



**Carnegie Second Stage Series**  
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**Annual 'Joy to Lewisburg'**  
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**\$1.00**

# Mountain messenger

December 2, 2023

Vol. XL, No. 48

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

## Brighten Christmas for area families with Penny Pitch

*"Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide open heart that thinks of others first."* —George Matthew Adams

We are officially in the holiday season now. Christmas lights brighten streets everywhere, homes are decorated with beautiful trees and garlands, and people are shopping for gifts for loved ones. Children are telling Santa what they hope to find under the tree on Christmas mornings. Most children are, that is. Some children in our community won't have the joy of running to the tree to see what gifts may be there.

Penny Pitch hopes to bring that joy to many of those children on Christmas morning. We also hope to help those families keep their homes warm during the winter. We need your help. We are far from our goal of \$60,000.

Please consider supporting our efforts to help as many in our community as we can this year. Mail your donation to Penny Pitch, 383 Alderson Street, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Your donation is tax-free, and Penny Pitch is an all-volunteer effort. Your money stays in the community.

Thank you to all of our donors!

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50.00	In memory of Joyce Montgomery from Paul & Mary Lindquist
100.00	Caring Acres Farm (Lewisburg)
TOTAL	\$6,900.00

*"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"*

## Gov. Justice delivers \$5M check to Greenbrier Valley Airport for terminal, runway upgrades

Gov. Jim Justice has presented the Greenbrier Valley Airport with a \$5 million check to be used towards a terminal rehabilitation and runway renovation.

The terminal rehabilitation will allow the airport to increase gate space and expand airline services. The runway rehabilitation enables the airport to fully resurface its 150-foot-wide runway, improve the road's grading, and incorporate additional LED lights to enhance visibility, among other modifications.

The airport has also grappled with crosswind challenges, and the improvements are essential to accommodate large commercial and military planes at the facility.

"I wholeheartedly believe that airports are the heartbeat of our state," Gov. Justice said. "We will tirelessly support these crucial hubs, knowing they are important to our economy and communities, and this region has a goldmine of potential. We are determined to seize that potential with these improvements, as it signals our dedication to ensuring West Virginia not only thrives but soars into a promising future."

The West Virginia Department of Transportation's 2024 budget allocated \$1 million for the airport's terminal rehabilitation. The additional \$4 million came from a non-federal match fund specifically earmarked for runway renovation.



Gov. Justice (center) presents a \$5 million check to Greenbrier Valley Airport.



Justice speaks to attendees in front of the annual Angel Tree in the LWB airport terminal.

## Greenbrier County Commission wishes Robert Ford a happy retirement, amends county-employee handbook

By Matthew Young, RealWV

The Greenbrier County Commission, on Tuesday, affirmed the retirement of Robert Ford from the Greenbrier County Planning and Permit Office.

Ford began his employment with Greenbrier County in June of 2012.

"I'd just like to thank Robert for his service over the years," Commissioner Lowell Rose said. "I hope that he has a long and happy retirement."

After approving new hires for the County Prosecutor's Office and 911 Center, commissioners attempted to resume deliberation of the 911 Center's Motorola and Aviat system-upgrade project. However, as no representatives of the 911 Center, nor any representatives of either company, were present to answer questions, commissioners tabled the topic for future consideration. A supple-

mental meeting to discuss the project has been scheduled for Friday, Dec. 1.

Next, the commission discussed revising county employment policies, and amending the employee handbook to add a 40-hour work-week requirement for full-time benefit eligibility. On-hand to provide an overview of the proposed revisions and amendment was County Attorney Britt Ludwig.

"There is a discrepancy in the handbook about qualification for fringe benefits," Ludwig explained. "With the purpose of clarifying the policy, written guidance has been established that would require an employee to be

scheduled for a 40-hour work week in order to qualify for fringe benefits offered by the county."

According to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), "A fringe benefit is a form of pay for the performance of services. For example, you provide an employee with a fringe benefit when you allow the employee to use a business vehicle to commute to and from work."

"You have to be a permanent employee," Ludwig added. "Temporary employees would not be eligible, and part-time employees would not be eligible for fringe benefits. It clarifies that the 40-hour work week can include the See "Co. Commission"

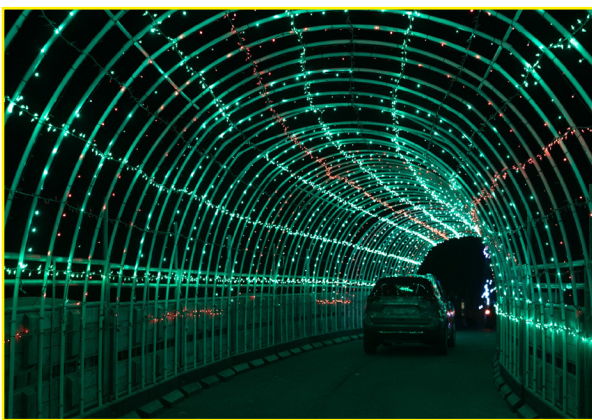
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## Christmas at the Fair returns for 2023 season

By Sarah Richardson

The beloved Christmas at the Fair drive-through light show experience has returned to the State Fair of West Virginia for the 2023 holiday season. After opening night on Nov. 30, the light show will be held Thursdays through Sundays from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. through Saturday, Dec. 23.

The route starts at the See "Christmas at the Fair" \_\_\_\_\_ Page 2



A peek at last year's Christmas at the Fair. (Photo courtesy State Fair of WV)

## WV Juried Exhibit 2023 winners announced

Artists from Fairmont, Marion County; Augusta, Hampshire County; and Richwood, Nicholas County, won the top prizes in the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History's (WVDACH) 23rd biennial West Virginia Juried Exhibition, which opened Sunday, Nov. 5, at the Culture Center, State Capitol Complex in Charleston.

The exhibit, featuring 89 paintings, sculptures, prints, drawings, photographs, mixed media and crafts created by 66 West Virginia artists, is cosponsored by the West Virginia Commission on the Arts. The exhibit will remain on display through Feb. 10, 2024. A list of all exhibitors can be found at <https://wvculture.org/2023-west-virginia-juried-exhibition-artists-announced/>.

John Williams of Renick earned a Merit Award of \$500 for his piece Live Edge Cherry Table with Sculpted Stand (cherry wood sculpture).

Ten pieces in the exhibit will be purchased and become part of the West Virginia State Museum's permanent collection. Jurors Stephen Wicks and Jennifer Kaplan, both of Knoxville, Tenn., selected three artists as this year's \$5,000 Governor's Award winners, with one receiving the D. Gene Jordon Memorial Award, which is named for a former chairman of the West Virginia Commission on the Arts who died in 1989; seven pieces were



John Williams (Center) of Renick accepting his 2023 West Virginia Juried Exhibit award for his piece Live Edge Cherry Table with Sculpted Stand, pictured in the background.

See "Juried Exhibit 2023" \_\_\_\_\_ Page 2

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# Annual Christmas parade scheduled in Alderson

The Annual Christmas Parade in Alderson has been scheduled for Friday, Dec. 1, beginning at 7 p.m. Line-up will start at 6 p.m. on Virginia Street like the July 4th Parade lines up. It will proceed down River-view Avenue and across the Alderson Memorial Bridge and disband in front of the Alderson Volunteer Fire Department. Santa will greet children and hear their wishes inside the AVFD. Treats will be provided by the Alderson Women's Club. Both the award-winning Greenbrier East Marching Band and the Eastern Greenbrier Middle School Marching Band have committed to attend.

Mayor Travis Copenhaver said, "This route is just like 2022. Since we no longer have the Community Center available to host the visits with Santa, we are going back to the route from many years ago when the parade ended on the Monroe County side of town and Santa will greet the children inside the AVFD."

Copenhaver added, "We have been in touch with Santa Claus, and he will ride on the AVFD fire truck at the end of the parade. Since Santa has agreed to be here, none of his helpers will be needed. There should be no other "Santas" on any of the floats or part of any walking unit or anywhere in the parade."

Coordinated by Lois McVey, the Queen of Lights, from the 5th grade class of Alderson Elementary School, will light up the Alderson Memorial Bridge and other lighted displays as she moves along the parade route.

People and organizations who want to demonstrate their holiday spirit should



Santa rides and waves to everyone atop the Alderson Volunteer Fire Department truck each year.



The Annual Christmas Parade in Alderson goes across the Alderson Memorial Bridge and under the Christmas lights.

line up on Virginia Street before 7 p.m. No pre-registration is required.

The section of River-view Avenue from Virginia Street to the Fruits of Labor Cafe has been designated a quiet zone. Parade units are asked to refrain from loud noises in this section so that people with auditory sensitivities can also enjoy the parade.

The Johnson Memorial United Methodist Church, at 104 North Monroe Street across from the Exxon Station, will have their Christmas Bazaar in

the basement open from 4:00 to 7 and a dinner of chili or potato soup and sandwiches will be served for a small fee. Many Alderson Shops will be open and dinner will also be available at the Big Wheel Restaurant and Riverview Cafe.

Alderson Main Street President Don Sutherland said, "We are so excited to begin the traditional Christmas activities this year! Please watch social media and the newspapers for information on more to come."

# GreenbrierWV.com strikes silver at Cleveland Rocks Awards

The Greenbrier County Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) and Fahlgren Mortine are thrilled to announce the recent win at the Cleveland Rocks Award. The two organizations received a Silver Award for the comprehensive redesign of GreenbrierWV.com.

The Greater Cleveland Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) hosts the annual awards to spotlight outstanding campaigns and tactics within the Cleveland area.

"We are honored to be recognized with Fahlgren Mortine by Cleveland's chapter of PRSA," said Kara DENSE, president and CEO of the Greenbrier County CVB. "This accolade underscores the exceptional website development by our agency, Fahlgren Mortine, and the CVB's unwavering commitment to showcasing the Greenbrier Valley as a premier destination."

Fahlgren Mortine and the Greenbrier County CVB began collaborating on the website redesign in 2022 as part of the brand refresh. The website officially launched in the spring of 2023. The award-winning redesign not only enhances the user experience but also showcases the beauty and unique offerings of the Greenbrier Valley. This achievement reinforces GreenbrierWV.com as the go-to destination for visitors and locals alike.

Fahlgren Mortine has been the agency of record for the Greenbrier County CVB since July 2016. Steve Parker, the website designer, resides in Cleveland, making GreenbrierWV.com eligible for entry.



The Silver Award given to the Greenbrier County CVB and Fahlgren Mortine for the website GreenbrierWV.com.

## County Commission

Continued from Front Page

meal breaks that the County Commission provides to employees as part of their eight-hour workday."

Ludwig further explained that paid holidays, as well as sick or personal leave also counts towards accrual of a 40-hour work week for the purposes of achieving full-time status. At the conclusion of Ludwig's explanation, the commission unanimously approved the revisions and amendment, effective Nov. 28.

In other business, commissioners approved a resolution granting the Greenbrier County Economic Development Commission (GVEDC) \$41,221 for the continuation of their work, and signed a formal "subrecipient grant agreement" for the Fort Springs Hazard Mitigation grant project.

As explained by Commission President Tammy Tincher, the Hazard Mitigation grant project, known as the "Fort Springs, W.Va. elevation project," is a residential restoration project "that has been submitted to FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) after the flood."

"It's been ongoing for quite a while within the system," Tincher said, adding that the property in question is located on John Perry Lane. "It is an elevation project, which means raising the structure to be able to meet the floodplain elevation requirements. We've received federal funding and state funding, and this is the agreement for the state funding."

As the meeting's conclusion, Tincher noted, "If there is still anyone that's interested in public water between Charmco and Rainelle, and Sam Black, Clintonville, Alta, and Asbury, to the top of Muddy Creek Mountain, please reach out to Public Service District #2. Their phone number is 304-438-9292, and they can assist you with all the information you need."

The Greenbrier County Commission is next scheduled to meet on Dec. 1 at 2:30 p.m.

## Christmas at the Fair

Continued from Front Page

219 North entrance to the fairgrounds (near the livestock barns). It winds down through the grounds and loops around the midway before coming back up for an exit at the 219 North entrance location. There are restrooms available at the agriculture pavilion, as well as vendors offering funnel cakes, deep-fried Oreos, hot chocolate, and coffee to attendees.

Visitors should turn their radio to 106.9, and make sure to turn off vehicle headlights while in procession. Rain or shine, the light show will be held! The cost of this event is by donation only, with all proceeds going to support next year's event.

## Juried Exhibit 2023

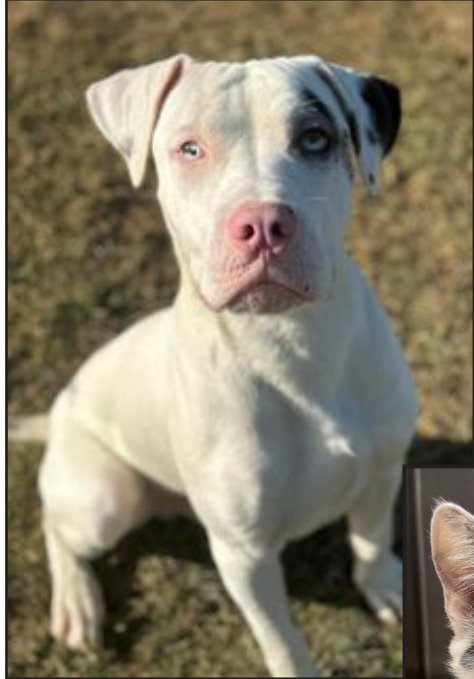
Continued from Front Page

awarded \$2,000 Awards of Excellence; and an additional eight Merit Awards of \$500 were chosen that are not purchase awards and do not become part of the museum's collection.

The WVDACH proudly presents this biennial event in partnership with the West Virginia Commission on the Arts and with support from the West Virginia Legislature, which appropriates funding for the exhibition's awards. The \$33,000 in award money constitutes one of the largest endowments for a single exhibition in the country.

Many of the works on display are for sale and may be purchased through the closing of the exhibition. Photos of the 18 award-winning pieces can be found at: <https://wv-culture.zenfolio.com/p672359606>.

## PICK OF THE LITTER



### HOWIE

Howie is a one-year-old Great Dane mix and weighs 70 pounds



### RUTH

Ruth is a two-year-old female domestic shorthair

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

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

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

Call 304-645-4775 for more information.

They also offer donation-based spay/neuter vouchers, and clinics are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. They use a lot of vets in the area but the clinics fill up fast! Fill out an application to help prevent animal overpopulation! Call 304-645-4775 for more information.

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# Briefly

## Williamsburg Shooting Match

will be held Dec. 2 at the Community Building, 6571 Shoestring, Trail, Williamsburg, WV, beginning at 7 p.m. Match will be eight rounds, 12-gauge guns only. Full choke, .660 inch minimum. Screw in chokes must be from a recognized supplier (patented) and extend no more than 3 inches beyond original barrel. Barrel length 34" maximum. First Seven rounds at \$2.50 per shot, eighth round 50/50 at \$7.50 per shot. Shooters must compete in the first 7 rounds in order to compete in the 8th round. 50/50 splatter match is \$1 per chance between rounds - Cash prizes will be awarded. You do not need to be a shooter to win! Come early! Come hungry! Delicious hot food and refreshments will be available starting at 6 p.m. Families welcome; you don't have to shoot to come get a meal! We hope to see you all there.

## Holiday Farmers Market

every Saturday now through Dec. 23 inside the Blue Ribbon Center at the West Virginia State Fairgrounds from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be a market café, music, local food, and crafts.

## 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. **Christmas Party Dec. 16 will feature Eades Mountain Boys, 7 to 10:30. New Year's Party Dec. 31. will feature the Thomas Taylor Band, 7 to Midnight.** 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.

## Legislative Town Hall rescheduled

The Greenbrier GOP Legislative Town Hall, previously scheduled for Nov. 28, has been rescheduled to Dec. 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Rupert Community Center.

## Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Convictions

Eric Gonzalez, Smoot, no insurance, GP, fine \$200  
Andrae Cartez Simmons, Princeton, driving while license suspended or revoked, NCP, fine \$100  
Patrick Neyland, Falls Church, VA, 1) driving left of center, NCP, fine \$25; 2) improper passing, fine \$25  
Erica J. Hall, Barboursville, 1) speeding, GP, fine \$26; 2) expired registration, fine \$50  
Fernando D. Juica Luya, Montgomery Village, MD, speeding, NCP, fine \$40  
Jedediah Gillian, Crawley, 1) no or expired inspection sticker, fine \$10; 2) improper registration, fine \$25  
Brittany N. Bevins, Quinwood, speeding, GP fine \$18  
Roberta A. McCann, Sulphur, KY, speeding, GP, fine \$5  
Christopher Michael Legg, Covington, VA, 1) hunting without license, GP, fine \$30; 2) hunting from a motor vehicle, fine \$40  
Junior Roland Bostic, Lewisburg, driving without valid driver's license, GP, fine \$25  
Robert Forrest Baker, Alderson, 1) assault, GV, fine \$100; 2) brandishing deadly weapons, fine \$1,000  
Charley E. Simms, Williamsburg, 1) illegal possession of wildlife, GP, fine \$75; 2) illegal possession of wildlife, GP, fine \$75; 3) illegal possession of wildlife, GP, fine \$75  
Randall Gerald Keener, Jr., Clintonville, possession of controlled substance - meth, NCP, fine \$100, jail 90 days - suspended and placed on 12 months unsupervised probation

## 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

will meet on Thursday, Dec. 7 at 10:30 a.m. at 804 Industrial Drive, Suite 5, in Maxwelton. This is a onetime change only because of the holidays. Regular meetings continue to be on the fourth Thursday of each month. The public is invited to attend. Call 304-520-3221 for more information.

### Renick Town Council

will meet Monday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. at Renick Town Hall. Agenda Items are as follows:

- Community comments
- Approval of Minutes - November meeting
- Approval of Financial Reports for November
- Old Business
- New Business
- Committee Reports
  - Building Committee,
  - Maintenance Committee
  - Park
  - Streets
  - Finance
- Other Business

### Lewisburg Planning Commission

will meet Thursday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. at 942 Washington Street, West. Also available by Zoom teleconference. Please contact Marsha Cunningham no later than 3 p.m. on Dec. 7, at 304-645-2080 ext. 104 for instructions on how to join the meeting. On the agenda:

- Approval of Minutes - Nov. 2, 2023
- Comments from the public
- Public Hearing: Franklin Johnson, 395 Maple Street - request for a Conditional Use Permit for a three plus bedroom Air BnB
- Comments from Planning Commission members
- Comments from Planning & Zoning Officer

The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting will be held Jan. 4, with a deadline of Friday, Dec. 15.

## For the Record

### Deeds

Bradley P. Righi to Michael B. Righi: White Gate unit 26, White Sulphur District, Map 6 Parcel 35.2./ Filed Nov. 20, 2023

Mark H. Wright and Bradford Ritchie (trustees) to Jacob S. Parker: lot 31 Riverview Addition, Alderson District. Filed Nov. 20, 2023.

Bruner Land Company Inc. to Daniel Hylton and Bridget Hylton: 310.31 acres. Falling Spring District, Map 40 Parcel 6. Filed Nov. 21, 2023.

Johnny Deline and Samuel Deline to Union Mission Church of North America (by trustees): 0.155 acres, lot 10 Mill Creek & 0.465 acres; lots 7, 8, and 9 Mill Creek, Meadow Bluff District. Map 55F Parcel 16, 33. Filed Nov. 27, 2023.

Betty G. Oney to WV Dept. of Transportation Division of Highways: Springdale Estates, Lewisburg District Map 14 Parcel 17. Filed Nov. 27, 2023.

William S. Dukart and Janice R. Centa to William T. Freeman and Ashley E. Freeman: lot 10 Kestrel Corner, 3.52 acres, Fort Spring District, Map 13 Parcel 0106. Filed Nov. 27, 2023.

WV State Auditor (by appointee G. Russell Rollyson) to Ethel M. Oney: lot 23 block 8, Meadow Bluff District, Map 48E Parcel 0043. Filed Nov. 27, 2023.

Ester V. Arnett to Earl A. Arnett Jr.: property, Rupert District, Map Map 5, 5C Parcel 27, 28, 32. Filed Nov. 27, 2023.

Chester Yates to Steve M. Dahmer Jr. and Martha E. Dahmer: lots 10 & 11, part of lots 9 & 12, Lewisburg District, Map 24, Parcel 0060. Filed Nov. 28, 2023.

Danny W. Holland to Danny W. Holland and Jennifer E. Holland: 3.71 acres, Frankford District, Mao 10 Parcel 12.1. Filed Nov. 28, 2023.

Ridgeview Investments LLC to Adam Woodring and Colleen M. Conrad: 7.60 acres, Lewisburg District, Map 25 Parcel 138. Filed Nov. 28, 2023.

Michael L. Callison and Kathryn S. Callison to Michael Beck and Shelley Beck: 2.02 acres, White Sulphur District, Map 11 Parcel 19.1. Filed Nov. 29, 2023.

## Oh deer! WV leads the nation in deer strike accidents

Hunting isn't all we think about when it comes to deer. According to insurance statistics, the Mountain State leads the nation in deer strike accidents on the state's roads.

"We live in a mountainous, rural area where wildlife is prevalent," said Joe Pack, P.E. WV Division of Highways (WVDOH) Chief Engineer of Operations. "The more rural the area, the more likely accidents are to happen."

Between Jan. 1, 2023, and Monday, Nov. 20, 2023, 10,618 deer were hit on West Virginia highways, as well as 15 bears. Coyotes and other wild animals are also occasionally struck by cars on Mountain State roads.

Cleaning up after those



accidents falls to the men and women who work in the WVDOH field offices spread throughout the state.

"We treat it just like any other road obstruction," Pack said. A deer in the middle of an interstate poses more of a threat to the public than a deer on the

side of a rural road, so the WVDOH takes care of the most dangerous sites first.

But WVDOH work crews might not be aware of every single animal strike. If you see a dead deer or other animal in or near a state roadway, you can report it through the

Safety With Action Today (SWAT) hotline. Call 1-833-WVROADS, email WVROADS@wv.gov, or visit https://dotforms.wv.gov/cra to file a report of an animal strike online.

Citizens may also contact their local WVDOH field office.

## West Virginia could lose hundreds of millions in Medicaid funding

By Nadia Ramlagan for WVNS

Since West Virginia's Medicaid eligibility review began this spring, around 100,000 residents have been kicked off the rolls.

Experts have said many likely remain eligible, but perhaps did not respond to a paperwork request or have a new address. With Medicaid numbers shrinking, the state could lose hundreds of millions of dollars in federal matching funds for the program.

Renate Pore, health care policy consultant for West Virginians for Affordable Healthcare, said fewer dollars mean fewer resources for low-income families, people with disabilities, pregnant women, and others who rely on Medicaid for health coverage.

"The 100,000 people who no longer have Medicaid coverage," Pore explained, "may not even know they no longer have Medicaid coverage until they go to a doctor's office and find out that, indeed, their coverage has dropped."

Last December, more than 656,000 people were enrolled in West Virginia's Medicaid program, according to state data. A 2022 KFF survey found nationwide, more than half of adults report they have gone into debt because of medical or dental bills.

Census data show 23 million people are saddled with significant medical debt and collectively, Americans owe at least \$195 billion.

The state came under recent federal scrutiny for mistakenly dropping thousands of children from its rolls. Pore added with a shrinking Medicaid population comes a 5% loss in federal funding for the program's operation and reimbursements, which she called significant.

"It's very concerning," Pore stressed. "The state's going to lose funding for all those people who have been dropped. In addition, the 80% federal support goes back down to about 75%."

People can start the Medicaid renewal process online

through the state's PATH portal, by phone at 877-716-1212 or in person at local Department of Health and Human Resources field offices.

West Virginians looking for health coverage can contact a navigator or call 844-WV-CARES.

**Have a submission?**

Email submission to  
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# OBITUARIES

## Linda Sue Hammons



**Ronceverte**-Linda Sue Hammons, 72, passed away Thursday, Nov. 23, 2023, at the Seneca Trail Healthcare Center.

Born July 25, 1951, in Ronceverte, she was the daughter of the late Luther and Mildred Baker Wykle.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, Kenny Wykle and sister, Bonnie Wyber.

Survivors include her husband, Danny Hammons; son, Jamey Hammons; daughters, Jennifer McCallister (Adam) and Stacy Hammons; brother, Bobby Wykle (Gwen); sister, Patty Smith; grandchildren, Lance, Mary, Noah and Kolin Hammons, Josh Holliday, Sarah Spurlock, Meghan and Kendra McCallister, Destiny, Kylee, Zachery, Nadaley, Coby and Wesley Hamrick; and several nieces, and nephews.

Graveside service will be held at 12 noon, Monday, Nov. 27, in the Mausoleum of Greenbrier Memorial Gardens, Lewisburg, with Pastor Gary Baker officiating. There will be no visitation.

Online guestbook may be signed at [www.morganfh.net](http://www.morganfh.net). Arrangements by Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV.

## Frances F. Richardson



**Lewisburg**-Frances F. Richardson, 88, passed away peacefully at her home in Lewisburg on Monday, Nov. 27, 2023, surrounded by family.

The daughter of Abner S. Fitch and Lizzie Mae Boswell Fitch, she was born and raised on their farm in rural Caswell County, NC, where she learned the value of hard work and developed a devotion to family that characterized her life.

She is survived by the love of her life and her husband of 67 years, John R. Richardson, as well as six children - Donna McNeel (Jacob), Robert Richardson (Susan), Douglas Richardson (Janet), Lisa Abdella (Greg), Steven Richardson (Valorie), and Beth Goshorn (Leon). She was immensely proud of each of her nine grandchildren - David Weikle (Susan), Sarah Richardson (Jamison Sizemore), Christine Richardson, Adam Richardson, Emily Louise Richardson, Paige Abdella, Brooke Abdella, Matthew Richardson (Emma), and Derek Richardson, and she beamed at even the mention of any of her six great-grandchildren. She is also survived by three sisters, Elsie Fitch, Lorine Totten, and Shirley Moore (Jerry), and three sisters-in-law, Margaret Cook, Betty Shaffer, and Faye Fitch, and by numerous nieces and nephews, neighbors and

friends. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brothers, James Fitch and Eldridge Fitch.

Frances was known for her love of children. Through her home-based daycare business she shared her affection with dozens, if not hundreds, of children over three decades, always exhibiting a calm patience regardless of the circumstances. Her home was a magnet for neighborhood children, who would often come to play with her children or with the children she watched. She welcomed all of them with her warm smile and kind heart, usually with a meal or at least a snack - no one was allowed to go hungry at Frances Richardson's house.

She was a committed member of the Lewisburg United Methodist Church, where she served several terms as president of the United Methodist Women and in numerous other capacities. Until she became unable to do so because of her health, she was a steadfast presence in the church kitchen for dinners, receptions and other events, faithfully serving others in times of celebration and in times of need. Frances also participated actively with the Lewisburg Lioness Club, and greatly enjoyed the fellowship and opportunity for service that it provided to her.

Funeral services will be held at the Lewisburg United Methodist Church at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3, with Rev. Bev Colombo officiating. Visitation will take place at the church immediately prior to the services, from 2 until 3. Interment will follow in Greenbrier Memorial Gardens near Lewisburg.

Memorial donations may be made to the Lewisburg United Methodist Women, P.O. Box 69, Lewisburg, WV 24901, or to the charity of your choice.

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

## Carol Hayes Cales



**Lewisburg**-Carol Hayes Cales, 76, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023, just one day prior to her 77th birthday.

Born Nov. 23, 1946 in Lewisburg at the home of her maternal grandparents, Dora and Lonnie Foren, she was the daughter of the late Joe Blackburn Hayes and Mary Forren Hayes.

After graduating from Lewisburg High School, Carol moved to Rockville, MD and then to Fort Worth, TX, working for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the General Services Administration. During her 37-year career with the federal government, she received the Pride Award for Excellence in Customer Service, Exceptional Service Award, Commendable

Service Award and Supervisor of the Year in the States of Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas.

She received her BA Degree in Public Administration from Upper Iowa University and certification from Building Owners and Managers Institute (BOMI).

After retiring, Carol moved back to Lewisburg and was Office Manager for United Way of the Greenbrier Valley. She was a lifelong member of Old Stone Presbyterian Church, being an Elder and Trustee. She also held various offices on Presbyterian Women's Council, received Presbyterian Women's Honorary Life Membership, was active in STAIR Tutoring Program, Gwen's Meals, and Americana Thrift Shop. She was a member of Quota International of Greenbrier County and a past board member of Shepherd's Center of Greenbrier Valley.

Some adventures on her "bucket list" were taking a hot air balloon ride, trying to ski (failed), taking a barefoot cruise to British Virgin Islands, mission trip to Fiji Island, and mission trip to Belize. In her spare time, she enjoyed reading, dancing, working jigsaw puzzles, walking and yard work.

Those left to cherish her memory include her brother, Joe Blackburn Hayes, Jr. (Cathy); nephew, Jay Hayes (Kim); sister, Linda Hayes; as well as several cousins and her many, many friends.

As requested, her ashes will be placed in the columbarium at Old Stone Presbyterian Church and a private family memorial service will be held at that time.

Please send online condolences by visiting [www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com](http://www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com).

## Velma Kathryn Campbell Walton



**Lewisburg**-Velma Kathryn Campbell Walton, 94, passed away Monday, Nov. 20, 2023, at the Peyton Hospice House, Lewisburg, WV.

Born Nov. 18, 1929, in Stanaford, WV, she was the daughter of the late Detward and Christine Massie Campbell.

Velma was a member of the First Baptist Church of Fairlea and had retired from Greenbrier Manor as a Housekeeper.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Glen Harding Walton; son-in-law, Larry Allen Terry; brothers, Junior, Charlie, David, and Donnie Campbell; and sisters, Anita Hodges, and Alberta Mabe.

Survivors include her daughter, Beverly Terry; grandchildren, Melanie O'Brien and husband Michael, Lori Boggs and husband Heath, Beth Black and husband Eddie, Craig Terry and wife Ashley; great-grandchildren, Zachary Boggs and wife Kayla, Michaela Nor-

man and husband Tanner, Connor O'Brien, Hannah Boggs, Braden Terry, and Alayna Terry; and one great-great grandson, Berkley Norman; sisters, Drema Mills and husband Everette and Rita Campbell; brother, Buford Campbell and wife Regina; and several nieces and nephews.

Services will be private for the family. Burial will be in the Greenbrier Memorial Gardens, Lewisburg, WV.

In lieu of flowers, donations should be made to the Peyton Hospice House, 1265 Maplewood Avenue, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

Online guestbook may be signed at [www.morganfh.net](http://www.morganfh.net). Arrangements by Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV.

## Jack Elwood Willey, Jr.



**Alderson**-Jack Elwood Willey, Jr., 62, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023, at CAMC Memorial Division in Charleston, following a short illness.

Born June 24, 1961 in Clifton Forge, VA, he was the son of the late Jack Elwood Willey, Sr., and the late Ruth Mae Graham Willey.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Christopher Elwood Willey; his sister, Janet Trolian Rakes; and two nephews, Jason Trolian and Paul Richard Honaker.

Mr. Willey was a former carpenter and Master Plumber having worked at H & L Construction Company in Alderson for many years. He attended Talcott High School in Talcott, WV, and Hinton High School in Hinton. Mr. Willey attended the River of Life Church of God in Alderson. Log home building was his passion. He loved to go fishing, kayaking, and camping. He also loved to travel when his health permitted him to do so. Mr. Willey enjoyed working on a multitude of creative handcrafted projects and loved to spend time with his family.

Survivors include his wife of 42 years, Teresa Lynn Cantley Willey of Alderson; three children, Alana Dawn Blankenship and husband James of Clover, SC, Alisa Jane Willey-Lule and husband Felix of Fort Worth, TX, and Jack Elwood Willey, III of Alderson; 11 grandchildren, Brittany Blankenship, SPC Logan Willey, Shyanne Lule, Gabriel Lule, Ryker Lule, Abigail Lule, Mason Willey, Jacob Willey, Cailyn Willey, Scarlett Willey and Kaiden Willey; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Memorial services were

held on Sunday, Nov. 26, at the Lobban Funeral Home Chapel in Alderson with Pastor Anthony Carter officiating. Burial will be in the Alderson Cemetery in Alderson at a later date. Friends called Sunday, Nov. 26, at the funeral home prior to the service.

Online condolences and memories may be shared with the Willey family at [www.lobbanfh.com](http://www.lobbanfh.com).

Arrangements by Lobban Funeral Home, Alderson, WV.

## Mary Ellen Bittinger



**White Sulphur Springs**-Mary Ellen Bittinger, 97, passed away Thursday, Nov. 23, 2023, at White Sulphur Springs Center.

Mary was born on Aug. 24, 1926, in Beech Fork, TN, the daughter of the late Ross P. and Rose Lee Kennedy Holley.

She was a homemaker and worked for The Greenbrier Hotel Laundry for nine years. She was a long-time member of The White Sulphur Springs Church of God (Bethesda).

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Paul Bittinger, Sr; a son, Marty Bittinger, two sisters, Betty Anderson and Dorothy Vaughan; two brothers, Charles Holley and Lawrence Junior Holley; and a granddaughter, Stacy Weaver; two daughters-in-law, Carol Bittinger and Mary Bittinger.

Those left to cherish her memory are daughter, Teresa O'Neil (Pat) of White Sulphur Springs; five sons, Paul Bittinger (Eugenia), Tommy Bittinger, Gary Bittinger (Sandy), Terence Bittinger (Debbie) and Shane Bittinger (Marsha) all of White Sulphur Springs. She also leaves behind 12 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren and 19 great-great-grandchildren.

She is remembered for her love for God, her service in her church and the legacy she has left with her family.

Funeral services were held on Monday, Nov. 27 at Bethesda Church in White Sulphur Springs where Bishop Bryan Mathews officiated. Interment followed in Greenbrier Memorial Gardens in Lewisburg, WV.

Visitation was held prior to the service at Bethesda Church.

We are asking in lieu of flowers to make a donation to the White Sulphur Springs Center Activities Center.

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

## Betty Lee Pinnell Smith



**Alderson**-Betty Lee Pinnell Smith, 89, passed away Saturday, Nov. 25, 2023, at CAMC Memorial, Charleston, WV.

Born July 14, 1934, she was the daughter of the late Lloyd Bradley and Marie Evelyn Kershner Baker. Betty was a member of the First Baptist Church of Fairlea and had retired from City National Bank in Alderson.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband, Emmett Pinnell, Jr., and a brother, Robert Bradley Baker.

Survivors include her husband, John Watson Smith; son, Michael Scott Pinnell; daughter, Kathy Ann Pinnell Boone (Mikel); stepsons, Stuart Smith (Cheryl) and Greg Smith (Elizabeth); sister-in-law, Terri Baker; brother-in-law, Richard Pinnell; grandchildren, Michael (Chyna), Tyler, Carrie, Adam (Krissy), Rachel, Samuel and Nathan; great-grandchildren, Ember, Harlow, Liam, Cylee, Brynlee, Hunter, Maddie, Carson, Lucas, Xavier, Zoey, Cameron, Carmen, Rosie, and Ruthie; nieces, Stephanie Driscoll (Patrick) and Becky Pence (Boyd); and several great-nieces and nephews.

Funeral service was held on Thursday, Nov. 30, at the First Baptist Church of Fairlea where Pastor Ben Moses officiated. Visitation was Wednesday evening, Nov. 29, at the Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg. Burial followed the service Thursday in the Alderson Cemetery, Alderson, WV.

Online guestbook may be signed at [www.morganfh.net](http://www.morganfh.net). Arrangements by Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV.

## Catherine June Edens Hayes



**Lewisburg**-Catherine June Edens Hayes, 56, passed away Saturday, Nov. 25, 2023, at CAMC Memorial, Charleston.

Born June 27, 1967, in Philippi, WV, she was the daughter of the late Orvill "Chuck" and Betty Had-dix Edens.

Cathy had worked as an Administrative Secretary for WVDOH for 37 years.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by siblings, Mary Marteney (Jerry) and Calvin Edens (Elizabeth); sister-in-law, Adonis Edens;

Continued Page 5

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## Obituaries

### Catherine June Edens Hayes *continued*

and nephews, John, and Allen Edens.

Survivors include her loving husband, Joe B. Hayes, Jr.; stepson, Joe B. Hayes III; brother, John Edens; nieces, Barbara Gordon (Richard) Teresa Henderson (Terry) and Tracy Roth (Kevin); great-nephew, Tyler Gordon (Ashley) and great-great nephew, Oliver Wayne Gordon.

Funeral service will be at 2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 3, at the Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, with Pastor Mike Teubert officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service. Burial will follow the service in Rosewood Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations of sympathy should be made to a church or charity of your choice.

Online guestbook can be signed at [www.morganfh.net](http://www.morganfh.net). Arrangements by Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV.

### Gordon Wyatt Lewis, Jr.

Gordon Wyatt Lewis, Jr. passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023, at Carillon Memorial Hospital in Roanoke, VA, following a hemorrhagic stroke on Saturday.

He was born on Apr. 15, 1945, in Covington, VA, to the late Lilly Clifford Lewis and late Gordon Wyatt Lewis, Sr., both residents of White Sulphur Springs, WV.

Surviving are his wife, Marie McCutcheon Lewis; son, Gordon Wyatt Lewis III (late Lisa Weaver Lewis); daughter, Autumn Lewis Sweet (Larrie Garth Sweet); daughter, Lilly Margaret Lewis (Renee' Huffman); grandchildren, Jordan and Olivia Lewis; Lilly Marie, Sophie Ann and Wyatt Sweet. Also surviving are sisters, Brenda Lewis and Lu Hefner of White Sulphur Springs; brothers, Leo Lewis (Marilyn) of White Sulphur Springs and James Lewis (Shirley) of Huntington; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Gordon played football

for the Thundering Herd at Marshall University, for a season. He loved playing for White Sulphur High School, but soon decided that college-level football was too much a business for him to enjoy. He was very much a "home body" and returned to White Sulphur Springs to live and to raise a family.

He always had an opinion and was not shy about expressing it. He was a person who "did it his way." He arose each morning with a smile on his face and a happy demeanor - always in a positive mood. He loved people and never met a stranger. He was also a generous soul who helped many in need, but never wanted to be recognized for it. He was a unique personality with a big heart.

G.W., as he was known, always wished to be accepted as a regular guy - no less, no more. He was the owner of Lewis Construction and the proprietor of many small-business endeavors in Town. He loved his five grandchildren dearly and spent many hours in phone chats with each one of them. As he once said, "This is what it is all about."

G.W. was an avid hunter and spent each Thanksgiving week at the family farm on Route 92 with his son, brothers, nephews and special friends. He was very much there for the fellowship and he loved the experience. He was there on Saturday when he fell ill. He will be remembered and missed by many who knew and loved him.

A viewing was held at the Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in White Sulphur Springs on Monday evening, Nov. 27. Funeral services were held in The First Presbyterian Church on Main Street in White Sulphur Springs on Tuesday, Nov. 28, where Pastor Frank Naglic officiated. Interment followed in the Mapledale Cemetery in White Sulphur Springs.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; The First Presby-

terian Church in White Sulphur Springs; or a favorite American Veterans Charity.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in White Sulphur Springs is in charge of arrangements. Please send online condolences by visiting [www.Wallace-andWallaceFH.com](http://www.Wallace-andWallaceFH.com).

### Randolph S. Knipp



**Lewisburg-Randolph Spotswood Knipp, 90,** passed away Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023 peacefully at home in his sleep.

He was born in Hampton Roads, VA, during the height of the Great Depression, on Feb. 18, 1933. Herbert Hoover was still president.

He attended Virginia Military Institute and graduated with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and served two years as a tank commander in Fort Knox, Kentucky.

In 1960, he met the Mississippi girl of his dreams, Ina Jean McCabe and the two were wed and moved to Littleton, Colorado. Both had high security clearances and worked for the missile defence program at Hughes Aircraft. Randolph as an engineer, Jean as a secretary.

Only son, Chuck arrived in 1961. In 1963, the small family moved to Orange, Texas. Randolph attained his Master's degree in mathematics from Lamar University, and worked as an engineer/consultant for Dupont SRW until his retirement.

After his beloved Jean passed away in 2015 after 55 years of marriage, he reached out to long forgotten friends to fill the hours of his newfound loneliness. It was then he connected to his high school

girlfriend, Julie (Gremmels) Ford, who had also just lost her husband. The two were a high school "item" in Lynchburg, VA, from 1948-1952, after which they both graduated and went on to pursue their passions and careers.

The romance with Julie was rekindled almost immediately, over 65 years since they'd last seen each other, and he moved to be with her in West Virginia. He fell in love with not only Julie, but also the town, the weather, and the social options. He was welcomed warmly by Julie's daughters, Sarah and Charlotte, and their husbands, who nick-named him "Grandolph," because he was so good around the grandchildren. The couple made the most of their time, traveling extensively, attending community events and enjoying every moment together.

Julie passed away early last year. A short time later, he lost his beloved elderly poodle, "Coco." Though bereaved, he continued with a very active social life and frequent road trips, often to Orange to visit old friends here.

He will be remembered for his genuineness and generosity. His time, resources, counsel and help were always just a phone call away. He had a delightful gentlemanly manner, a mellifluous and charming Southern voice, and an extraordinary vocabulary and grasp of scientific concepts.

A lifelong Presbyterian, Randolph was confirmed a member of the Anglican faith in 2021 and was very active in his and Julie's church, St. James' Episcopal in Lewisburg. A memorial service will be held there in the near future. In lieu of flowers, Randolph would have asked to be remembered by those who knew him by doing a good deed for someone (without telling them). He loved life and always felt he was extraordinarily blessed.

Claybar Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. ([claybarfuneralhome.com](http://claybarfuneralhome.com))

**Mountain Messenger**

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## Church Bulletin

### Christmas Bazaar in Alderson

Johnson Memorial United Methodist Church in Alderson is holding a Christmas Bazaar for all community members. The annual event will occur on Friday, Dec. 1, from 4 to 7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 3, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. Chili, soups, sandwiches, drinks and desserts will be served for \$8 per adult and \$5 per child. A silent auction, bake sale, craft sale, and white elephant sale will also occur.

### Trout Baptist Christmas singing

On Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. the Trout Baptist Church will have Christmas Singing performed by the congregation as well as special singers. Everyone is welcome!

### First Baptist Church of Fairlea Community Christmas Cantata

The First Baptist Church of Fairlea welcomes the public to celebrate Christmas in song! The cantata "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" brings a contemporary worship experience of modernized traditional carols, worship ballads, and gospel-style originals, conveying the joy, wonder, and inspiration of Christ's humble and wondrous birth. The cantata, under the direction of Jeff Bryant, will be presented Dec. 16 at 8:30 p.m. in the Chapel of The Greenbrier and Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of First Baptist of Fairlea. A live orchestra will accompany the choir, featuring both local and regional musicians. The nursery will be for children 3 and under. Questions may be directed to FBC's church office at [fbsharp@gmail.com](mailto:fbsharp@gmail.com) or 304-645-3533.

## OPINION

### Commentary

### Legislature tries to control 'carbon capture' program

In the last regular session of the Legislature, there were several serious misguided attempts to insert the State of West Virginia into the middle of private, voluntary forest carbon capture agreements. This ill-advised effort is a classic case of a solution in search of a problem.

Any attempt by the Legislature to control, regulate, or interfere with these private contracts is a fool's errand, as the price of lumber or any other commodity is dominated by the law of supply and demand. The history of the government's worldwide intrusion to control prices or force an increase or decrease in demand is one of monumental failure.

Here are the basic facts:

1. The "carbon capture" program is a private, non-governmental contract between the forest landowners (the sellers) and those who want to offset emissions (the buyers).
2. The forest land seller is still permitted to harvest a portion of his or her timber that is covered by the carbon

capture agreement and the idea of no-cut forest carbon contracts do not exist.

3. Forest carbon capture agreements cover only a small fraction of West Virginia's forests.
4. The argument that forest carbon capture will cause market shortages in lumber is false, since the price of almost all species of hardwoods has dropped substantially in recent years because of a growing surplus, and the demand for hardwoods is down close to 50% from the 1990s because of global competition and the wood substitute markets.

As Greenbrier County landowners and past West Virginia Tree Farmers of The Year, Can we encourage the West Virginia Legislature to let the "free market" work and not try to tamper with the natural forces of supply and demand and not to infringe on the rights of private landowners.

*William "Skip" and Judy Deegans  
Lewisburg, WV*

### Commentary

### Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes start journey

From Nov. 13 through Nov. 20, 3,475 Gospel Opportunities (also known as Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes) were dropped off at the WV Building on the Fairgrounds and processed by approximately 100 volunteers to ready them for their journey around the world.

These Gospel Opportunities will reach children around the world during 2024 and provide each child not only a shoebox full of gifts, but the greatest gift of all, Jesus. Each child will receive a booklet in their language that tells the story of Jesus. They will also be given the opportunity to participate in a 12-week Bible Study Class taught by trained members of their community to prayerfully accept Jesus as their personal Savior and be prepared to tell others about Him.

I want to thank each person that packed a Gospel Opportunity, volunteered in any capacity, and prayed. You are a testimony to the great community where we are blessed to live. If you are interested in learning more about the Operation Christmas Child program, learn about opportunities to serve, or volunteer please contact me, Brenda Wallace at [wallace76@aol.com](mailto:wallace76@aol.com).

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# ADVERTISER GREENBRIER VALLEY

## LEGAL

### Greenbrier Valley Solid Waste Notice to Customers of Rate Increase

GVSW provides notice that it will increase its rates (excluding fuel and tipping free surcharges) not to exceed the 6.94 percentage increase in the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Garbage and Trash Collection Index from September 2022 to September 2023, as calculated by the Public Service Commission in M.C. General Order No. 64.

The increased residential and negotiated commercial tariff rates as shown in the table below will take effect on January 1st, 2024

	Present Rate	Proposed Rate	Dollar (\$) Increase	Percent (%) Increase
Rates:	16.45	17.59	1.14	6.94
Residential Base Rates	22.45	24.00	1.55	6.94

This increase will be implemented pursuant to WV Code § 24A-5-2a(d) which specifies that an annual rate increase is permitted without the filing of an application for approval by the Public Service Commission provided that notice is given to customers and the increase is not greater than the preceding September year increase in the Garbage and Trash Collection Index.

## LEGAL

(2022-C-000704 - GREENBRIER COUNTY - ELEMENTAL RESOURCES)

To: LINDA LOIS GRIFFITH C/O LARRY GRIFFITH, TD AUTO FINANCE LLC, RE: JUDGMNT 65/192 (ROBERT L. WHITE) CASE # CC-13-2021-C-32, LINDA LOIS GRIFFITH, JESSICA DAWN WHITE, ROBERT LEE WHITE, ROBERT LEE WHITE, TD AUTO FINANCE LLC, RE: JUDGMNT 65/192 (ROBERT L. WHITE) CASE # CC-13-2021-C-32, 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 WHITE SULPHUR MAP 23J PARCEL 0047 0000 0000**  
No. 2022-C-000704, located in WHITE SULPHUR District, PT LOT 36 (B) FROM GIGGENBACH EAST OF W.S.S. NORTH S which was returned delinquent and nonentered in the name of GRIFFITH LINDA LOIS, and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of GREENBRIER County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on May 10, 2023. ELEMENTAL RESOURCES requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after May 1, 2024, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before April 30, 2024 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the certification, with interest, for tax year ticket number 2021 - 30230.	\$	97.90
Back tax tickets, with interest, and charges due on the date of certification for ticket number.	\$	0.00
Subsequent of taxes paid on the property, with interest to for tax year 2022 - 30508.	\$	33.05
Additional taxes with interest.	\$	0.00
Auditor's Certification, Publication, and Redemption fee plus interest.	\$	106.92
Amount paid for Title Examination, notice to redeem, publication, personal service, Secretary of State with interest.	\$	1,004.11
Additional Statutory Fees with Interest.	\$	0.00
Total Amount Due and Payable to WV State Auditor - cashier check, money order or certified or personal check.	\$	1,241.98

**You may redeem at any time before April 30, 2024 by paying the above total less any unearned interest.**

Given under my hand November 14, 2023

**G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.**

G. Russell Rollyson, Jr.

Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and

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# Dear Recycle Lady,

# A Look Back

## Dear Recycle Lady,

I took some confidential papers to the Recycling Center last week and they assured me those papers were kept in a safe place until they were shredded. I wanted to see the shredding process to be sure they would be protected. Why would they not permit me to see them shredded?

## Shredder Wannabe

**Dear Shredder Wannabe,**

There are several pieces of heavy equipment involved in the shredding and baling of shredded papers. There are large pieces of machinery in operation as well as the staff moving around who are operating the machinery. Thus, it is not safe for anyone not an employee of the Recycling Center to be on the floor when paper is being shredded and baled. Please rest assured that any confidential documents brought to the Recycling Center are locked in a windowless room that is only accessed by employees when adding documents or shredding them. After confidential documents are shredded, they are mixed with other shredded material that has been brought to the center, and then everything is baled. The baling process creates pieces of paper so small and so tightly packed that it would be impossible for anyone to

put them back together.

## Dear Recycle Lady,

I just replaced four stove eye drip pans. The pans that I removed are all metal, but they are somewhat rusted. Can they be recycled? What about a metal wheelbarrow? Is it too large to be recycled?

## Cook & Gardener

**Dear Cook & Gardener,**

Yes, your metal stove eye drip pans can be recycled, even though they are rusty. Your old metal wheelbarrow can be recycled, also. The Recycling Center accepts all items made of metal, except for extremely large items like a car. Take your drip pans and wheelbarrow to the Recycle Center and look for the sign on the right-hand side of the building pointing to aluminum can recycling. Push the indicated button for recycling aluminum cans and someone will come to assist you.

Kudos To When Pigs Fly for hosting the ninth annual Giving Back Day dinner and feeding 881 guests a delicious free Thanksgiving dinner. They were supported by local businesses, churches and individuals who donated food and cash, as well as all the volunteers that helped prepare, cook, serve, deliver, and cleanup. Not only was everyone busy with the dinner, they were also

busy recycling cardboard boxes that supplies came in, as well as steel cans and anything else that could be recycled. Special kudos to Barnwood Builders for their donation of all the compostable, environmentally friendly food containers. What a wonderful example of people helping people, as well as helping the environment!

Good News: Coral reefs are being restored on a massive scale. Over 40 countries, including the United States, have made a commitment to give coral reefs a bright future by pledging \$12 billion to restore them. The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) is leading the efforts to give the 48,262 square miles of coral reefs a new lease on life. Their goal is to restore 30% of coral reefs by 2030. Coral reefs aren't just pretty to look at. They are home to one-fourth of all marine species and a lifeline for over a million people, according to [www.freetheocean.com/journal/celebrating-a-win-as-the-world-rallies-for-coral-reefs](http://www.freetheocean.com/journal/celebrating-a-win-as-the-world-rallies-for-coral-reefs).

Have questions about recycling, or interesting information about recycling? Send questions or requests to [recyclelady@greenbrier-swa.com](mailto:recyclelady@greenbrier-swa.com). Dear Recycle Lady is sponsored jointly by the Greenbrier Recycling Center and Greenworks Recycling.

## By William "Skip" Deegans

Perhaps no performer at Lewisburg's Carnegie Hall has arrived in Greenbrier County with as much pizzazz as did the prima ballerina Marina Svetlova in 1948.

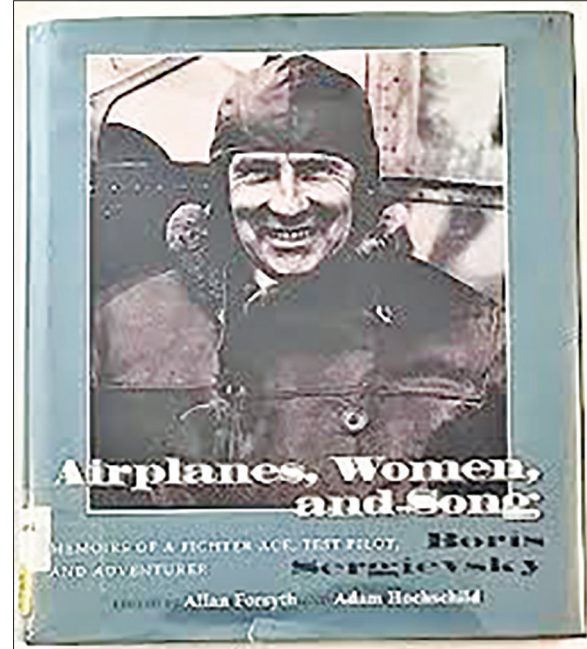
She and her troupe landed at the Greenbrier Airport in Caldwell in a Grumman Mallard amphibian aircraft. The plane was piloted by Boris Sergievsky, famed World War I fighter pilot and holder of 18 world records for speed and altitude.

Born to Russian parents in Paris, Svetlova danced with the Original Ballet Russe, the Metropolitan Opera Ballet, Ballet Theatre, and the New York City Opera.

Following her career on stage, she became chairwoman of the ballet department at the University of Indiana and also taught at the Vermont Art Center and Jacob's Pillow.

She died in 2009 at age 86. Sergievsky joined the Russian Army in 1911 and transferred to the Russian Air Force where he was a squadron commander and shot down 11 German planes during World War I. After the Russian Revolution, he flew for the British Royal Air Force. He came to the United States in 1923 and became a test pilot for Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation.

Svetlova's father had been Sergievsky's superior officer in the Russian Air Force, and Igor Sikorsky, founder of Sikorsky Aircraft, had been a classmate of Sergievsky at the Polytechnic Institute in Kiev, Ukraine.



Photos: Wikipedia; Cover Sources: New York Times, of Airplanes, Women and Jacob's Pillow Archives. Song by Boris Sergievsky.

# WVSOM's Drema Hill to be guest speaker at Communities of Healing Winter Gathering

The partners in the evolving recovery to work program – Communities of Healing - are holding their Winter Gathering Monday, Dec. 4, at Fruits of Labor, 313 Neville Street, Beckley, WV.

The Gathering, to share with the public the program's recent progress and next steps, will feature Drema Hill, Vice President of Community Engagement and Chief Operations Officer at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM). Hill is a Boone County native who has dedicated her career to community-based public health solutions, and she was recently honored by the American Public Health Association at its national meeting for her many contributions.

Hill has more than three decades of experience in public health leadership. She joined WVSOM in 2016 and became a vice president of the osteopathic medical school in 2019. Hill also serves as a consultant on issues relating to opioid settlement funds for the Office of West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey.

Her past honors include the Excellence in Rural Health Award from the West Virginia Rural Health Association; the Small Communities, Big Solutions

Advocate Award from the Alliance for Economic Development of Southern West Virginia, the West Virginia Community Development Hub and Coalfield Development; and West Virginia Executive magazine's Health Care Hall of Fame award. She received the Neil Diehl Award for Innovation and Excellence in HIV Prevention, Care and Treatment from Vanderbilt Comprehensive Care Center in Nashville, Tenn.

The public is invited to participate in person or virtually - register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/winter-2023-gathering-virtual-and-in-person-tickets>

The Communities of Healing program has provided an additional 551 entrepreneurs/business owners with recovery-to-work information and training and created more than 30 new jobs.

Current cohort graduates include: Ashley and Bill Chouinard - Wild Blue Adventure Company, Fayetteville; Adam Starks - MNDYRR Technologies, Inc., Philippi; Candice Meade - Posh Manna Cake Art/N600 - Shady Spring; Ansel Ponder - Blue Appalachia, Bluefield; and Wauketa Okoli - Get Lifted, LLC, Fayetteville.

Tammy Jordan, president of Fruits of Labor, said "Three years ago, Communities of Healing was just a dream that had been stirring in my heart since 2017. To see the magnitude of impact in the recovery community over the last 36 months is overwhelming and inspiring. We are grateful to be able

to provide an opportunity for individuals to engage in the hard work of transforming their life, moving forward in career paths through education, training, and employment, reconnecting with children, while simultaneously encouraging other businesses and social enterprises to join the journey. The partners in Communities of Healing are devoted and passionate about recovery efforts, and the network of businesses that continues to grow is full of encouragement for the future. Together, we will continue to see healing in our communities one person at a time."

Judy Moore, executive director of the West Virginia Hive and deputy director of the New River Gorge Regional Development Authority, said the WV Hive looks forward to continuing the work with Fruits of Labor and the other Communities of Healing partners for years to come. "Being a partner in the Communities of Healing program has been an amazing experience for all of us at the WV Hive," said Moore. "We couldn't be prouder of the work and the business owners we have had the opportunity to serve who are opening their doors and their hearts to individuals in recovery to allow them a second chance."

The Communities of Healing program was funded in 2020 by the Appalachian Regional Commission. The innovative program is designed on the success of Fruits of Labor, a culinary program that has worked for 11 years with those in recovery and 22 years in business. The successful Communities of Healing

program includes a partnership group consisting of Fruits of Labor, Region 4 Planning and Development Council, Seed Sower, Inc., Wright Venture Services, Region 1 Workforce Development Board, and West Virginia Hive. More information about the Communities of Healing program can be found at <http://www.communitiesofhealing.com>.

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# Alderson holiday activities planned



Joyce Mott and Phil Mershon - First Place: Spirit of Christmas award-2022

LisaMarie Cropper and Stella Grace - First Place: Old Fashioned Christmas-2022

Riverview Motel, Teri James - First Place: Large Business-2022

Alderson Main Street and the Town of Alderson, with help from other organizations, churches and groups, have announced a schedule of activities for the Holiday Season in Alderson. While the excitement builds toward Christmas and then the New Year, many people contribute to the merrymaking.

Starting on Friday, Dec. 1, with the Annual Christmas Parade, (line up at 6 on Virginia Street and step off at 7 p.m.) the town will ring with music provided by the Greenbrier East High School and Eastern Greenbrier Middle School bands. Santa will ride on the Alderson Volunteer Fire Department's truck and greet the children at the AVFD building on Railroad Avenue. The Queen of Lights will dazzle everyone with her magic as she turns on the lights along the route.

Special thanks to the Town of Alderson staff who put up the arches, greenery, and bulbs on the Alderson Memorial Bridge each year. This tradition goes back at least 50 years and was originally conceived by Gretis Roles McVey.

Almost all the lamp posts in Alderson have been adopted by a business, person, or group and will be decorated in a holiday theme. The creativity of these decorations is amazing to see and will be there through the end of the year.

The Johnson Memorial United Methodist Church will

add to the festivities with their annual bazaar and soup and sandwich meals. Available for \$8 on Friday, Dec. 1 from 4-7; Saturday, Dec. 2 from 9-3; and Sunday, Dec. 3 from noon-3, this delicious tradition will warm you up.

Children of all ages will enjoy the model trains in the Historic 1896 C&O Train Depot on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 10-4. Coordinated by Lee Skaggs, this show will make everyone's eyes sparkle. Photos with Santa by Sheena Pendley will be available there from 2 to 4 p.m. for a donation to Alderson Main Street.

On Wednesday, Dec. 6, the Old Greenbrier Baptist Church will host a live nativity at 7 p.m.

On Sunday, Dec. 10 at 1 and again at 3, one of the most cherished traditions in Alderson will occur at the Old Victorian Inn - the Annual Christmas Tea. Once again musicians Leah and Roger Trent will offer beautiful seasonal music as guests sip hot tea and enjoy scones, sandwiches, and sweets. Tickets are only available at the Alderson Artisan's Gallery on Railroad Avenue. Call or visit to check availability.

Alderson Main Street is once again sponsoring a holiday home and business decorating contest. Homes and businesses within the town limits will be observed on Monday, Dec. 11 between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. and are asked to have all

their lights and decorations turned on during this time. The judges will select home decoration winners in a variety of categories such as Gem of the Hills; Spirit of Christmas; Best Nativity; Children's Fantasy; and Old Fashioned Christmas. Winning businesses will be selected in two categories: large and small. No registration is required for the contest. The judges will visit every street inside the town limits.

Winners will receive a temporary yard sign and certificate declaring them a contest winner and will be announced on face book at <https://www.facebook.com/Alderson-Main-Street-594432723925664> by Wednesday, Dec. 13. Signs will be collected after Christmas.

Another beloved tradition is the Community Christmas Cantata at the Old Greenbrier Baptist Church to be held on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 3 p.m. followed by a social time in the Fellowship Hall. Directed by Dell Wood with accompanist Nancy Wood, this event creates an opportunity to hear beautiful music celebrating the reason for the season and wish a Merry Christmas to friends and neighbors.

Finally, on New Year's Eve, and sponsored by Alderson Main Street, the Alderson Volunteer Fire Department, and the James F. B. Peyton Foundation, a fireworks display at 7:30 p.m. can be best seen from the Alderson Memorial Bridge. This family friendly celebration allows the youngsters to participate in something special and still gives the adults time to celebrate later. Hot dogs, hot drinks, and more will be available from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Morgan Meadows Farm Store in the Renaissance Building at the Greenbrier end of the bridge.

AMS President Don Sutherland said, "We are excited to offer all these wonderful opportunities to celebrate the season. Thanks to all those whose sponsorships and hard work made these events possible."

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Landau Eugene Murphy, Jr. (left) Bob Thompson, and Kamron Lawson

## Annual 'Joy to Lewisburg' concert with Bob Thompson and special guests December 17

"Joy to Lewisburg with Bob Thompson and Friends" returns to the Greenbrier Valley on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. at Carnegie Hall. The annual concert will feature Christmas classics and holiday favorites performed by West Virginia Music Hall of Fame member Thompson and his band with special guests Landau Eugene Murphy, Jr. and Kamron Lawson.

Guests are invited to come early to Club Carnegie from 6 to 6:45 p.m. in the Board Room located adjacent to the Hamilton Auditorium. A cash bar and snacks are available.

West Virginia music hall of fame pianist Bob Thompson is perhaps the state's best-loved musician and ambassador of jazz. He has touched many people's lives both as an entertainer and a teacher.

Born in New York in 1942, he moved to West Virginia in the mid-'60s to attend West Virginia State College. Growing up in NY, he sang in street corner doo-wop bands and originally attended WVSC on a scholarship to study trumpet and music education. After switching to piano, he quickly became a staple on the local scene with bands like the Modern Jazz Interpreters and Joi.

After some independent releases, he signed to Capitol Records subsidiary Intima and later to the Ichiban label. Two of his albums climbed into the Top 25 in Billboard's contemporary jazz chart while four of his releases made their way into the Top 10 on the Radio and Records jazz chart. Those

nationally released works furthered his reputation significantly.

In the meantime, he performed in Brazil, South Africa, and Scandinavia. Appearances on BET, as the house pianist on the NPR show Mountain Stage, and several tours abroad have made Thompson a visible presence in the jazz world for more than 40 years. In addition, for the past decade Thompson's annual holiday jazz show Joy to the World has become a regular feature of Public Radio International's holiday programming.

He will be joined on the Hamilton Auditorium Stage by season six winner of NBC TV's "America's Got Talent" Landau Eugene Murphy, Jr. He is from Logan, WV, and is known as the "Soul and Sinatra" singer.

The former car washer's Columbia Records debut album produced by Grammy winner Steve Tyrell spent six weeks at #1 on the Billboard Jazz chart. Landau's follow-up holiday CD "Christmas Made for Two" raised thousands for the Children's Home Society of West Virginia and received nationwide airplay including Sirius/XM's "Holly" channel.

Landau has performed dozens of sold-out concerts around the world, headlining at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, the Apollo Theater in New York, The Grove in Hollywood (for Tina Sinatra), the Fountainbleu in Miami Beach, with the Boston Pops Symphony Orchestra, at the Mercedes Benz Arena in Shanghai China, and for U.S. troops sta-

tioned across Europe.

He has performed with living legends including Patti Labelle, George Benson, and former members of the Temptations, Platters and Drifters. He has appeared on CNN, HLN, The Today Show, Fox and Friends, Tom Joyner, Access Hollywood, Entertainment Tonight, Wendy Williams, and dozens other top media outlets.

Landau was named one of the Ten Outstanding Young Americans by the United States Jaycees and West Virginian of the Year in his home state for his assistance in raising millions for those in need.

Also joining Thompson will be another fellow West Virginian, Kamron Lawson. He is the Beckley native who wowed the judges this season on American Idol and became a viral internet sensation when he auditioned and won the hearts of viewers all over America.

Tickets to the performance are \$32/A-Section adult and \$30/B-Section adult. Discounts are available for Carnegie Hall members, students, senior citizens, and military.

To purchase tickets, call Carnegie Hall Box Office at 304-645-7917, visit [www.carnegiehallwv.org](http://www.carnegiehallwv.org), or stop by at 611 Church Street, Lewisburg. Carnegie Hall Box Office is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Joy to Lewisburg with Bob Thompson and Friends is made possible with support from the Casasanta Foundation.

## Second Stage Series at Carnegie Hall presents Lillie King and John Maddy

Carnegie Hall's Second Stage Series continues with musical duo Lillie King and John Maddy on Thursday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. in the Old Stone Room. Guests are invited to come early to Club Carnegie from 6 to 6:45 p.m. A cash bar and snacks are available.

Lillie King has been performing since a young age, presenting concerts locally on the stage at Carnegie Hall WV, in Nashville, and throughout the region. Her infectious style of original music - along with popular favorites, paired with her infectious smile always guarantees a good time.

John Maddy has performed everything from intimate solo piano performances to band and orchestra performances in various states. He brings originals, along with jazz and classical favorites with the right amount of pop/rock to please everyone. He keeps the audience on their toes with his own unique way of blending musical styles.

The duo has written songs and performed together for two years in multiple bands, including Lillie and the Kingsmen and Big Shots; A Billy Joel Tribute.

During their performances, Lillie and John pair together original pieces, pop/rock/country favorites, and holiday classics - all with a charming twist. The combination of musical styles and personal flair will bring just the right amount of fun and holiday cheer to brighten the season.

The Second Stage Series consists of five special events that take place in the Old Stone Room located on the ground floor of the Hall. The intimate setting creates



John Maddy and Lillie King

a "speak easy" vibe with an eclectic line-up of entertainment. Seating is general admission and limited.

Tickets are \$20 and may be

purchased by visiting [www.carnegiehallwv.org](http://www.carnegiehallwv.org), calling 304-645-7917, or stopping by 611 Church Street, Lewisburg.

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**did YOU know?**

**THE SOONER, THE BETTER.**  
Many people with gradual hearing loss delay vital testing.

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**Saturday, December 16 • 8:30 PM**  
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Shuttle Service from the Depot Between 7:45 and 8:00 PM

**Sunday, December 17 • 7:30 PM**  
at First Baptist Fairlea  
Nursery provided for children three and under at the church performance only.