



Bluebells raise money for Penny Pitch
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A Look Back Charles Peters
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\$1.00

Mountain messenger

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

With two weeks until Christmas, Penny Pitch fundraising continues

"Life's persistent and most urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" —Martin Luther King Jr.

We have a wonderful list of donors to share this week. Although, we are still not near our \$60,000 goal, this list of donors has brought us closer. Thank you!

This weekend, volunteers will deliver a box of food to all of the families that have been approved for Penny Pitch. Additionally, this year Heritage Farms has generously donated fresh eggs to every family. We hope this will make it possible for families to have healthy food at Christmas.

We hope you will join us in our efforts to answer "life's persistent and most urgent question" in our community. Donating to Penny Pitch is "doing for others." Send your gift to Penny Pitch, 383 Alderson Street, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

- 200.00 Ronceverte Women's Club
 - 100.00 Edwin Norman
 - 100.00 Daniel & Rebecca Edwards
 - 150.00 Agnes Simmons
 - 100.00 LouElla Lewis
 - 100.00 Jerry & Judy Long
 - 100.00 Knights of Columbus-Greenbrier Valley Chapter
 - 500.00 Maxwelton Ruritan Club
 - 2,000.00 Bluebell Garden Club-Lewisburg
 - 750.00 In honor of the former Greenbrier Manor and Staff
 - 100.00 Nancy G Jackson
 - 40.00 Women of the First Church of God (Ronceverte)
 - 100.00 Bruce & Jeanne Brenneman
 - 50.00 Charles & Kisha Steele
 - 100.00 Lewisburg United Methodist Church
 - 100.00 General Andrew Lewis Chapter DAR
 - 100.00 Kelly & Kay Sparks
 - 150.00 Williamsburg Thrift Shop
 - 75.00 Christen Clark
 - 100.00 Frank & Mary Collins
 - 250.00 Tim Holbrook
 - 250.00 Edgewood Presbyterian Women (Lewisburg)
 - 140.00 Anonymous
 - 50.00 Freda Greenway
 - 50.00 Genevieve Taylor
 - 100.00 Ronceverte Baptist Church Women
 - 25.00 In loving memory of Cootch Bostic
 - 100.00 Ronceverte Baptist Church Men's Fellowship
 - 25.00 Jenna F Brown
 - 1,650.00 Donations from the Community Thanksgiving Dinner
 - TOTAL \$14,555.00
- "Neighbors Helping Neighbors"*

Pedestrian bridge installed across Howard's Creek

By Sarah Richardson
The long-anticipated pedestrian walking bridge has been installed across Howard's Creek in White Sulphur Springs just adjacent to the former site of Big Draft Brewing and behind the Veteran's Memorial downtown. After 13 years in the making, the bridge offers expanded parking to the downtown area, an ADA-accessible way to catch a new look at the creek, and a safe route for pedestrians and bicyclists in the area. The prefabricated bridge is wide



enough to allow easy passage for foot traffic from each side simultaneously, and the expanded parking lot on the other side of the creek will come in handy during special events like the annual Dandelion Festival.

Behind the scenes of a new program teaching kids to swim during the school day

By Stephen Baldwin
RealWV, www.therealwv.com

From the time the Greenbrier Valley Aquatic Center (GVAC) was conceived, the goal has always been the same - enhanced water safety in southern West Virginia.

Approximately half of Americans cannot swim safely, and that costs lives every single year. Especially in a place where summers are built around time spent in the river and on the lake for young people.

Now in the aquatic center's second year of operation, their goal is being achieved one student at a time.

Twice a week for two months, 140 sixth grade students from Eastern Greenbrier Middle School and Western Greenbrier Middle School ride a school bus to the pool. There, they receive free swim lessons from accomplished instructors Teresa Fowler and Dana Perry.

So far, according to GVAC General Manager Darcie McCraw, "It's going swimmingly."

How the program works

GVAC partners with Greenbrier County Schools to run the program. At the beginning of this school year, permission slips were sent home with sixth grade students, offering them the chance to participate. All students who returned the slips now visit the pool each week to learn how to swim safely.

"The principals were instrumental along with board office members in making this possible in terms of scheduling," noted McCraw. "It's all about the kids, and they've been great to work with."

Students arrive on the bus at 8:30 a.m., change into their swim gear, and hit the pool.

"It was tough at first," remembers instructor Dana Perry. "That's a large group. It was hard to know how to divide them up."

After some trial and er-



Dana Perry, Teresa Fowler, and Darcie McCraw lead the program with support from a team of volunteers. (Photo by Stephen Baldwin, RealWV)

ror, Perry and her fellow instructor Teresa Fowler came up with a plan to split the students into two groups. They each took a group, with the help of several volunteers.

"We have a lot of volunteers who make this happen," says McCraw. "We have members, staff, and the student's teachers who volunteer." In the future, they may welcome additional volunteer with relevant experience.

"If there are people who have thought they want to teach," added Fowler, "they can come help, observe, and see what we do."

"The smaller the class," says Perry, "the more you can get accomplished."

During class, instructors teach students basic skills

See "Teaching kids to swim" _____ Page 5



Sixth-grade students receive free swim lessons in a partnership between Greenbrier County Schools and the Greenbrier Valley Aquatic Center. As they exit the school bus, they jog inside, excited for the opportunity to learn a life-saving skill from their swim instructors. (Photo by Stephen Baldwin, RealWV)

White Sulphur man named Monster Trout Contest winner

Seven lucky anglers who submitted photos with tagged trout will receive a West Virginia state

park stay or Cabela's prize package.

Gov. Jim Justice has announced the winners of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources' second annual Monster Trout Contest.

"I want to congratulate our Monster Trout Contest winners for reeling in the catch of a lifetime and extend a special thank you to all of the anglers who See "Monster Trout"

_____ Page 4



James Moran of White Sulphur Springs with his Monster Trout winning catch.

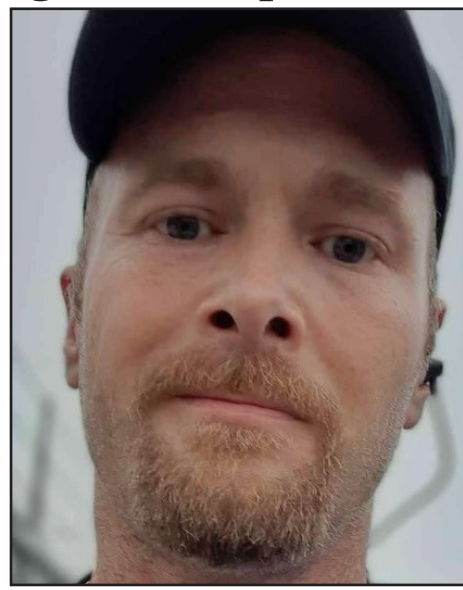
Man reported missing from Rupert area

The Greenbrier County Sheriff's Department is looking for help in finding an individual who has been reported missing.

On Wednesday, Dec. 6, Trinity Aaron Bennett was reported missing by friends who advised that he was last seen/heard from on or around Oct. 25, 2023, in the Rupert area of Greenbrier County.

Mr. Bennett is described as a white male, 42 years old, approximately 5'11 inches in height, and 179 pounds with reddish-brown hair and blue eyes.

Anyone with any information on the location of Trinity Aaron Bennett is asked to contact Cpt. K.L. Sawyers of the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Department at 304-647-6634. Information can also be sent through private message on the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Department Facebook page.



Trinity Aaron Bennett has been reported missing from the Rupert area.

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High Rocks Educational Corporation recognized for revitalizing communities in Pocahontas, Greenbrier and Nicholas counties

High Rocks Educational Corporation, known for its summer camp High Rocks Academy program, has been recognized beyond the campfire. High Rocks Executive Director Sarah Riley received the Power of Performance Communities Revitalization Award at the 2023 Small Communities, Big Solutions Conference in Lewisburg on Nov. 8 and 9.

This award represents how High Rocks uses earning-and-learning programs to revitalize communities, create pathways out of poverty, and inspire young West Virginians to develop leadership skills and engage in their community. "We work with young people because we know that an investment in our young people is the

most important strategic investment we can make in the future of West Virginia," High Rocks Executive Director Sarah Riley said. "And we know that the reality of our young people is that they need to earn money, while they also need opportunities to grow and thrive."

The High Rocks method for community transformation starts with supporting young people in gaining personal and professional skills that will allow them to find high-quality, life-sustaining jobs right here in the Mountain State. High Rocks has applied best practices from our original camp program to newer earning-and-learning businesses and programs to build skills resumes, and earn certi-

fications and degrees. Including camps, sustainable agriculture, hospitality, information technology, STEM, and service, High Rocks offers opportunities for young people to build themselves and improve their communities.

Ruby Grow, an organic farm in Pocahontas County, teaches young farmers everything from planting and harvesting to marketing and value-added products, growing beautiful food for the people who need it most - schools, food pantries, and local families and businesses. Tech Express in Lewisburg is Greenbrier County's homegrown genius bar, where young people learn information technology, cyber security, and computer diagnostics

while providing the community with a competitive resource for computer repairs, as well as workshops to learn and practice everything from robots to teens to small phones for seniors. High Rocks operates the Hub Café in Lewisburg, a community café featuring everything from house-made bagels and pastries to specialty coffee drinks, and offers free tutoring and community workshops and events.

The First2 Network, which empowers first-generation college students studying STEM, and High Rocks thriving AmeriCorps program (now the second-largest AmeriCorps program in the state of WV) both provide stipends, learning experience and tuition support, and are other ways that this organization is working toward engaging young people, developing leadership skills, offering earning-and-learning op-



Sarah Riley

portunities, and bringing about change throughout the region.

"We know that supporting young people on their journey impacts whole communities," Riley said. "I'm proud of our amazing team, alumni, and partners. Just last year

alone, High Rocks leveraged \$358,610 in earning-and-learning dollars into the pockets of teens and college students across West Virginia working to improve themselves and their communities. This, in addition to \$612K in See "High Rocks" - Page 3

Greenbrier County receives Build WV designation

Application submitted by GVEDC is approved for WV's 10th designation location

Incentives created to encourage development of housing are now available in Greenbrier County after a designation as a certified BUILD WV district by the West Virginia Departments of Commerce, Tourism, and Economic Development.

The application for designation was submitted by the Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation. Qualifying projects within the district are eligible to receive a sales tax exemption for building materials as well as a 10-year property value adjustment refundable tax credit to offset building costs. BUILD WV Act was passed by Legislature in 2022 and expanded in 2023.

The district was established with Maxwelton as the center point and includes areas within a

20-mile radius. This point was chosen to encompass as much of Greenbrier County as possible as well as to prevent overlapping with other designated areas in the region (see map). The application was supported by other public and private entities, including the Greenbrier County Commission, Greenbrier County CVB, Ascend WV, and Adam Whanger Contracting.

"As economic developers we want to put as many tools as possible in the toolbox for developers of housing in our region," said Ruthana Beezley, Executive Director of the GVEDC. "This second designation for the Greenbrier Valley is geared toward spurring private sector investment and we hope it will allow for more housing builds in the near future."

According to the Build WV Code (WV §5B-2L-16), projects eligible for the BUILD WV Act will be located in a certified district: include at least six residential units or houses OR generate approved costs in excess of \$3,000,000: create a significant and positive economic impact on the state; improve opportunities for commercial businesses and provide additional employment opportunities.

Interested housing developers are encouraged to contact Ruthana Beezley at GVEDC at rbeezley@gvedc.com for additional information on applying. There is an application fee of \$5,000. The WV Department of Economic Development and GVEDC are working to make sure applications are viable before submitting.

Greenbrier Valley Aquatic Center to host Holiday Open House

By Dakota Baker

The Greenbrier Valley Aquatic Center will host a holiday Open House this Saturday Dec. 9, from 2 to 6 p.m. During this event GVAC will be raffling off a free one-month membership which has been donated by one of their members. There will be facility tours and information stations set up during this time for those who been curious about GVAC.

When Pigs Fly BBQ will be on site and selling pulled pork sandwich meals with beans, coleslaw, potatoes, wings, and drinks (while supplies last). All proceeds from drink sales will go to the GVAC Sea Dragons swim team.

Santa will also be available for photos from 3 to 6 p.m. You can take your own photos with Santa or GVAC will print your photo for a donation to the facility. Day passes will also be sold all day, so bring your swimsuit and a towel.

This event is a great opportunity to support your community, meet new people, and perhaps find your new hobby.

Bipartisan food drive a success

The Greenbrier County Republican Club and the Greenbrier County Democratic Women's Club are pleased to announce a successful collaborative food drive to benefit the County's ten food banks and pantries. We are very grateful for all the people who contributed. Each food bank will receive a share of the bounty collected and will receive a share of monetary contributions. Monetary contributions are used to purchase additional supplies to round out the items made available to recipients.

"Once we sorted through and divided the donations we were amazed at the generosity of our community," stated Gloria Martin of the Lewisburg/Fairlea Food Pantry. The success

of this food drive was made possible through the collaboration of the two clubs focused on meeting the needs of Greenbrier County residents.



Jeanette Chambers (left), president of the Greenbrier County Democratic Women's Club, and Barbara Tuckwiller of the Greenbrier County Republican Club

PICK OF THE LITTER



REBEL

Rebel is a three-year-old male pit bull terrier mix and weighs 52 pounds.



WENDY

Wendy is a four-month-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

Free Breakfast for WW II Vets

The Greenbrier Valley Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution are, once again, treating WW II veterans to a free breakfast at Shoney's restaurant in Lewisburg, WV. This meal will be served Dec. 9, at 10 a.m. WW II veterans from Greenbrier, Summers, Monroe Pocahontas and Fayette counties are invited to attend this honorary breakfast. WWII veterans who have attended this breakfast in previous years include Alvin Porterfield, Army Medical Core; James Johnson, USAF Fighter Pilot Instructor; David Harvey, Army; Bud Simms, Naval Air Core Fighter Plane Gunner; Arthur J. Brooks, Jr. US Army; and others whose names have been misplaced.

Democratic Executive Committee

will hold their next meeting Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 5:30 p.m., at the Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate office in downtown Lewisburg. Anybody interested in working to advance our Democratic values is welcome to attend.

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.

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.

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.

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 the fourth Thursday of each month. The public is invited to attend. Call 304-520-3221 for more information.

Greenbrier Co. Board of Education

will meet Tuesday, Dec. 12, at 6 p.m. at Kyle & Ann Fort Arts & Sciences Building, 653 Church Street, Lewisburg. On the agenda:

- Delegations
- Presentation by GWHS Student Representatives
- Consent Agenda Items
- New and/or revised policies for 30-day public comment
- Personnel
- Other business/information
- Date of next scheduled meeting - Jan. 6, 2024 at 6 p.m.

Marriages

Savannah Briann Lester and Zachary Allen Mulhern
Jasmine Renee Argenbright and Dustin Loyd Vance
Brandi Nicole Alder and Brandon Lee McClung

High Rocks

AmeriCorps living and education stipends, brought nearly \$1 million in purchasing power to 184 young Appalachians leaders."

When Stephanie Tyree, Executive Director of the WV Community Development Hub, presented Sarah Riley with the award, she shared Sarah's bio in her remarks. "Sarah grew up in Pocahontas County and then went to Harvard University. She graduated with honors in history with a focus on economic underdevelopment. She was a founding partner with Susan Burt in High Rocks and has been planning, teaching, counseling, fundraising, networking, and building High Rocks in one way or another since 1996. Sarah was named among 40 under 40 emerging leaders in West Virginia in 2009. In 2014, WV Focus Magazine featured Sarah as one of West Virginia's "Wonder Women" in their premiere issue. In 2015, the Appalachian Studies Association awarded Sarah the prestigious Helen Lewis Community Service Award for outstanding community service to Appalachia and its people. Sarah was honored as a 2015 Zenith Award winner for exemplary service to the Greenbrier Valley of WV. In 2017, Sarah and the High Rocks were awarded the state WV Red Wagon Award for helping WV children, and in 2019, Sarah was honored with the Power of Performance Award for changing lives across southern WV. Sarah has four children and lives happily on the family farm her husband grew up on, raising local meats, eggs, and produce. She is grateful to continue working with her mother, Susan Burt."

"This Power of Performance award for Revitalizing Communities is a major milestone for High Rocks," said Riley. "We have been talking about investing in young people as an economic and community development strategy for years, and it means so much to us to have this work recognized by leading West Virginia community and economic development organizations."

The Power of Performance award, selected from anony-

For the Record

Deeds

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.

Linda Mallory to Jerry C. Rogers Sr.: lots 40 and 41, Meadow Bluff District, Map 58B Parcel 0100. Filed Nov. 30, 2023.

Terri L. McGuire and Joseph F. Backus (devises of the Barbara A. Backus estate) to David Crowe and Tiffany Crowe: lots 176 and 177, Meadow Bluff District, Map 60R Parcel 22. Filed Nov. 30, 2023.

Charles D. Blevins to Jeremy R. Tucker: 5.24 acres and 4.86 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 82 Parcel 0080. Filed Nov. 30, 2023.

William Billy Wickline Reed (by heirs) to Carolyn A. Bryant and David K. Berry: lots 13 and 14 1.02 acres, Lewisburg District, Map 9 Parcel 0038. Filed Nov. 30, 2023.

Janet S. Friedman to Robert B. Friedman: three tracts, 8.05 acres, Williamsburg District, Map 34 Parcel 0008. Filed Nov. 30, 2023.

Chrissy R. Edwards and Matthew D. Edwards to Triple E Realty LLC: 0.70 acres, Fort Spring District, Map 12 Parcel 31. Filed Dec. 1, 2023.

Landmark Property Holdings LLC to 1500 One Pass Drive White Sulphur Springs LLC: 382.81 acres, right of way, White Sulphur District, Map 41 Parcel 6. Filed Dec. 1, 2023.

Joleen McMillion to Mathew E. Jones and Julie B. Jones: 200 X 200 0.92 acres, Williamsburg District, Map 37 Parcel 14.2. Filed Dec. 1, 2023.

Becky Arnold to Roger A. Bennett and Laurie K. Bennett: 1.203 acres, Lewisburg District, Map 14K Parcel 18. Filed Dec. 1, 2023.

Sheila T. Borosky to Janice R. Gheen and Odessa T. Escolano: lot 14 B, Lewisburg District, Map 12 Parcel 116. Filed Dec. 1, 2023.

James M. Boswell and Lorie L. Boswell to Joshua Boswell: 2.22 acres, Blue Sulphur District, Map 40L Parcel 62. Filed Dec. 1, 2023.

William R. Satterfield Jr. and Betsey G. Satterfield to James D. Fairchild II and Deborah J. Fairchild: 0.55 acres, lot 31 section 2, Underwood Estates, Lewisburg District, Map 13 Parcel 179. Filed Dec. 4, 2023.

Larry J. Chestnut (by attorney-in-fact) to Bernard W. Chestnut Jr.: 9.4 acres, Anthony Creek District, Map 4 Parcel 12. Filed Dec. 4, 2023.

Richard R. Alexander and Betty P. Alexander to Krista Nicole Casto: lots 7, 8, 9 and part of lot 6, (Axtel Avenue) 84 X 145 cons 3 parcels from Renick to Hanson & 2,166 square feet or 16 X 135 Axtel Avenue from Brown, Falling Spring District, Map 6 Parcel 97, 102. Filed Dec. 4, 2023.

Ronald Musick and Pamela Musick to Joshua W. Bostic: 101 acres, Blue Sulphur District, Map 8 Parcel 45. Filed Dec. 4, 2023.

Sanket Patel, Darshna Patel, Rajesh Patel, and Avani Patel to David L. Lemons: 0.459 acres, Fort Spring District, Map 9R Parcel 19. Filed Dec. 4, 2023.

Monster Trout

Continued from Front Page

went fishing this fall," Gov. Justice said. "As a lifelong angler, I am so excited to see West Virginians, especially kids, get excited about the outdoors and enjoy our state's incredible streams and exciting fishing opportunities."

The seven lucky anglers each caught a tagged monster trout, which were stocked during the WVDNR's two weeks of fall stockings in October. Those stockings included more than 35,000 pounds of trophy-size trout weighing 1-2 pounds and 6,500 pounds of monster trout weighing 3-6 pounds.

Anglers who caught a tagged monster trout had until Nov. 17 to submit a photo of their catch with the tag number to win a weekend cabin stay at a West Virginia state Park or Cabela's prize package.

2023 West Virginia Monster Trout Contest Winners

- Jamie Holbrook, Hyndman, PA (Grand Prize Winner)
- James Moran, White Sulphur Springs, WV
- Louie Nickelson, Romney, WV
- Paul Phillips, Fairmont, WV
- Victoria Appold, Petersburg, WV
- Jeffrey Myers, Aurora, WV

Continued from Page 2

mous nominations, was presented collectively by the WV Community Development Hub, the Alliance for the Economic Development of Southern West Virginia (the seven colleges in southern WV), and Coalfield Development Corporation, whose mission is to rebuild the Appalachian economy from the ground up.

From campfires to careers, Sarah Riley and High Rocks is dedicated to empowering, inspiring, and educating young people for the greater good of the community. Find out more about the programs at High Rocks or learn about opportunities to get involved at www.highrocks.org.

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Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Convictions

Jedediah Seth Turner, Rupert, 1) petit larceny, NCP, jail 6 months to be served consecutively with battery sentence. Jail suspended and placed on 18 months unsupervised probation; 2) battery, jail 6 months to be served consecutively with battery sentence. Jail suspended and placed on 18 months unsupervised probation

Timothy Matthew Hutton, Carwley, hunting without license, GP, fine \$30

Jonah X. Mathews, Dayton, OH, speeding, GP, fine \$20

Victoria Michelle Luke, Smoot, driving suspended, GP, fine \$100

Barnabous Lee Taylor, Danese, shooting within 500 feet of a dwelling, GP, fine \$20

Joseph Homer Young III, Ronceverte, failure to attach a field tag to a bear, deer, wild boar or wild turkey, GP, fine \$40

Tyler Sai Campbell, Mount Lookout, 1) hunting between sunset and sunrise, NCP, fine \$50; 2) illegal possession, fine \$75; 3) hunting in closed season, fine \$50

Dennis Ray Hayes, Waynesboro, VA, distracted riving cell phone use, NCP, fine \$100

Karvel Lee Simpson, Ronceverte, alcohol sale to underage, NCP, fine \$30

Eric Randall Hamilton, Raysal, WV, failure to field tage, NCP, fine \$30

Draven N. Lucas, Covington, VA, possession of a controlled substance, NCP, fine \$100

Tommy Hernandez Alexander, White Sulphur Springs, obstructing an officer, NCP, fine \$50

Payton Ray Jackson, Lewisburg, hunting from vehicle, GP, fine \$40

Gregory Elmer Kenney, Frankford, failure to field tag, GP, fine \$40

Garrett Lee Feury, Caldwell, possession of a controlled substance, NCP, fine \$100, jail 90 days - suspended and placed on 12 months unsupervised probation

Tucker Blaine Phipps, Alderson, 1) hunting between half hour after sunset/sunrise, GP, fine \$20; 2) illegal possession of wildlife, fine \$75; 3) hunting hours, fine \$20; 4) illegal possession, fine \$75

Billy Ray Harmon, Jr., Rupert, 1) field tag, game tag for bear, deer, wildboar or wild turkey no placed or removed, GP, fine \$40; 2) possession of wildlife, fine \$20

Anthony Stuart Garrison, Caldwell, no insurance, NCP, fine \$200

Nancy M. Nelson, Lewisburg, 1) improper display, GP, fine \$25; 2) no proof operators, fine \$10

Sheldon England, Mullens, failure to attach field tag to a bear, deer, wildboar or wild turkey, GP, fine \$40

Eva Pauline Burress, Ronceverte, trespassing, GP, fine \$100

Scott Allen Sims, Lewisburg, conspiracy to commit Chapter 20, GP, fine \$50

Tanner E. Legg, Charmco, 1) hunting without a license, GP, fine \$30; 2) hunting from watercraft, auto, plane, fine \$40

Kimberly Ayers (aka Kimberly Martin), Rainelle, making, issuing worthless checks, NCP, fine \$20

Jason Murphy Simms, Quinwood, 1) hunt/take closed season, NCP, fine \$50; 2) illegal possession of wildlife (bear), fine \$75, Wildlife Replacement fee: \$1,000; 3) conspiracy to violate Chapter 20, fine \$20

Natasha Pack, Ronceverte, speeding, NCP, fine \$10

Mountain Messenger

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Mountain Messenger

Methadone prescription bill could ease restrictions for West Virginians

By Nadia Ramlagan for WVNS

Senate lawmakers are soon expected to vote on the Modernizing Opioid Treatment Access Act, legislation introduced this year by Republican Sen. Rand Paul, R-KY, and Sen. Ed Markey, D-MA.

The bill would allow doctors to prescribe and pharmacies to dispense methadone for people with opioid-use disorder. Currently, methadone is tightly regulated and can only be accessed through certified opioid treatment facilities.

Jordan Scott, digital advocacy coordinator for the Pennsylvania Harm Reduction Network, said the regulations mostly affect people in rural regions who cannot

get to methadone clinics or who end up using diverted methadone, which can lead to arrests and time in jail.

“There are some states, like West Virginia, where there’s a state law in effect that places a hold on any new opioid treatment programs opening within the state,” Scott pointed out. “And when we look at really rural areas, those numbers of how many people able to access methadone goes down even further.”

Methadone is a Schedule II drug under the federal Controlled Substances Act. Critics of the bill argue methadone is an opiate which can be abused, and in some cases may be replacing one addictive medication for another, especially if used in isolation, without coun-

seling or as part of a treatment program.

Scott contends the bill would make people less likely to rely on using street-supply substances with a high risk of containing fentanyl, if they know they can obtain methadone safely and locally.

“If my closest clinic is an hour-and-a-half, two hours away, but my primary care doctor is 20 minutes away, this act would allow me to be able to go to my primary care doctor,” Scott emphasized.

The Modernizing Opioid Treatment Access Act would also require the federal government to track data nationwide on methadone prescriptions and the number of providers.

OBITUARIES

Richard Allen Van Buren

White Sulphur Springs

-Richard Allen (Richie) Van Buren, 68, passed away Friday, Dec. 1, 2023, after a short illness.

He was born Jan. 25, 1955, to the late JD and Faye Van Buren.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Melissa Deichert; brothers-in-law, Allen Deichert, Michael Hunt, Danny Lawhorne; and sister-in-law, Wanda Sue Burn.

Friends include lifelong friends David Ridgeway, neighbors Kurt, Patt, Robert, and Shelly as well as many friends from The Greenbrier Hotel and Upholstery shop. Richard retired in 2021 after 48 faithful years at The Greenbrier Hotel.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 50 years, Audrey Van Buren of White Sulphur Springs; son, Keith Allen and wife Marybeth Broyles Van Buren of Lindside; two granddaughters, Madison Van Buren of Lindside and O’Shea Boone of Rainelle; grandson, Donovan Allen Van Buren of White Sulphur Springs. He is also survived by two brothers, Glen and wife Erica Van Buren and John Van Buren of White Sulphur Springs; brothers-and sisters-in-law, Hallie Lawhorne of Covington VA, Brenda Hunt of Ronceverte, Helen Burns, Grover and Judy Burns, Julian Burns, Darlene and Rob Teal, Lynn Lingerman, and Lisa and Tony Taylor all of White Sulphur Springs.

Per his wishes, he was cremated, and a memorial service was held on Thursday, Dec. 7, at Whatcoat United Methodist Church on Route 92. Visitation was held prior to the service where Rev. Buck Caldwell officiated.

The Family would like to give a special thanks to Shawna Crow of Hospice Care for her loving care and dedication to Richard during his hardest times. Also, a very special thanks to Donovan Van Buren for the love and care he gave to his grandpa during his past few months. Donovan stepped out of his way to move into his grandparent’s home to take care of both his grandmother and grandfather in their times of need.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Whatcoat United Methodist Church Youth, P.O. Box 416, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia 24986.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in White Sulphur Springs is in charge

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

Diana Kay Sayre Bird



Crawley-Diana Kay Sayre Bird, 73, passed away Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023 at Peyton Hospice House in Lewisburg.

Born Aug. 27, 1950 at South Charleston, she was a daughter of the late Donald Eugene Sayre and Virida Verjean Jividen Sayre.

Diana has been an Administrative Secretary for West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine since 1982.

Diana loved her family more than anything. She also loved quilting, gardening, reading and creating the perfect Christmas for her loved ones. Many memories were made traveling to her favorite places.

In addition to her parents Diana was preceded in death by a daughter, Michelle Dawn Bird.

She is survived by her husband, Alvin Edward Bird; daughter, Kimberly Dawn (Tim) Lawrence of Gloucester, VA; sons, Aaron Grant (Katie) Knotts of Rupert and Aaron Edward (Shelley) Bird of Nitro; seven grandchildren, Jessica Leigh Martin (Ryan) Allen, Tonya Rayne Martin, Aurora Elizabeth Knotts, Audriana Isabelle Knotts, Austin (Cassie) Bird, Andrew Bird and Christopher “C.J.” Wickline; three brothers, Darrell (Beverly) Sayre of Nitro, Edwin “Eddie” (Diana) Sayre of Winfield and Jeffrey A. (Sheila) Sayre of Frazier Bottom; she is also survived by her special family, Tony Martin of White Sulphur Springs.

Diana has chosen to donate her body to WVSOM Human Gift Registry.

A Celebration of her Life will be held in the near future with the date to be announced.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be made to Girl Scouts Troop #37400 c/o Jessica Allen, 171 Cora’s Way, White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg submitted this obituary. Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH@gmail.com

Emerson Lee Williams



Manakin Sabot, VA-Emerson Lee “Willie” Williams, 76, devoted husband, father and grandfather passed away on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023, at his home in Manakin Sabot, VA

Born in Trout, WV, on May 29, 1947, Emerson lived his entire childhood in Trout and regularly attended Trout Baptist Church. He graduated from Frankford High School in 1965, and soon after married his beloved wife Ann and relocated to the Richmond, Virginia area.

He loved life and lived it to the fullest with his family and friends. He enjoyed traveling, singing karaoke, playing pickle ball and spending time at “the farm.” Emerson was also a passionate historian who was dedicated to learning and sharing information about his WV heritage. A resident of the Richmond area for the past 55 years, he maintained close ties to WV, owning a farmhouse in Alderson for over 35 years, participating in the local historical society events and writing five novels based on true events in Greenbrier County.

In Richmond, Willie had many friends from the automotive business in which he worked for 40 years, many as a finance manager. He also found great joy being a part of the Goochland pickleball family, his favorite pastime.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Anna and Simon Lewis and Luva Faulkner (Junior); sister, Dorothy Barker; brothers, Cecil, Hayward, Frank and Darrel Lewis.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 55 years, Ann; his beloved daughters, Angela Williams of Midlothian, VA and Amy Couillard (Tony) of Glen Allen, VA; cherished grandchildren, Elizabeth and Olivia Gronlund, Thalle and Vivian Couillard; sisters, Brenda Norris (Ronnie) of Quinton, VA, Gloria McGuire, Richmond, KY, Anna Mae Tate, Memphis, TN, Beckie Reeves (Preston) Clarksville, TN; and brother Tommy Faulkner (Gail) Clarksville, TN; treasured friend and bro-

ther-in-law, Tom Bobbitt; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life will take place at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9, at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church in Williamsburg, WV. Friends may visit with the family one hour prior to the service. In honor of Emerson, contributions can be sent to Goochland Co. Vol Fire & Rescue (GVFRA-Centerville Co. #3), 52 Broad Street Rd., Manakin Sabot, VA 23103 and Williamsburg District Historical Foundation, P.O. Box 36, Williamsburg, WV 24991.

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

John Robert Nazario



White Sulphur Springs

-John Robert Nazario, 38, of White Sulphur Springs passed away on Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023, at his residence from complications of the heart.

He was born Feb. 2, 1985, in Greenbrier Valley Medical Center, the son of Juan Nazario and Nancy Dunsmore Brenem.

John was an avid fisherman and hunter. His life evolved around his children and his love of people whom he freely would help, giving his shirt off his back if needed.

Surviving are his children, Alyssa Nazario of Glace, Caleb and Dalton Nazario both of Hot Springs, VA; his mother and stepfather, Nancy Brenem and Joey of Union; his father and stepmother, Juan Nazario and Sherry of White Sulphur Springs; his grandmother, Louise Dunsmore of Fairlea; sisters, Sarah Maria Nazario of White Sulphur Springs and Nicole Pennington (Matt) of White Sulphur Springs; niece, Nevaeh Coleman and nephews, Jaedin Coleman and Jason Lewis and wife Jennifer Wright Nazario.

A Celebration of Life for John will be held Sunday, Dec. 10, at the Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in White Sulphur Springs from 2 until 4 p.m.

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

Edward Burdle Hoke, Jr.



Lewisburg-Edward Burdle “June Bug” Hoke Jr., 78, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023, at Lewis Gale Hospital, Salem, VA.

Born Sept. 9, 1945, in Glace, WV, he was the son of the late Edward Burdle Hoke, Sr. and Etta Spence Hoke.

He worked at the sawmill in Ronceverte for 38 years and retired from Mullican Flooring. Edward loved the outdoors, hunting and fishing in his retirement.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings, Posie Hoke, Jerry Hoke, Shirley Boggs, Mildred Alderson, Hilda Martin, and Bernice Fury.

Survivors include his loving wife of over 54 years, Theda M. Hoke; son, Edward “Daniel” Hoke (Tina); daughter, Debra “Debbie” Hoke; brothers, Carlos Hoke and Marshall Hoke; sisters, Arlene Bunch, Louise Feury and Sharon Emily Hoke; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral service was held on Monday, Dec. 4, at the Morgan Funeral Home Chapel, Lewisburg, where Pastor Ralph Hubbard officiated. Visitation was held Sunday evening, Dec. 3, at the funeral home.

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

Darrell Eugene Coleman

White Sulphur Springs -Darrell Eugene Coleman, Sr., 82, passed away at his home on Monday, Dec. 4, 2023.

Born Nov. 11, 1941 in White Sulphur Springs, he was a son of the late Elmer Richard Coleman, Sr. and Elsie Evelyn Sizemore Coleman.

Other than his parents he was preceded in death by his wife, Starlena Cole Coleman; a sister, Mary Jane Bennett; and brothers, Donald Coleman and Elmo Lee Coleman.

Prior to working as a banker at The Bank of White Sulphur Springs he worked at Perry’s Supermarket and carried bulk mail to Bluefield, WV. Following his banking career, he worked as a cashier for Vaughn’s Yesterday Convenience Store.

Darrell was a member of Full Gospel Lighthouse in White Sulphur Springs.

Surviving are sons, “Bud” Coleman (Terri) and Richard “Ricky”

Coleman (Tonya) both of White Sulphur Springs; 6 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren; one sister, Pat Tingler; and two brothers, Eddie Coleman and Elmer Coleman, Jr. both of White Sulphur Springs.

Funeral services will be on Monday, Dec. 11, at 12 noon at White Sulphur Springs Pentecostal Holiness Church with Pastor Gene Sizemore officiating. Burial will follow in Greenbrier Memorial Gardens in Lewisburg.

The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. until time of service at the church.

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

Forest Clinton Brown



Charmco-Forest Clinton “Shanney” Brown, 77, passed away Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023, in the Rainelle Healthcare Center, following a short illness.

Born Sept. 2, 1946, at Midland, he was the son of the late Clark “Pat” and Maggie (Walton) Brown.

Following high school graduation, Shanney enlisted in the US Air Force. Upon returning to civilian life, he was a mail carrier for the US Postal Service until he was medically discharged. He later took care of amusement games for local establishments.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by three brothers, Fred, Farrell, and Floyd Brown.

Those left to cherish his memory are two sisters, Flossie Smith of Danese and Freda Brown of Charmco; four nieces Delisa Legg (Rob) of Hico, Sherry Faulkner (Kelby) of Renick, Heather Leshner (Keith) of Nallen, and Kim Alley (Bruce) of Crawley; one nephew, Farrell Brown, Jr. (Valerie) of Ronceverte; and many extended family members.

The family wants to thank Dr. Connie Anderson and the staff of Rainelle Healthcare Center for the good care they gave him over the years he was there.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at Smathers Funeral Chapel with Pastor Bennie Kenney officiating. Burial will follow in the Wallace Memorial Cemetery, Clintonville.

Friends may call one hour before the service from 12 noon to 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

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Club & Church

Church Bulletin

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 fbc-sharp@gmail.com or 304-645-3533.

First Baptist Church Fairlea Candlelight Service

The First Baptist Church of Fairlea (across from the Greenbrier County Health Dept.) will host a traditional candlelight service on Christmas Eve at 6 p.m. All are welcome!

Christmas programs planned at Ronceverte Baptist Church

The Ronceverte Baptist Church (RBC) has planned some Christmas programs and we would like to invite the community to come and worship with us especially if you do not have a church home this Christmas season.

On Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 6:30 p.m., there will be a concert featuring the progressive southern gospel group Phillips and Banks. Married couples, Jacob and Carmen Phillips and Caleb and Autumn Banks, bring a distinctive and smooth sound to their music. This will be their second concert at RBC and we are very grateful that they were able to fit us in for their Thrill of Hope Christmas Tour.

On Sunday morning, Dec. 17, at 11 a.m. the RBC choir will present a Christmas cantata entitled *The Colors of Christmas*. This musical contains familiar carols, some well-known melodies with updated lyrics and some newer songs of the season.

And on Christmas Eve, there will be a candlelight service beginning at 6 p.m.

Pastor Scott Kapple and the congregation invite all to attend these services. The church is located at the corner of Main Street and Locust Street. For further information, call the church office at 304-647-4067.

Lewisburg House and Garden Club decorate Carnegie Hall for the holidays

The Lewisburg House and Garden Club was established over 75 years ago, and for more than 20 of those years it has graced Carnegie Hall with holiday decorations. This year with the help of Suzanne Perilli, a club member and owner of Perilli Designs, the club purchased lovely new decorations: magnolia leaf garlands with bells and bows with musical themes. The new decorations were praised by Cathy Rennard, President and CEO of Carnegie Hall at the West Virginia Symphony's Holiday Pops concert on Dec. 1.

To help pay for these new decorations, the club has created boxes of ten note cards by the late Doris Caldwell, club member and local artist. The cards are available at A New Chapter Bookstore and the North House Museum gift shop in Lewisburg.



Suzanne Perilli and Mary Lindquist with magnolia garlands and bows.

Bluebells raise funds for Penny Pitch



The Bluebell Garden Club held its annual Penny Pitch Silent Auction for club members on Nov. 16 in Wesley Hall, Lewisburg United Methodist Church. This year \$2,000 was raised to support area families through the activities of Penny Pitch.

For more information, visit www.gvaquaticcenter.com or find them on social media. GVAC is located at 896 Maplewood Avenue, Lewisburg, WV, across from the state fairgrounds. Membership rates are based on household size. Income-based memberships are available through the Everybody Swims scholarship program.

Visit www.therealwv.com for more stories like this.

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4-H group hosts veterans



Senior Friends together with the Mountain Movers 4-H Club honored and welcomed 15 veterans along with their families to eat lunch.

Submitted by Sophia House

On Nov. 11, at Hermon Methodist Church in Renick, Tracy Brownell from Senior Friends together with the Mountain Movers 4-H Club honored and welcomed 15 veterans along with their families to eat lunch.

Anna Pack, president; Sophia House, reporter; and Trevor Dixon, health agent led with a poem, pledge, and prayer. Fourteen club members helped with the dinner.

The dinner was made by Senior Friends, and dessert made by 4-H members.



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Have you ever wondered how Ecuador celebrates Christmas? Or wanted to taste a honey cookie from South Korea, or shortbread from England? Faith Community Homeschool co-op invites you to experience Christmas and cultures from around the world On Dec. 8 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Rhema Life Center gymnasium. Students and their families plan to have over 15 countries represented at the event, including France, Germany, Ireland, Sweden, Brazil, and many more. This immersive event was thoughtfully planned to be both educational and affordable for the whole family, not to mention delicious! It will certainly get you in a festive mood as the holiday season ensues.

Traditional cookies from each culture will be for sale. Tickets are \$1 each and can be purchased on-site. Cookies can be purchased separately for one ticket each, or a box of one dozen can be purchased for twelve tickets (or two boxes for 20). There is no cost for entrance.

There will be decorative scenes from each country represented and a few other culinary items to taste, and photo opportunities in "Paris" and a cozy scene from an Ecuadorian Christmas room. Meander and explore the cultural aspects of Christmas from around the world, relax in a cozy lounge area with Swedish Fika (coffee and cakes) or enjoy proper English tea.

Faith Community Co-op (FCC) provides enrichment opportunities for homeschooled students from Pre-K through High School. Proceeds will go towards scholarships, gym and STEM equipment, and various outreach efforts by the group. Event Address: 3584 Davis Stuart Road, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Look for the event page on Facebook.

Teaching kids to swim

Continued from Front Page

such as treading water, various strokes, and how to float.

Close to half the students couldn't swim safely when they first arrived. But that's changing quickly. Perry and Fowler are very pleased with their student's progress in the water.

"I feel like we're really accomplishing a lot," Perry confides. "They all say they love it."

While some students are learning the basics, others are progressing in their skills by learning new strokes, beginning to dive, and building their endurance.

McCraw notes, "All of the students are working really hard."

The fear factor

Teaching water safety is a lot like swimming upstream. There are pressures working against you all the time. After 40 years of teaching, Fowler knows this all too well.

"The confidence and fear barriers are the biggest things we face," she confides.

Over the years, she and Perry have heard it all.

People say their parents were afraid of water, and that carried on with them. People say they think learning how to swim means you will be thrown in the water and forced to figure it out. People say don't go to the river or else you'll drown. People think they can't float.

"You hear that a lot," offers Perry. "Which is sad."

"It still amazes me how much fear of water there is," adds Fowler. "You just take it one step at a time."

She recalls being stopped by a mother whose son she once taught how to swim. On a scouting trip, he and his friend were in a canoe that overturned. Because of the water safety skills she taught him at the pool, he was able to guide his friend safely to shore.

"That makes it worthwhile," Fowler shares. "It's like riding a bike. Once you learn how to swim, you'll have it forever."

So they focus on encouraging the students as they teach them the basics of water safety. Their hope is to add more and more students every time they offer the classes, as word spreads about the student's positive experiences.

"Next time these permission slips go out, we'd love to see more come back," McCraw says. "Parents should feel confidence that their kids are safe. We have lots of lifeguards on duty. Anyone can come take a tour or talk to us any time before they sign up."

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A Look Back

Dear Recycle Lady,
What exactly is a carbon footprint?

Need Information

Dear Need Information,

An individual's carbon footprint is a measurement of the carbon dioxide that is released into the atmosphere based on the amount of energy you use. According to nature.org, a carbon footprint is the total amount of greenhouse gases (including carbon dioxide (CO2) and methane (CH4) that are generated by our actions and activities. Sometimes called the greenhouse footprint, your carbon footprint can be measured with a carbon footprint calculator. They can be found on several sites, such as www.carbon-calculator.climatehero.me or www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/carbon-footprint-calculator. The average carbon footprint for someone living in the U.S. is 16 tons, which is one of the highest rates in the world. We can all lower our carbon footprint by making small changes in our lifestyle: walking short distances, instead of driving, eating locally grown produce instead of produce that uses fuel to be brought in, and take shorter showers which uses less hot water, thus less energy to heat the water.

Dear Recycle Lady,

What is single stream recycling? Is it used at the Recycling Center in Ronceverte?

Puzzled Recycler

Dear Puzzled Recycler,

Single stream recycling was introduced in the mid-1990s as a way to put all recyclables in a single bag, with no sorting required. In other words, all paper, metals, plastics, aluminum, cardboard, junk mail, and any other recyclable items, were all put in the same bag and taken to a recycling center. Large cities have dedicated equipment that sorts all these recyclables

and places them in the proper bins. However, the Recycling Center doesn't have this equipment. Thus, any bags of mixed recyclables that are left at the Center are sent to the landfill. The Center just doesn't have the number of employees, or the time required, to sort mixed recyclables.

Dear Recycle Lady,

I read that sponges contain microplastics that are hazardous to humans. What about cellulose sponges? Are they safe to use and are they recyclable?

Uses Cellulose Sponges

Dear Uses Cellulose Sponges,

Congratulations on your choice to use cellulose sponges instead of sponges made of plastic. Since cellulose sponges are made of coniferous wood and cotton fibers, they are safe to use. Cellulose sponges are more durable than the other kinds of sponges. Although they are not recyclable, they are 100% biodegradable and sustainable. Sponges should not be used to wipe up raw egg, raw meat or other substances that contain bacteria. Cellulose sponges can be cleaned with an antibacterial soap or by putting them in the microwave or dishwasher.

Bad News: Over 2,345 fossil fuel lobbyists have been allowed to attend the UN Climate Summit going on now in Dubai - more than any single country's delegation.

Reuse and Reduce: Make your own greeting cards with left over wrapping paper. Cut a piece of cardstock to the size of your envelope, then decorate it with your leftover wrapping paper.

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

This past November, on Thanksgiving Day, West Virginia lost a native son who left an indelible mark on our state's political history and national journalism.

Charles Peters was born in Charleston in 1926, the son of Charles and Esther Peters. His father was a prominent Charleston trial lawyer, and both parents were active in West Virginia Democrat party politics. Peters was a stellar student at Charleston High School and involved in the drama program. After graduation, he enlisted in the military in 1944 to serve in World War II, but was sidelined due to a serious back injury during training. In 1946, Peters enrolled at Columbia College (now University) in New York City where he received B.A. and M.A. degrees. During the summers he worked in theatres. He entered law school at the University of Virginia and graduated in 1957. Afterwards, Peters returned to Charleston to work in his father's law firm and served as a clerk in the West Virginia Legislature. In 1960, Peters was selected to be Kanawha County's organizer for John F. Kennedy's bid for the presidency. At the same time, Peters was running for a seat in West Virginia's House of Delegates. Kennedy, a Catholic, had an uphill battle in a state that was nearly 100% protestant. Both Kennedy and Peters won. Peter's term in the Legislature was short as he was picked by Sergeant Shriver to help the Kennedy administration start the Peace Corps. Despite his brief tenure as a state delegate, Peters was instrumental in gaining civil service protection for state employees.



Photo: From PBS.
Sources: West Virginia Living, New York Times, Boston Globe, New Republic, The Primary That Made A President by Robert Rupp.

zine - The Washington Monthly. While in Washington, Peters had become a close friend of Jay Rockefeller and was responsible for convincing Rockefeller to move to West Virginia. As one of the magazine's initial investors, Rockefeller kicked in \$20,000.

The Washington Monthly began on a shoestring and offered meager wages and spartan working conditions. Despite never having a large circulation, the magazine was respected and influential. Known as the godfather of neoliberalism, Peters attracted talented writers to work for him. Under his mentorship, many of his writers became first-rate journalists, including James Fellows (The Atlantic), David Ignatius (The Washington Post), James Bennet (The Economist), Katherine Boo (The Washington Post) and historian Jon Meacham. Slate and Politico were each started by former interns at The Washington Monthly.

In a 2021 West Virginia Living article about Charles Peters by publisher Niki Bowman Mills, Peters said, as he reflected on his 95 years, "In many ways, life was much tougher in the thirties, but there was a lot more sunshine in the soul and laughter in the land. We need that laughter today. We need to laugh, above all, at ourselves. If we don't, we will never overcome the politics of self-righteous, self-pitying interest groups and begin to listen to one another, to rebuild community, and to take the risks that can produce a just and prosperous and democratic society."

LEGAL

LEGAL NOTICE
December 1, 2023

The West Virginia Health Care Authority announced that it has received a Letter of Intent from Physician Reliance Network, LLC, CON File #23-1/4-12836-A, for Physician Reliance Network, LLC to acquire the existing radiation oncology services and equipment, including the linear accelerators and other equipment utilized to provide megavoltage radiation therapy services currently located at 187 Skylar Drive, Fairlea, Greenbrier County, WV 24901 and 660 New Hope Road, Princeton, Mercer County, WV 24740. Capital Expenditure \$8,125,000.

Further information regarding the Letter of Intent, including the Certificate of Need application when submitted, is on the Authority's website at www.hca.wv.gov.

To advertise in the Mountain Messenger
call 304-647-5724 or email ads@mountainmessenger.com.

LEGAL

CASE NO. 23-0831-E-P
APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY and WHEELING POWER COMPANY

Application to increase Environmental Compliance Surcharge Rates Currently in Effect

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGE IN RATES WITH PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE

NOTICE is hereby given that Appalachian Power Company and Wheeling Power Company, public utilities, (the Companies) filed on October 20, 2023, with the Public Service Commission of West Virginia, an application to update their Environmental Compliance Surcharge (ECS) rates. If approved, the increased rates will apply to electric service to approximately 462,328 customers in cities, towns, villages, unincorporated municipalities, and rural areas in the counties of Boone, Brooke, Cabell, Clay, Fayette, Greenbrier, Jackson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monroe, Nicholas, Ohio, Putnam, Raleigh, Roane, Summers, Wayne, Wetzel, and Wyoming.

The proposed increased ECS rates will produce approximately \$37.2 million annually in additional revenue, an increase in total revenue of 1.88%. If approved, the average monthly bill for the various classes of customers will be changed as follows:

	(\$) INCREASE	(%) INCREASE
Residential	\$ 2.84	1.68%
Commercial	\$ 7.61	1.81%
Industrial	\$ 4,795.68	1.94%
Special Contract ²	\$ 16,213.55	3.21%
Other	\$ 0.03	0.18%

²Excludes Special Contract customers that are billed standard tariff rates.

The increases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. Each class may receive an increase or decrease greater or less than stated here. Individual customers may receive increases that are greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increases or decreases) by the Public Service Commission in its review of this application. By Order issued November 22, 2023, the Commission suspended the January 1, 2024 proposed effective date of the ECS rate increase, and any increase in rates and charges will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Commission. The Commission has adopted the following procedural schedule:

Deadline for intervention	30 days from publication of notice
Deadline for discovery requests	4:00 p.m. Monday, January 8, 2024
Deadline for discovery responses and objections	4:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 23, 2024
Staff and intervenor direct testimony	4:00 p.m. Thursday, February 1, 2024
Rebuttal testimony from all parties	4:00 p.m. Thursday, February 15, 2024
Agreed order of witnesses	4:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 21, 2024
Public Comment Hearing (virtual and in-person) Instructions on how to participate virtually will be in a future press release and on the PSC website	5:30 p.m., February 29, 2024, in the Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room, Public Service Commission, 201 Brooks St., Charleston, WV
Evidentiary Hearing The Commission may cancel the evidentiary hearing for good cause shown. Interested persons should monitor the Commission webdocket.	9:30 a.m. Thursday, February 29, 2024, in the Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room, Public Service Commission, 201 Brooks St., Charleston, WV

Anyone desiring to protest should file a written or electronic protest at any time. Anyone desiring to intervene should file a written petition to intervene within thirty days, unless otherwise modified by Commission order. Failure to timely intervene can affect your right to participate in future proceedings. Requests to intervene must comply with the Commission rules on intervention. All protests or requests to intervene should briefly state the reason for the protest or intervention and be addressed to Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P. O. Box 812, 201 Brooks St., Charleston, West Virginia 25323. Protests may be filed on line through the Commission website using the "Submit a Comment" link or may be mailed or hand-delivered to the Executive Secretary at the address above.

A copy of the proposed rates is available on the Commission website <https://www.psc.state.us> and may be viewed at the office of the Executive Secretary of the Public Service Commission at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia.

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY and WHEELING POWER COMPANY

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

You will take notice that ELEMENTAL RESOURCES, the purchaser of the following real estate, Cert. 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 Nonentered Lands of GREENBRIER County, State of West Virginia

Please return this letter and payment 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



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West Virginia receives Communities in Schools partner certification

WV first state to earn national recognition

West Virginia is the first state department of education to receive national certification as a licensed partner of Communities In Schools (CIS®). The announcement showcases the West Virginia Department of Education's (WVDE's) commitment to high standards for program implementation, data collection and fidelity to the CIS model.

Communities In Schools has supported children nationwide to achieve goals in school, in the workforce and in life for the past 45 years. In the Mountain State, the program has experienced exponential growth due, in large part, to the commitment of Gov. Jim Justice and First Lady Cathy Justice. The Governor and First Lady started their CIS statewide initiative in

three counties in 2018. Since that time, CIS has grown to 53 counties, 264 schools and impacts more than 100,000 students.

The strength of the program is the work of its 265 site coordinators based in schools around the state. These caring adults work in partnership with school staff to identify challenges students face in class or at home. They coordinate with community partners to bring outside resources inside schools. From addressing immediate needs like food or clothing to more complex challenges such as counseling and emotional support, the evidenced-based CIS model is adaptable to meet a child's or a community's unique needs.

"The journey toward achieving national certification as a Communities In Schools partner embodies

the vision both the Governor and I share for the future of West Virginia's education system," First Lady Justice said. "The expansion of CIS across 53 counties and 260 schools, impacting over 100,000 students, is a testament to our relentless pursuit of ensuring every child's pathway to success. The impact of Communities In Schools on the lives of our children in West Virginia is immeasurable. The stories of transformation spearheaded by our site coordinators underscore the profound difference this program makes in the lives of our most precious resource, our children."

"We know that teachers and schools cannot support children alone," State Superintendent of Schools Michele L. Blatt said. "CIS is that critical ingredient that connects students and families to life-

changing resources. With many of the pillars of stability removed from our communities, CIS site coordinators step in and fill a void with compassion, expertise and the ability to draw upon a network of support. As a result, children remain in school and thrive because there is a connected community that cares for them."

One of the hallmark initiatives of CIS in West Virginia is the Friends with Paws program, which provides highly-trained therapy dogs to schools within CIS counties, particularly those affected by poverty, substance misuse or other at-risk situations. These therapy dogs offer a nurturing outlet for students to address trauma and other social-emotional issues, with 17 dogs placed across the state since April 2022.

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 gag!

Fewest **STEAL**

Companion **SECTOR**

Lift **ARISE**

Vast **GATER**

TODAY'S WORD

"When I said give him everything you've got... I didn't mean your _____!"

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Can is missing, 2. Pillow is smaller, 3. Lamp shade is different, 4. Box is missing, 5. TV controls are missing, 6. Antenna is missing.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Super Crossword

TRIMMING UP

ACROSS

1 Sports events played by visiting teams
10 Obeys reluctantly
16 Boho-chic Aussie boots
20 Arched shoe part
21 Part of U.K.
22 She talks on iPhones
23 Parasites plaguing the Cheshire cat?
25 A party to
26 Everlasting, poetically
27 Above ground
28 Bedazzled
29 Worked to get a different reward?
35 Pizza base
38 Tic-tac-toe win
39 Geometry assignments
40 "Dr." who raps
41 Above, poetically
42 Yard separators
45 Prefix with cyclist
46 Combat vet's affliction, for short

47 One giving technical advice to wizards?
52 Bull in a ring
54 Structure near a tonsil
55 "Othello" adversary
56 Relatives of alpacas
59 Adversary
60 City area where lots of radiators are produced?
63 Sword variety
66 Medic
67 Hiking aid
68 Disgusting
69 Untwisting threads overseas?
75 "I think —!"
77 Mobile's state
78 Smell horrible
79 Big ape
83 Hoofbeat
84 Math student doing sums correctly?
87 Mötley —
89 — hub (tech device)
91 Widely known
92 "Nope"
93 Narrow estuary
94 Guinea pig's cousin

97 Ring legend Muhammad
98 Speechify
100 Clock setting at the rear of a ship?
105 Makes grimy
106 Eye color, e.g.
107 Non-Spanish spelling of an Arizona tribe's name
111 Pack neatly
112 Trim request ... or what this puzzle takes, based on what its missing letters spell?
117 Sicilian peak
118 Use a hammer to fix, perhaps
119 Angry cry to a captor
120 Promising
121 Lacey's partner on TV
122 Hugh Jackman film about robot boxing

DOWN

1 Vex
2 Doing the job
3 Suffix with clear or vigil
4 Certain plows and tractors
5 Give a smile
6 Ed of "Gus"
7 Trim grass
8 "Do Ya" rock gp.
9 Wash. bigwig
10 Good, in Spain
11 Freeway access point
12 More shrewd
13 Begin
14 "X" number
15 Eccentric
16 Consuming
17 Popular highball
18 Gardeners, farmers, etc.
19 Well-muscled
24 Affront, in rap
28 GEICO's bus.
30 Incessantly
31 Geologic spans
32 Lead-in to drama
33 Sweetie pie
34 Should that be the case
35 Super-deep sleep
36 Skim, say
37 Spur (on) gras
43 Hollywood's Kazan
44 Eye color, e.g.
46 Itchy, medically
48 Make weak
49 Pigeon sound
50 Geologic span
51 Shearer of "A Free Soul"
53 Sept. follower
56 Bigwig
57 Comic strip cry of dismay
58 Sloppy farm area
60 Animal in a 58-Down
61 Greeting with a GIF, maybe
62 June honoree
63 Geologic span
64 Chum
65 Pre-hurricane orders
66 Stuff in the gene pool
70 Thai language
71 Oppose as false
72 Snoozing site
73 Atoll feature
74 Sticky pod in Cajun cuisine
75 Entre —
76 Tolkien beast
79 Astronaut's wear
80 "Girls" creator Dunham
81 Legal exam, for short
82 Former court king Arthur
84 Lying adjacent to
85 Epps of "Scream 2"
86 Give up a poker hand
87 More boorish
88 Trattoria rice dish
90 Distress call
94 — Antiqua
95 Plaid design
96 Even-scored
98 Nebraskan Native Americans
99 Reinstate in an office
101 1999 Super Bowl MVP John
102 Humdinger
103 Wolfed down
104 Spying info
108 To — (perfectly)
109 Living space
110 German car company
112 Circle part
113 Rural stretch (between us)
114 Rink legend Bobby
115 Stipend or toll
116 St. Pete loc.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14	15		16	17	18	19			
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PUZZLE ANSWERS PAGE 4

VISIT US AT WWW.MOUNTAINMESSENGER.COM

DMV surpasses 80,000 driver's license knowledge tests taken online

Over 30,000 tests have been taken in the last year alone, making DMV a leader in innovation, safety, and convenience to customers with the graduated driver's licensing process

West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Commissioner Everett Frazier is pleased to announce that over 80,000 knowledge tests have been taken online through DMV's secure online services portal since its implementation in February 2021. The online knowledge test saves customers time and

is a benefit for those who get test anxiety.

"We are thrilled to see so many customers take advantage of the online driver's license knowledge test. We recognize that some people simply don't do as well with test-taking and being able to do it securely from the comfort and convenience of home is a real benefit," said Commissioner Frazier.

For customers to use the online services portal to take the knowledge test, they must have access to a computer with a camera, mouse, and keyboard. Go to the DMV website at dmv.wv.gov and click on the Online Services Portal at the top of the page. From there, simply choose the "Drivers" column, and then the link to "Register now and immediately take your knowledge test online." Notes and tips to assist customers in taking the online knowledge test may be found here before beginning: <https://transportation.wv.gov/DMV/Drivers/Pages/What-You-Should-Know.aspx>.

After customers pass the test, they will still need to come into a regional office to present their documents and have their picture taken, but the online testing process significantly cuts down the time needed in an office, and also often makes anxious test-takers feel more comfortable.

Several high schools across the state are also using the DMV's online services portal in their Driver's Education classes. Teachers are able to assist

students with logging in, and then the students may take the online knowledge test at school, which is a benefit especially if students may not have access to a computer with keyboard, mouse, and camera built in at home. Test scores are good for 30 days after a passing score, which gives customers plenty of time to visit a regional office at their convenience. DMV recommends that you take advantage of their appointment scheduling system to make the process even easier and more efficient.

"It's exciting to see that our efforts to provide more convenience and options to our customers are really being utilized," said Commissioner Frazier. "We have a strong Graduated Driver's Licensing (GDL) program that emphasizes safety and supervised driving to not only make our roads safer, but help new drivers feel more comfortable and confident behind the wheel."

In addition to the online knowledge testing option, over this past summer DMV introduced a partnership with the Parent's Supervised Driving Program, which provides guidebooks for new drivers, as well as an "app" for parents and caregivers to download to make training and monitoring new drivers easier. The RoadReady mobile app is available for iPhones at the App Store and for Android on Google Play.

"Safety on our roadways for all drivers is one of DMV's biggest priorities, and we are fortunate to have strong safety and enforcement programs and messaging through the Governor's Highway Safety Program," said Commissioner Frazier. "I also plan to continue exploring new and innovative technology to bring convenience to our customers--not just the drivers, but everyone who owns a vehicle, our commercial drivers, and our dealers, too. We've got some exciting opportunities on the horizon, so continue checking in with us!"

For more information on online knowledge testing, the Parent's Supervised Driving Program, or the RoadReady app, please visit the DMV website.

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Event Held At: **Quinwood Community Library**
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WVSOM's Waddell honored as WVRHA Outstanding Rural Health Provider

How do you earn the West Virginia Rural Health Association's (WVRHA) Outstanding Rural Health Provider award?

In the case of the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine's (WVSOM) Mark Waddell, D.O., you work to improve rural health care in West Virginia and around the world.

Waddell is the winner of the WVRHA's 2023 Outstanding Rural Health Provider award, receiving the honor during a Nov. 16 luncheon at the 31st annual WVRHA conference at Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV.

The WVRHA advocates for empowering all West Virginians to advance their quality of life, well-being and access to excellence in rural health care. Its mission is to unite people, communities and organizations to strengthen rural health in West Virginia.

The association's provider award recognizes a direct service provider who has exhibited outstanding leadership in the improvement of health care services in rural areas of West Virginia.

WVSOM Class of 2024 student Jessica Brumbaugh nominated Waddell for the award and outlined his efforts in a letter to the WVRHA:

"Through his many academic roles he has inspired and taught hundreds of students across West Virginia. He has personally persuaded many medical students to remain in West Virginia to provide medical care and continue his legacy. ... In everything he does, Dr. Waddell lives using the model of servant leadership, and his ultimate impact on the health care of West Virginia may never be fully known."

While the award is presented by a West Virginia-based association, Brumbaugh's letter notes that Waddell's influence extends beyond the state.

"It is clear that Dr. Waddell has a passion for providing health care to the underserved in West Virginia, but a unique aspect of his work is his ability to see the bigger picture. Dr. Waddell has taken his leadership and experience in rural West Virginia to be a medical provider and leader in nine countries ... in more than 27 international short-term mission trips across five continents," Brumbaugh said.

Waddell, who has a history of service across West Vir-



West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine's (WVSOM) Mark Waddell, D.O., accepts the West Virginia Rural Health Association's (WVRHA) 2023 Outstanding Rural Health Provider award, receiving the honor during a Nov. 16 luncheon at the 31st annual WVRHA conference at Oglebay Resort in Wheeling.

ginia, thinks the award is the result of cumulative professional achievements, more than any singular effort in 2023.

"I look at it, honestly, as a lifetime achievement award. I'm being recognized in 2023, but they are looking back at everything I have done," Waddell said.

Being a rural health provider, he said, has always been his goal.

"I'm a foot soldier, a trench physician," Waddell said. "If you go back to the beginning, I've always been drawn to rural areas. ... One of my passions is wilderness medicine. One of the things I love about West Virginia is the outdoors."

His work, however, benefits more than his native state.

"Because of my faith, I also am strongly pulled to

developing world medical missions. My wife is a nurse, and we have been on 28 short-term international trips. ... I just got back from Peru. We're taking another group to Peru this coming March: the DOCARE students," he said.

Waddell, who joined WVSOM's clinical sciences faculty in 2020, is the school's global health coordinator and an associate professor. He has worked as a physician in West Virginia, including serving for 18 years as medical director for Braxton County Memorial Hospital's emergency department. He currently practices at CAMC Greenbrier Valley Medical Center in Ronceverte, WV, where he is assistant director of the family medicine residency program, and at the Robert C. Byrd Clinic in Lewisburg.

Prior to receiving his D.O. degree from WVSOM in 1990, Waddell received a Bachelor of Science degree from Alderson Broaddus College in Philippi in business management and management information systems.

Waddell also has served as a WVSOM preceptor and advanced cardiac life support instructor. Additionally, he assists with the school's wilderness medicine program.

He helped design the 2022 International Mines Rescue Competition for the National Mine Health and Safety Academy, which is operated by the U.S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration. Miners from eight nations competed and hundreds of miners and other industry personnel attended the competition.

Waddell was named the WVSOM Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni of the Year for 2022.

Waddell joins Carolyn Bridgett Morrison, D.O., in 2020, and Bob Foster, D.O., in 2019 as WVSOM faculty members who previously won the WVRHA provider award.

Nominees for the award can include health care providers from any discipline, including physicians, physician associates, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, social workers, nurses, pharmacists, physical therapists and psychologists.

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Dr. Christian "Chris" Butcher grew up in Maryland, but has family roots in central West Virginia. He trained in Internal Medicine in Morgantown and Baltimore, MD; completing subspecialty training in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at WVU.

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Barry L. Bruce ATTORNEY AT LAW



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In 1990, I moved my family to Greenbrier County to open my law practice. For thirty-three years I have been blessed to live here and serve you. I want to thank you for the support you have given me and my family and the kindness you have shown to us.

It has been an honor to have had so many loyal, competent, and trustworthy people working with me to provide legal services to these counties and communities.

Effective December 15, 2023, I will be retiring from the full-time practice of law. I will continue to do wills, powers of attorney, medical powers of attorney, and some Magistrate Court matters.

After January 1, 2024, our office hours will be Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays, by appointment only, between 8:30 am and 4:00 pm. If you would like your old file, please contact the office to arrange a pick-up time.

Again, thank you and God Bless you in the years to come.

Barry L. Bruce, Attorney at Law

Barry and staff, wish you a Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

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