"
- 38 Mom on "The Cosby Show"
- 41 Riddle, part 2
- 45 Old-style "Yay!"
- 47 Voguish Christian
- 48 — kwon do
- 49 Was the father of
- 50 — Lady of Guadalupe
- 51 Eager kids' question
- 53 Pinkish red
- 55 Not even one
- 56 Riddle, part 3
- 61 Aykroyd of film
- 62 Favorite son of Isaac
- 63 Beard on grain
- 64 Eyes lowly
- 65 Fissure
- 67 Great joy
- 69 Remedies
- 70 Cross the mind of
- 74 — T (exactly)
- 75 Boring carpentry tool
- 76 Otology subject
- 77 Bert who played a lion
- 78 Spike on a film set
- 81 Riddle, part 4
- 85 Grease-laden
- 87 Diarist Nin
- 88 Snares, e.g.
- 89 Previous to, in verse
- 90 Canonized fifth-cen. pope
- 92 Barely manage, with "out"
- 93 Canadian gas brand
- 95 Ancient Greek lyric poet
- 97 End of the riddle
- 101 Campus complexes
- 102 Commanded
- 103 — Mawr College
- 104 — a one (zilch)
- 105 Rival of Lyft
- 107 Threat ender
- 109 Windows 10 runners, e.g.
- 110 A few
- 112 Ewe noise
- 115 Viva —
- 116 Riddle's answer
- 122 Slaughter of baseball
- 123 Racked up
- 124 Anticlimactic happening
- 125 Muralist José Maria —
- 126 Rodent-catching cats
- 127 With two-channel sound
- 4 Suffix with absorb
- 5 Bucko
- 6 In re
- 7 Put a stopper in
- 8 Vend
- 9 Ron of the 1970s Dodgers
- 10 First female Supreme Court justice
- 11 Viral cause of a winter woe, informally
- 12 It funds Soc. Security
- 13 Pollution-control gp.
- 14 U.S. immigrants' class
- 15 Gomez of "Getaway"
- 16 Old Time film critic James
- 17 Totally bungled
- 18 The late 1970s, politically
- 19 Applied, as finger paint
- 24 Makes soiled
- 30 787s, e.g.
- 31 Lung filler
- 32 Pamphlet
- 34 Old name for Tokyo
- 35 Classic game consoles
- 36 Bamboozle
- 38 Had grub
- 39 Thelma's film sidekick
- 40 Of a major blood vessel
- 42 Astronomer
- 43 Furry scarves
- 44 Musical set in Oz, with "The"
- 46 "Ver-r-r-y funny"
- 52 Salamander
- 53 V8 vegetable
- 54 Charley horse, e.g.
- 57 French for "eight"
- 58 Areas on a golf course
- 59 Be in accord
- 60 Bodily pouch
- 66 Pooch with a corded coat
- 68 Pai — poker (casino game)
- 69 Adorable kids
- 70 Waikiki's island
- 71 Like many gory movies
- 72 Constellation
- 73 Mandates
- 75 Skywalker of "Star Wars"
- 76 Scandalous corporation of 2001
- 78 Old sweeties
- 79 Whichever of the two
- 80 Alternative magazine to House Beautiful
- 82 Rival
- 83 "Sounds right to me"
- 84 Back of a 45 record
- 86 "Darn tootin'!"
- 91 Poetic eyes
- 93 "Roots" Emmy winner
- 94 35mm camera inits.
- 96 Fish-fowl linkup
- 98 Coal mine vehicle
- 99 Put in a crate
- 100 Burden with one's problems
- 106 Pintos, e.g.
- 108 For fear that
- 109 Bygone
- 111 Bygone Dodge
- 112 Dutch South African
- 113 Novelist Rice
- 114 In re
- 117 Doc's org.
- 118 Rebel Turner
- 119 Jewel box inserts
- 120 Tennis barrier
- 121 "Now — seen it all!"

|     |    |    |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |    |     |     |     |
|-----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1   | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12 | 13 | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19 |     |     |     |
| 20  |    |    |    |    |     |     |     | 21  |     |     |    |    |     |     |     | 22  |     |    |     |     |     |
| 23  |    |    |    |    |     |     | 24  |     |     |     |    |    |     |     |     | 25  |     |    |     |     |     |
| 26  |    |    |    |    |     | 27  |     |     | 28  |     |    |    | 29  | 30  |     |     |     |    |     |     |     |
|     |    |    | 31 | 32 |     |     |     | 33  | 34  |     |    | 35 | 36  |     |     |     | 37  |    |     |     |     |
| 38  | 39 | 40 |    |    |     | 41  | 42  |     |     |     | 43 |    |     |     |     |     | 44  |    |     |     |     |
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| 67  |    |    |    |    | 68  |     |     |     | 69  |     |    |    |     | 70  |     |     | 71  | 72 | 73  |     |     |
|     |    |    | 74 |    |     |     | 75  |     |     |     |    | 76 |     |     | 77  |     |     |    |     |     |     |
| 78  | 79 | 80 |    |    | 81  |     | 82  |     |     |     | 83 |    |     |     | 84  |     |     |    |     |     |     |
| 85  |    |    |    | 86 |     | 87  |     |     |     |     | 88 |    |     |     |     |     | 89  |    |     |     |     |
| 90  |    |    |    |    | 91  |     | 92  |     |     | 93  | 94 |    |     | 95  |     | 96  |     |    |     |     |     |
| 97  |    |    |    |    |     | 98  |     |     |     | 99  |    |    |     | 100 |     | 101 |     |    |     |     |     |
| 102 |    |    |    |    |     | 103 |     |     |     | 104 |    |    |     | 105 | 106 |     |     |    |     |     |     |
| 107 |    |    |    |    | 108 |     |     |     |     | 109 |    |    |     | 110 | 111 |     |     |    | 112 | 113 | 114 |
| 115 |    |    |    |    |     |     | 116 | 117 | 118 |     |    |    | 119 |     |     | 120 | 121 |    |     |     |     |
| 122 |    |    |    |    |     |     | 123 |     |     |     |    |    | 124 |     |     |     |     |    |     |     |     |
| 125 |    |    |    |    |     |     |     | 126 |     |     |    |    |     | 127 |     |     |     |    |     |     |     |

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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# CLUB & CHURCH

## Lewisburg House and Garden Club learns about bees

## Mountaineer Food Bank partners with Wellspring of Greenbrier



Timmo, Maria and Nora Schleiff with hostess, Ghee Gozzard

Members of Lewisburg House and Garden Club beside the Hidden Quarry Honey truck

The lovely home of Ghee Gozzard was the setting of the Aug. 23 meeting of the Lewisburg House and Garden Club. Timmo and Maria Schleiff presented an extremely informative address entitled "A Year in the Lives of Bees." They have been beekeeping for about ten years and have be-

come experts. They now have about 100 colonies and produce various kinds of honey for our community. Afterward, Timmo and Maria served comb honey with crackers and brie. A special guest at the meeting was one-year-old Nora Schleiff who participated throughout the discourse.

On Wednesday, Aug. 9, Wellspring of Greenbrier served 291 individuals at their food pantry in Rupert, all tracked using Feeding America's new intake app. Wellspring of Greenbrier, Inc. is a nonprofit organization based in Rupert that has been serving low-income families, unhoused, transient, and economically disadvantaged persons in Greenbrier County since 2004. Wellspring also offers utility assistance, firewood deliveries, free access to laundry and showers, and more at their day haven in Rupert.

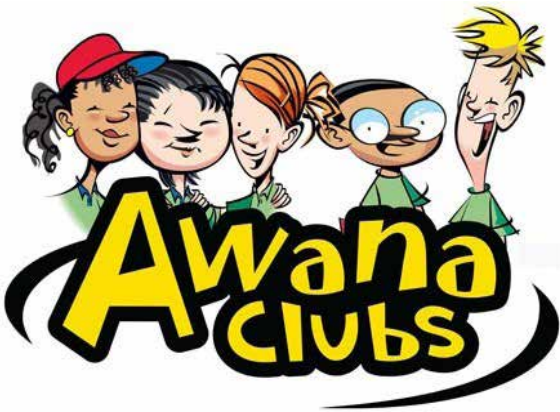
much faster during the following visits.

Wellspring is the second pilot site of Mountaineer Food Bank's Neighbor Connector program in West Virginia, behind Petersburg Interfaith Pantry in Grant County. The new app is designed to streamline intake for food banks and pantries, and will also make reporting easier for these organizations.

"Wellspring is the second food pantry in West Virginia to use Feeding America's intake app called Service Insights on MealConnect. It has been a joy working with staff and volunteers to make sure the app works for Wellspring in a meaningful way. The purpose of this app is to help us learn more about the neighbors we serve and continue to serve them better. I am excited to see Wellspring continue to use the app because I know they will do great things to help their neighbors," said Courtney Susman, Service Insights Coordinator for Mountaineer Food Bank.

Mountaineer Food Bank aims to make the app available to more pantries in West Virginia over the next year. For more information on the intake app, contact Courtney Susman at csusman@mountaineer-foodbank.org. For more information on Wellspring's food distribution and other programs, contact Abigail Spangler at abigail@wellspringofgreenbrier.com.

## AWANA resumes at First Baptist of Fairlea



schoolers will meet at the same time in the newly relaunched FBC Fairlea Youth Group. These programs enable churches and parents to teach their children to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ. They are open to the community; all are welcome to join! AWANA and Youth Group are held each Wednesday from 6:45 to 8:15 p.m., with doors opening at 6:30 PM.

to sign up at any time throughout the school year. However, join us as soon as possible to begin making friends and be a part of the fun! A typical AWANA evening includes not only Bible lessons and verse memorization, but also games, mission projects, special themed nights, and an AWANA awards store.

For more information, call the church at 304-645-3533, or if possible, preregister AWANA children and Youth Group teens online at www.fbcfairlea.com. Hope to see you Sept. 6!

First Baptist Church of Fairlea is happy to announce that another AWANA year begins Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 6:45 p.m. AWANA, which stands for "Ap-

proved Workers Are Not Ashamed" (2 Timothy 2:15), is a free program for children ages three (if potty-trained) through 5th grade. All middle and high

The unique design of the AWANA program allows children

### LEGAL

#### WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Division of Highways NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia until October 17, 2023 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project(s):

| Call Contract  | State Project     | Federal Project | Description   |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|---|
| 012 2023130027 | S313-219-23.80 00 | NHPP-0219(406)D | ASPHALT PAVING<br>FRANKFORD - RENICK ROAD<br>Begin: 1.05 mile South of CR 219/3<br>End: 0.21 mile North of CR 7<br>COUNTY: GREENBRIER |

**DBE GOAL:** 4% OF CONTRACT BID AMOUNT. BIDDER MUST PROVIDE WRITTEN ASSURANCE OF MEETING GOAL ON FORM IN PROPOSAL.

**REMARKS:**

Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractor's licence is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin. Registration is required with the Department of Administration, Division of Purchasing, in accordance with Chapter 5A, Article 3, Section 12 of the West Virginia Code. All contractors submitting bids on project(s) must include one of the following forms properly executed with each proposal: Proposal Guaranty Bond, Cashier's Check, or Certified Check for \$500.00 or 5% of the total bid, whichever is greater.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways reserves the right to defer, delay or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement. The deferment, delay, postponement, and the date that proposals will be received and publicly opened will be available on www.bidx.com.

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

### LEGAL

(2021-S-00000006 - Greenbrier County - ETHEL MARVINE ONEY)

To: PATRICIA MURPHY, EDNA MILLER, TERRY LOWE, ROBIN BAILEY, MELISSA LOWE, DREMA OSBORNE, VELMA LOWE, VELMA LOWE, JERRY LOWE, JERRY LOWE, SHERIFF OF GREENBRIER COUNTY, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have any interest in the subject property.

**DISTRICT MEADOW BLUFF MAP 48E PARCEL 0043 0000**

You will take notice that ETHEL MARVINE ONEY, the purchaser of the tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2021-S-00000006, LOT 23, BLK 8 (ROACH), located in MEADOW BLUFF, which was returned delinquent in the name of LOWE VELMA & JERRY, and for which the tax lien(s) thereon was sold by the sheriff of Greenbrier County at the sale for the delinquent taxes made on the 17th day of November, 2021, has requested that you be notified that a deed for such real estate will be made to him or her on or after October 18, 2023, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount you will have to pay on the last day, October 17, 2023, will be as follows:

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to October 17, 2023.   | \$ 104.81   |
| Amount of subsequent years' taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to October 17, 2023.   | \$ 11.31    |
| Amount paid for the Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest from January 1, 2022, following the sheriff's sale to October 17, 2023. | \$ 1,238.38 |
| Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to October 17, 2023.   | \$ 734.27   |
| Total Amount Payable to Sheriff - cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to the <b>The Honorable Bruce Sloan, Sheriff and Treasurer of Greenbrier County.</b>                      | \$ 2,088.77 |
| Cost of Certification of Redemption - cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to the <b>The Honorable John B. McCuskey, State Auditor.</b>  | \$ 35.00    |

You may redeem at any time before October 17, 2023, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

Return this letter and both certified funds to the  
WV State Auditor's Office,  
County Collections Division

1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Building 1, Room W-114  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Questions please call 1-888-509-6568 option 2

### LEGAL

#### State of West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection Division of Mining and Reclamation

#### PUBLIC NOTICE OF BLASTING OPERATIONS

Notice is hereby given that Princess Polly Anna & JCT Enterprises LLC, P.O. Box 207 Lewisburg WV 24901, (304) 667-3776, S-3002-12 situated in Meadow Bluff District of Greenbrier County, approximately 2.75 miles southeast of Quinwood will be conducting blasting activities in accordance with all State and Federal Laws and as approved by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Blasting activities will occur Monday through Saturday from "sunrise to sunset." No blasting shall be conducted on Sunday. Blasting is to commence on 9/2/23 and continue through 9/2/24.

Ten minutes prior to and immediately after each blast, all access to the specific area will be safeguarded from unauthorized entry. The warning signal prior to each blast shall be from an air horn audible to at least one-half mile from the blast. The warning will be given three (3) minutes prior to detonation and will consist of three (3) short blasts of five (5) seconds duration with five (5) seconds between each blast. The all-clear signal shall be one long blast from an air horn, of twenty (20) seconds duration.

Blasting shall be conducted in such a way so as to prevent adverse impacts to the public or the environment.

Blasting activities will not be conducted at times other than those announced in the blasting schedule except in the event of an emergency situation where rain, lightning, or other atmospheric conditions, or operator or public safety requires unscheduled detonations.

### LEGAL

#### Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 Receipts and Disbursements

In accordance with WV Code 7-12-12, provided below is the organization's receipts and disbursements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023

| Receipts                              |                   |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Federal Sources                       | 21,000.00         |
| State Sources                         | 68,181.00         |
| Pass Through State Funds              | 33,750.00         |
| Local Government Sources              | 66,527.50         |
| Pass Through Local Government Funds   | 33,750.00         |
| Interest Income Earned on Loans       | 327.50            |
| Program Income                        | 20,244.68         |
| Rental Income                         | 590,244.68        |
|                                       | <u>834,655.29</u> |
| Disbursements                         |                   |
| Bank Fees                             | 4,341.99          |
| WVCoRP Insurance                      | 22,467.00         |
| Accounting Fees                       | 17,132.25         |
| Legal Services                        | 919.26            |
| Office IT / Computer repair           | 1,165.00          |
| Consulting-Strategic Planning         | 21,506.00         |
| Consulting-Engineering Services       | 5,000.00          |
| Facility Maintenance                  | 30,415.34         |
| Utilities                             | 111,220.09        |
| Pass Through Expenses                 | 67,500.00         |
| Marketing                             | 2,743.34          |
| Membership & Dues                     | 1,610.00          |
| Events                                | 11,580.17         |
| Staff Development                     | 2,572.19          |
| Salaries & Wages                      | 209,559.96        |
| Insurance - Workman's Comp            | 1,391.92          |
| Payroll Taxes                         | 14,957.60         |
| State Unemployment                    | 540.00            |
| Mountaineer Flex Benefits             | 5,434.22          |
| PEIA Health Insurance                 | 32,713.28         |
| WV Public Employees Retirement System | 18,860.40         |
| Payroll Expenses - Other              | 733.52            |
| Travel and Meetings                   | 7,398.50          |
| Interest Expense                      | 21,835.56         |
|                                       | <u>612,597.59</u> |

THANK YOU FOR READING  
THE MOUNTAIN MESSENGER



# STEPPIN' OUT

## Ivy Terrace Series concludes with Big Shots September 14



Carnegie Hall's final Ivy Terrace Concert is Thursday, Sept. 14, at 6:30 p.m. with Billy Joel tribute band Big Shots. Sponsored by City National Bank, the concert will take 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.

Big Shots: A Billy Joel Tribute was formed in 2022 by a group of powerhouse musicians based

out of Lewisburg, WV to showcase the music and lyrics of Billy Joel. Performing the biggest hits and delving into the deepest cuts, they present songs from the entirety of Billy Joel's career and share the stories and techniques behind the songs. Whether performing as a showcase or in the usual concert setting, the audience enjoys all the musical aspects that Billy Joel fans have come to know and love.

Big Shots musicians include John Maddy, keyboards and vocals; Billy Ayers, drums, and percussion; Jacob Brooks, guitars; Ben Cadle, Bass and backing vocals; Rick Leatherman, saxophones, percussion, and backing vocals; Lillie King, acoustic guitar, percussion, and backing vocals; and Brennan Wood, keyboards, acoustic guitar, and backing vocals.

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 serve a variety of dinner options.

Concerts will be moved inside to the Hamilton Auditorium if the weather dictates. As a reminder, outside food and drink is not permitted in the auditorium. Follow and Like Carnegie Hall's Facebook page for updates. For more information, please visit [www.carnegiehallwv.org](http://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, WV.



## Rediscover Lewisburg by sketching with Robin Poteet

Robin Poteet, an award-winning watercolorist from Salem, VA, will teach a three-day sketching workshop at Carnegie Hall on Oct. 9-11. The class is open to all artists, including beginners and non-painters who just want to experience the joy of learning how to sketch.

Materials for the class are minimal - a few watercolors, a couple of small brushes, pens, and pencils. Robin will provide a small spiral bound journal for each participant for use in the class.

Mornings will include short sketching trips around Lewisburg, with afternoons in Carnegie's third floor art studio.

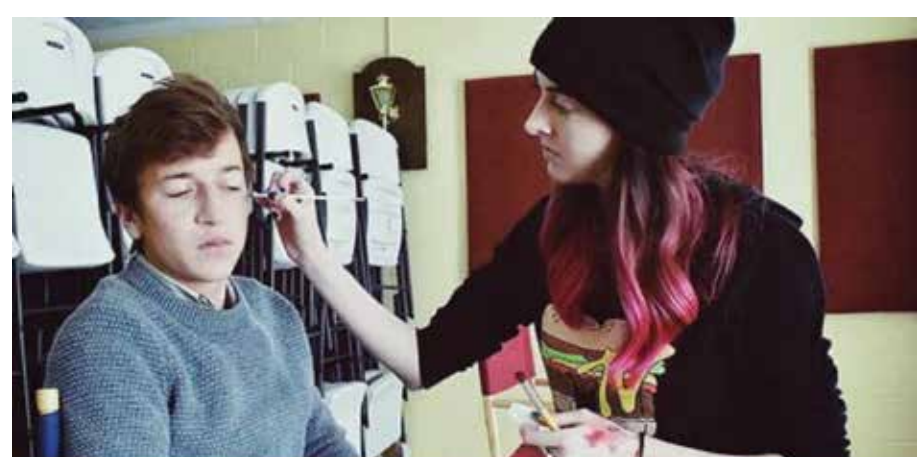
The workshop is sponsored by Greenbrier Artists, a nonprofit art group who paint regularly at Carnegie Hall. All who have an interest in art are invited to join them on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To see examples of Robin Poteet's work, go to: [robinpoteet.com](http://robinpoteet.com)

For more information or to register for the workshop, contact Jeanne Brenneman at [bjbrenneman@gmail.com](mailto:bjbrenneman@gmail.com).

## 2023 Tamarack Foundation Fellow: Mickayla Pence

*'To me, the sky is the limit and my drive to create is infinite'*



**Top photo: Mickayla working on set as Department Head Makeup Artist for the movie "Feast of the Seven Fishes" -carefully adding a bruise to actor Skylar Gisondo's cheek. Bottom photo: Mickayla wearing her hand painted pickle T-shirt while vending at the 2022 Dry Creek Music and Arts Festival.**

Mickayla Pence is ambitious, tenacious, and determined to succeed as a prosperous artist in West Virginia by pushing boundaries and changing mindsets. She is also a 2023 Tamarack Foundation for the Arts Creative Entrepreneur Fellow.

Pence, 34, makes one-of-a-kind, mixed media jewelry and wearable art using a combination of precious metals, gemstones, butterfly wings, magazine and photo clippings, feathers, and pressed flowers she collects in the woods of Greenbrier County, where generations of her family have lived and worked.

Pence incorporates nature, texture, shape, color, humor, mental health, and social justice into her work, and is influenced by the beauty found in nature, eclectic fashion, feminism, pop culture, and uninhibited self-expression.

"In an anxiety provoking world, every time I sit down at my work bench, the worries that have plagued my soul, suddenly quiet," she says. "I find the most solace when I am in the midst of creating art."

As her skill set broadens, her style and expression have become more eclectic.

"I am always looking for ways to push boundaries as an artist," she says. "Recently, I have been focusing more on larger ornate works with asymmetrical balance influenced by couture fashion runways and editorial photo shoots as well as conceptualized symbolic social justice pieces."

The Tamarack Foundation for the Arts 2023 Creative Entrepreneur Fellowship is a game-changer for her. She is using the fellowship to advance her metal-smithing and marketing skills, buy tools and materials, and explore creating more gallery worthy pieces. She is also connecting with other talented artists across the Mountain State and throughout the country, and exposing her work to new audiences.

Pence grew up in northwest Ohio, but moved with her family in her sophomore year of high school to Greenbrier County. "It was huge," she says of the adjustment from her circle of childhood friends to a new school filled with strangers. "At the time I was a bit rebellious about the move, but it turned out to be in tandem with my personal development and character arc. I found that I connected with people in new ways. My new

peers were artists, who influenced my imagination differently than my friend dynamic in Ohio."

Her love of art was something she developed early in life from her grandmother in Greenbrier County, Maxine Mann, who was a painter, primarily as a hobbyist but she also painted public murals at the Greenbrier Valley Airport and a local grocery.

Pence now tends to and lives in her late grandmother's home, creating art in her home studio where, as a child, she was first encouraged by her grandmother to "get creative and make a mess. She allowed us to experiment and play, and it was OK to have whoopsies. She was super encouraging."

After earning her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Marshall University in 2011, Pence left West Virginia for New York City to work as a freelance graphic designer.

While the Big Apple was exciting and energetic, she said, the grueling grind "sucks you dry. It takes that spirit out of you. I often say there were days in New York when I felt like I was on top of the world succeeding and others where I felt like I was in the trenches of the ruthless rat race. The trope of being surrounded by millions of people, yet still feeling alone became an inescapable reality I endured."

Yearning to create something beautiful with her hands, she searched for new opportunities, and on a whim, went to an open casting call for Warner Bros.'s "Run All Night" starring Liam Neeson. She landed a role as a background actor. While on set, she was captivated by the makeup artists and the magic they create, so she enrolled at the Make Up For Ever Academy NY, where she graduated top of her class in 2014.

With hard work, determination and growing skill sets, she earned extraordinary opportunities to travel the world for nearly a decade, applying makeup on A-list celebrities, and on fortune 500 commercial shoots. She was able to maintain this rise in her career even after moving back home to West Virginia in 2017. Then the Covid-19 pandemic hit, and most of her scheduled work was canceled as the entire film industry shut down. While worrying about how she was going to support herself, she found peace in her new, less-hectic schedule.

"Instead of hopelessly twiddling my thumbs, I began to bend wire with them," she says. "This shift back to my roots and the breathtaking wonders of the Appalachian Mountains provided the inspiration I needed to transition my pandemic hobby of jewelry-making into a blossoming career."

In February of 2022, she registered her company, Mick's Media Jewelry, as a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) in West Virginia, calling it "one of the most fulfilling endeavors I have accomplished in my journey thus far. With this, I have gained more recognition with new and returning admirers of my work with unfaltering encouragement from my community to continue pursuing my craft as a jeweler."

As a small business owner and artist, Pence pushed herself to persevere, using her lifelong love of learning, patience, and self-reflection to move forward.

"To me, the sky is the limit and my drive to create is infinite," she says. "I seek to be different, non-conforming and push boundaries as an artist."

Like many West Virginia artists, though, Pence said she is challenged by limited resources and a scarcity of reputable galleries and museums in a rural state where art is often undervalued and its population predominately underprivileged. The closest art supply store is 50 miles from her home, forcing her to shop online and pay expensive shipping costs, while still traveling outside the state to work her "bread-and-butter" jobs as a makeup artist to support herself.

Pence envisions a time when West Virginia artists don't have to leave the state to earn a living. The key, she said, is to reshape the mindset about the importance of the arts in influencing nearly every aspect of our lives, not just in galleries and museums, but in the way we think about the people who design everyday conveniences such as cars, appliances, technology and community centers.

She aspires to have her work displayed in galleries across the country, and on the big screen, high fashion runways, and editorial photo-shoots.

"My ambition and self-motivation are the qualities that have accelerated my career as an artist for many years now," she says. "My momentum is unyielding."



# STEPPIN' OUT

## Old Stone Room Gallery features Ellen Fischer



“Blue House, Alderson 2023” by Ellen Fischer

Carnegie Hall’s summer/fall exhibits are underway with three new galleries featuring the works of regional artists. The Old Stone Room Gallery features “A Sense of Place” by artist Ellen Fischer. The Old Stone Room is located on the ground floor of Carnegie Hall. The exhibit runs through Oct. 27.

Fischer is a painter with a Master of Fine Arts from the School of the Art Institute, Chicago and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Herron School of Art, Indianapolis. Additional education was taken when she received a partial scholarship to Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture (Skowhegan, Maine) in the summer of 1981.

Since then, in addition to

painting, she has worked as a curator of collections and exhibitions at two small museums, in Lafayette, Indiana, and in Vero Beach Florida. She has authored hundreds of articles about art and artists for the weekly newspaper Vero Beach 32963 and the monthly Vero Beach Magazine. She continues to work as a fine art appraiser, both independently, and as an associate of Appraisal Associates International, whose past clients include several private and corporate collections.

Fischer’s art is a diary of who she is and what she experiences day to day. Her mother, Edith Austin Fischer, who supported her in her art education, was raised on Teaberry Road, in

Ronceverte, West Virginia. Born in 1920 in Poga, TN, she came to Ronceverte in 1921 as a baby in her mother’s arms with her father and elder siblings. Her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Austin, joined other family members from Poga here, including her great-grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. William Austin, her great-uncle Henry Austin and his wife Rachel (Yates), her great-uncle Joe Austin and his wife Sally (Hodges), and her great-aunt, Alice Austin, who married Thomas Wil-lard Church.

With so many relatives in West Virginia, Fischer’s mother and father would vacation there for a week every summer throughout her childhood, when she

was privileged to meet many of her 36 first cousins and visit the towns and countryside surrounding Ronceverte.

She continued to visit Ronceverte for family reunions throughout her adulthood and working life. She has painted many pictures of Ronceverte, many studio pictures from photographic notes she took while visiting, as well as on-site landscape paintings and portraits of her Austin family. “A Sense of Place” showcases some of these paintings.

When Fischer had the opportunity to bid on a house in Ronceverte in 2021, she jumped at the chance, never thinking she might win it, but she did. This is her third extended stay in Ronceverte since then. She intends to make Ronceverte her permanent home next year.

Carnegie Hall exhibits are free and open to the public, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and run through June 30. For more information, please visit [carnegie-hallwv.org](http://carnegie-hallwv.org), call 304-645-7917, or stop by the Hall at 611 Church Street, Lewisburg.

Carnegie Hall programs are presented with financial assistance through a grant from the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History and the National Endowment for the Arts, with approval from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts.

## DINING & entertainment guide

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

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(NORTH)  
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## Community members donate projects for kid’s scholarships



On Saturday, Aug. 26, community members joined together at Carnegie Hall to create art for a good cause. Students between the ages of 10 and 80 attended the free needle felting workshop taught by Teaching Artist Karen Leland. Attendees were there to make felted wool ornaments to be auctioned off at Carnegie Hall’s Fantasy Gala to provide scholarships for under privileged youth to attend Kids’ College, Carnegie Hall’s two-week summers arts program.

Education Director Harmony Flora explained that the idea for the donations came from this year’s Kids’ College campers. “They came up with the idea totally on their own, as a Pay-it-Forward kind of idea,” explains Flora. “When it became known that we host about 25% of our summer camp kids on full or partial scholarships, the students decided that they would spend part of their class time making felted ornaments to give to the Hall so we could auction them off, allowing more kids to come for free next year. It’s a beautiful concept, and I’m really proud of them for giving back to our community, and for wanting to help out other kids.”

The finished ornaments were assembled into two separate grapevine wreaths that will be part of the silent auction at Carnegie Hall’s Fantasy Gala being held this Friday, Sept. 1 at The Greenbrier Resort.

## Carnegie Hall Calendar of Events

**Friday, Sept. 1:** Carnegie Hall Fantasy Gala: Rubies & Rhododendrons - Special Event Fundraiser at The Greenbrier on Sept. 1, at 6 p.m. The event includes an evening of live music, dancing, dinner, drinks, and both live and silent auctions.

**Thursday, Sept. 14:** Big Shots - Carnegie Hall’s 2023 Ivy Terrace Concert Series concludes Thursday, Sept. 14, at 6:30 p.m. with Billy Joel tribute band Big Shots. Ivy Terrace Concerts take place outside in front of Carnegie Hall and are free to the public. Concertgoers are encouraged to bring a

lawn chair or blanket and pack a picnic. The concerts are over at 8 p.m.

**Thursday, Sept. 28:** Mainstage Lounge - Join Carnegie Hall for the Artrageous Mainstage Lounge preshow reception in the Board Room from 6 to 6:45 p.m., Thursday, September. Free admission. Cash bar and snacks available.

**Thursday, Sept. 28:** Artrageous - Mainstage Performance on Thursday, Sept. 28, at 7 p.m. featuring Artrageous. Artrageous’ high-energy performance is a combination of all arts on one stage, combined with humor and interaction in a frenzy of movement

and color. Tickets start at \$30/adults and \$10/student.

**Rotating Galleries:** Old Stone Room Gallery - “A Sense of Place” by Ellen Fisher. The exhibit runs through Oct. 27.

**Museum Gallery -** “Earth and Sky” by Jorn Mork, Nan Morgan, and Donna Toney. The exhibit runs through Oct. 27.

**Lobby Gallery -** “A Watercolor Journey” by Jeanne Brenneman. The exhibit runs through Oct. 27.

**Board Room Gallery -** “40 Years of Bringing the Arts to Life” Exhibit. TFN

### Permanent Exhibit:

**Arts from the Ashes: The History of Carnegie Hall** - The exhibit features memorabilia, photographs, artifacts and more of Carnegie Hall since its construction in 1901. New location is in the Board Room located on the first floor adjacent to the auditorium. Free admission

Carnegie Hall Box Office and Galleries are open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, please visit [carnegiehallwv.org](http://carnegiehallwv.org), call 304-645-7917, or stop by 611 Church Street, Lewisburg, WV.

**WEST VIRGINIA 2023 FALL FOLIAGE FORECAST**

**PROJECTED START OF FALL COLORS**

- END OF SEPTEMBER - EARLY OCTOBER
- EARLY - MID OCTOBER
- MID OCTOBER
- MID - LATE OCTOBER

Join the conversation by sharing your fall color photos using #AlmostHeaven.

Stay tuned for weekly fall foliage reports on our social channels.

[WVtourism.com](http://WVtourism.com)



# STEPPIN' OUT

## Young Artist Showcase to debut at Freshwater Folk Festival

This year, for the first time, the Freshwater Folk Festival will proudly present the Young Artist Showcase. Featuring young local musicians, the showcase is designed to give them an opportunity to share their talent on the festival stage.

The festival will be held on Saturday, Sept. 9, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 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.

Opening the festival at 10 a.m. will be violinist Lydia Jackson. Lydia, the daughter of Travis and Jeni Jackson of Pickaway, is 14 years old. Since the age of four, Lydia has studied violin at HeartStrings Academy in Lewisburg, under the instruction of Russell Fallstad. In addition to playing in the HeartStrings Fiddle Show, she has performed at the WV Senate and the WV State Solo and Ensemble Festival in Charleston and plays flute in the Spartan Marching Band at Greenbrier East High School. Lydia will open the fest with her own rendition of "Country Roads, Take Me Home" followed by a classical piece and then the ever-favorite, "Somewhere Over the Rainbow!"

Aubrey Adkins, Ella Butler, and Kylee Fury, aka the Honey Drops, will be up next. The Honey Drops will grace the stage with their beautiful harmo-



Molly Sutter and Jenna Molaro by Cheryl Mansley

ny. Aubrey, the daughter of Paul and Erica Dowdy of Lewisburg, is a freshman at Greenbrier East High School. She sings in the praise band at her church and is involved with Greenbrier County Young-Life. She has taken part in multiple productions at Greenbrier Valley Theatre, and last year participated in the WV All-State Choir and the Greenbrier County Community Cantata.

Ella Butler, also an upcoming freshman at Greenbrier East High School, has been involved with the Greenbrier Valley Theatre since the age of six and to this day still enjoys performing on stage. She is a Cadet Staff Sergeant in the Greenbrier Composite Squadron, Civil Air Pa-



Lydia Jackson by Cheryl Mansley

rol, and a member of the GVAC Sea Dragons Swim Team.

Rounding out this adorable trio is Kylee Fury. Along with singing, Kylee loves to read and roller skate! All three girls are voice students at Warner Music School under Susanna Robinson.

Next will be Christian Montgomery, the son of Herb and Crystal Montgomery. Christian grew up performing on the Greenbrier Valley Theatre stage and has been playing violin with HeartStrings Academy since the age of five. Now, at the age of 15, he also plays tenor and alto saxophone, electric guitar, and bass. He is a member of the WV Jazz Orchestra, plays in the Greenbrier East High School band, and loves to write and mix his own compositions. This young multi-instrumentalist will perform with a Looping Station, and one of his performance pieces will be an original composition of his!

Closing out the Young Artist Showcase will be singer-songwriters Molly Sutter and Jenna Molaro. Molly and Jenna first met and began playing music together at Bethlehem Farm in Alderson, WV - where they practice sustainable living and help community members in need.

Raised in Pennsylvania, Molly writes songs that highlight everyday life's wonders. For three years

now, Bethlehem Farm, which sits atop a hill, has been her home. While she only picked up the guitar about a year and a half ago so she could play songs around a campfire, music has always been an essential point of connection in her family.

Jenna grew up in the Chicagoland where she researched plastic pollution in freshwater ecosystems. Studying environmental science and sustainability brought her to the hilltop farm in West Virginia, where she has lived for the past year. Luckily for us, life in Appalachia inspired her to pick up a guitar and write songs with Molly.

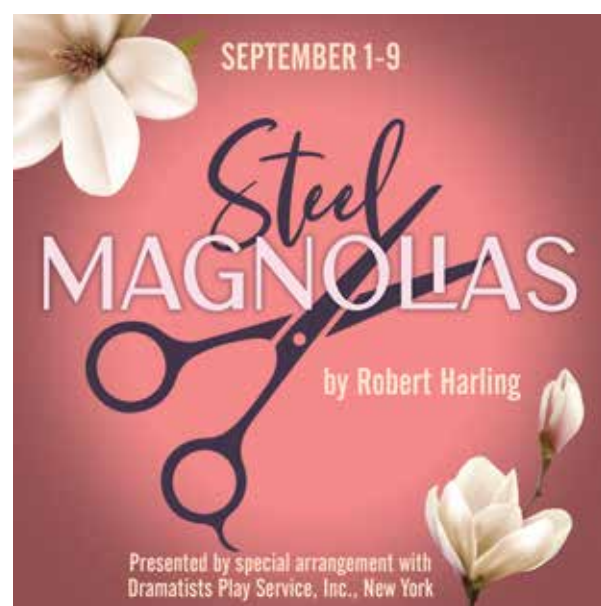
The Young Artist Showcase will be followed by the MacArthur Inn Gang at 11:15 a.m., Billy Jonas at 12:30, Beaucoup Blue at 2:15 p.m., and The Elk River Ramblers at 3:30 p.m.

As always, there will be a big tent full of demonstrations, educational exhibits and hands-on activities related to nature and science, as well as tours of the fish hatchery, craft and food vendors, pony rides, bounce houses, and science and art activities for children. Admission is FREE!

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.

# Big Hair and Southern-Charm come to GVT

The Classic Steel Magnolias Prepares for its GVT Debut



Many will know Robert Harling's classic Steel Magnolias because of the film starring Dolly Parton, Sally Field, and Julia Roberts. What you may not know is that the film, released in 1989,

is actually an adaptation of Harling's play that came out two years earlier. Written to honor his late sister, Steel Magnolias explores the day-to-day life of six women as they spend their time talking and

laughing while getting their hair styled.

The production of this popular title will open at Greenbrier Valley Theatre (GVT) in September with some familiar faces. Erin Jeroyal (I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change) will lead the cast as salon owner, Truvy. Wendy Clarendon, Amy Loui, (Silent Sky) Emily Bosco, (Pride and Prejudice) Kelsey Hofe, and mainstay Cathey Sawyer will complete the group of women who will prove that relationships can be as strong as steel.

Dana Iannuzzi (Murder for Two) returns to Greenbrier Valley Theatre to direct the production. Iannuzzi

believes that art is not only about creating a dramatic point, but also about showing life as it actually is. She believes this is the beauty that comes with Harling's writing and is looking forward to capturing those moments on stage.

"Far too often we get caught up in the extraordinary days and neglect the small moments that encapsulate who we are as people," said Iannuzzi. "Love. Friendship. Grief. Happiness. Life. Sadness. This is what it is to be human."

The production will feature scenic design completed by Frank Ludwig, costume de-

sign by Jenna Fawn Brown, and lighting design by E. Tonry Lathroum. Sound design is completed by Abigail Coppock, with prop design by Ashton Webb. Richard Crowell serves as Production Manager, Elizabeth Salisch as Production Stage Manager, who will be assisted by Mallory Topel.

Now in its 56th season, Greenbrier Valley Theatre, is a mainstay and theatre destination located in Lewisburg. The arts organization has been further recognized as a "West Virginia Jewel of the Hills," awarded the Living the Dream Service Organization Honor Roll by The Martin Lu-

ther King, Jr. Holiday Commission, and is a multi-year recipient of Non-Profit Business of the Year. GVT boasts a robust series of year-round programming and educational offers with the goal to enlighten, enrich, and enliven throughout the region.

Steel Magnolias opens at GVT on Sept. 1 and runs through the Sept. 9. Tickets are \$32 for general seating, \$29 for senior citizens age 60 and above, and \$20 for students. For more information on tickets, shows, and the organization's history, visit the theatre's website: www.gvtheatre.org or call the box office at 304-645-3838.

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Visit multiple art studios in the beautiful Droop Mountain region of Pocahontas County, WV, all located off Route 219. Watch demonstrations, and enjoy make-and-take activities for all ages. Refreshments available.

**Detailed information at www.facebook.com/droopartisans**