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Carnegie Museum \$1.00 Gallery Page 8

Mountain messenger

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

December 16, 2023

Penny Pitch delivers food boxes to families

"You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."
—John Bunyan

Christmas shopping for Penny Pitch families has ended. Thanks to the staff at Walmart for all of their help! Our wonderful volunteers delivered food boxes last weekend, and thanks to Heritage Farm in Renick, every family got fresh eggs. Greenbrier East Spartan Football team carefully loaded boxes into cars for delivery, and they didn't break even one egg!

The last part of the program is giving help with utilities. Our donation numbers have jumped considerably over this week, so we will be able to cover costs of food and gifts. We hope to help with bills, but to do so, we still need your help! You can send your donation to Penny Pitch, 383 Alderson St., Lewisburg, WV 24901 or drop it off at the Mountain Messenger or at City Bank in Lewisburg.

A big list today, and for that we are grateful!

- 200.00 Eugene L Jeffus
- 100.00 In honor of our 34th wedding anniversary and Clayton's 102nd birthday 1-9-2024 by Clayton & Pat Tyree
- 50.00 In honor of Robert Coombe
- 100.00 Edward, Karen, Matthew & Mark Lemons
- 100.00 In memory of Calvin & Delphia Lemons
- 200.00 In memory of Steve King from Sue King
- 500.00 Mardi McMillan and William Shiffer
- 25.00 Linda & Wayne Church
- 50.00 In memory of Carol Sue Workman, loving wife, mother, Nana and sister
- 100.00 Jean M. Martin
- 100.00 In memory of Wilford Spinks
- 100.00 In memory of Ricky Spinks
- 50.00 In memory of Frances Richardson from Mary Jane Gilkerson
- 50.00 In memory of Frances Richardson from Pam Lewis
- 150.00 Wesley Sunday School Class of Lewisburg United Methodist Church
- 3,000.00 Lewisburg Elks Lodge #1758
- 300.00 Mount Vernon M E Church (Ronceverte)
- 200.00 Patrick & Cynthia Shea
- 250.00 Greenbrier Democratic Women
- 25.00 Clintonville Ruritan Club
- 250.00 Grand Home Furnishings (Lewisburg)
- 200.00 John McIlhenny
- 100.00 Rebecca Johnson
- 150.00 Beverly Johnson
- 200.00 Grace United Methodist Church (Ronceverte)
- 100.00 In memory of "Mollie"
- 50.00 In memory of Carl & Kathleen Patterson, John & Madeline Hicks, Jay Hicks, Joyce Hicks, Betty Rodgers, Roy Hicks and Larry Parrish
- 100.00 Cliff & Jennifer Huffman
- 200.00 John & Virginia Wilson
- 100.00 In memory of Frances Helles, Frances Goodall, Wilda Mann and Frank Upton
- 300.00 White Sulphur Springs Rotary Club
- 150.00 Ann Walker
- 250.00 Country Road Realty
- 100.00 RuhRoh LLC
- 100.00 In loving memory of Bill & Mary Jo Dixon from Rodney & Ginger Morgan
- 100.00 Mildred Rutledge
- 500.00 Michael Corley and Linda Knupp
- 25.00 Hanno W Kirk & Jo Weisbrod
- TOTAL \$23,180.00

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

Alderson's Store continues annual Children's Book Drive tradition, 300 books still needed

By Sarah Richardson

Sarah Alderson of Alderson's Store is continuing their popular annual holiday Children's Book Drive for the seventh year, but they are still several hundred books short of their 600-book goal with mere days left to go.

"About seven years ago we started this project as a book drive for Alderson Elementary, with us needing about 200 books.

It was such a success and went so well that the next year Ronceverte Elementary reached out to see if we could include them, as well, which means we See "Children's Book Drive" _____ Page 2



The annual holiday Children's Book Drive is a highly anticipated event each year for local elementary school students, and 300 books are still needed to reach the goal. (Photo Alderson's Store)

Ronceverte swears in new officers, plans for Holiday Open House

By Dakota Baker

Ronceverte City Council held their monthly meeting on Monday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. at City Hall. The meeting began with the approval of the minutes from November, and was followed by citizen's comments. A concerned employee of Architectural Wood requested a guardrail due to two cars running into their building over the years. Mayor Deena Pack acknowledged the concern and requested that the owner of the facility submit a request in writing or come speak with the City. The mayor stated since it was a city road they could potentially come up with a resolution. There was also concern about reckless driving on Pocahontas Avenue. Chief Hopkins stated they do have officers watching that area.

Resolution #9, which is a resolution of the City of Ronceverte relating to invoices for the design and construction of the sewer system repairs project and authorizing payment thereof, was approved by city council members. Anthony Brown gave an update from Thrasher, stating it is in the final design stage and that they should have design approval by the end of the year. Invoice #1 by E.L. Robinson for water system upgrades in the amount of \$235,500 was approved by city council members. Resolution #1 for invoices related to the design and construction of the water upgrade project was approved by city council members, as well.

Two new law enforcement officers, Bradden Isaacs and Jonathan King, were sworn in by Mayor Pack during this city council meeting.

Mayor Pack commented on the Ronceverte Christmas Parade held on Monday, Dec. 4, stating, "It was a very successful parade and probably one of the most crowded she's seen in a long time which is exciting and fun." There are some upcoming events happening in Ronceverte, with the Ronceverte Development Corporation hosting a Holiday Open House on Friday, Dec. 15, from 5 to 8 p.m. There is a scavenger hunt for the kids, Santa will be at City Hall, the Accelerate WV team will be handing out hot chocolate, and there will be free carriage rides throughout town, as well as live music, food, and vendors in the armory.

Most businesses around town still have donation jars



New police officer Bradden Isaacs (left), Ronceverte Police Chief Jerry Hopkins, Mayor Deena Pack, and new officer Jonathan King.

set out for donations to the snacks and packs program. This program helps to provide a bagged snack to go home with food insecure students at Ronceverte Elementary School. Extra snacks will be sent home with students over the holiday break due to students being out of school for 10 days.

City Hall will be closed on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

See "Ronceverte City Council" _____ Page 3

Two arrested for death of three-year-old

On Dec. 5, at 6:27 p.m. the Lewisburg Police Department, the Lewisburg Fire Department, the Greenbrier County Emergency Ambulance Service and the White Sulphur Springs Emergency Medical Service responded to Northridge Drive in Lewisburg in reference to an unresponsive 3-year-old male. The 3-year-old was transported to the Greenbrier Valley Medical Center and then on to Carillion Roanoke Memorial Hospital for treatment.

On Dec. 6, Robert F. Reinhold III, of Lewisburg was arrested by the Lewisburg Police Department and charged with Child Abuse Resulting in Injury and Malicious or Unlawful Assault and was held in the Southern Regional Jail on a \$100,000 cash only bond, both charges are felonies.

On Dec. 11, the 3-year-old male passed away at the Carillion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. On that same day Kimberly A. Sears, 26, of Lewisburg was arrested in Roanoke, VA, on warrants from Greenbrier County and charged with Death of a Child by a Parent, Guardian or Custodian or Other Person by Child Abuse and is expected to be extradited back to WV. On Dec. 13 Robert F. Reinhold III appeared in the Greenbrier County Magistrate Court where the original charge of Child Abuse Resulting in Injury and Malicious or Unlawful Assault was dismissed and he was re-charged with Death of a Child by a Parent, Guardian or Custodian or Other Person by Child Abuse, this charge is a felony and carries a penalty of 15 years to life in prison.

This investigation is ongoing and anyone with any information is urged to contact the Lewisburg Police Department at 304-645-1626. The lead investigators in this case are Cpl. J.T. Williams II and Sgt. D.B. Eggleston of the Lewisburg Police Department in consultation with the Greenbrier County Prosecuting Attorney's office, and they were assisted by several other officers of the Lewisburg Police Department, the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Department and the WV State Police.

Greenbrier County Commission reconvenes special meeting, approves \$3M for 911 Center upgrades

By Matthew Young
RealWV

www.therealwv.com

In a continuation of last week's special meeting, the Greenbrier County Commission, on Thursday, voted unanimously to award two additional contracts pertaining to the 911 Center's communications upgrade project.

"We're still counting on a few things happening to cover all of this," Commissioner Lowell Rose said, prior to voting on the motion. "I think we've pretty well got the funding

figured out as best we can right now."

The first contract is with Motorola, and is for the purchase and installation of new radio-dispatch consoles. The second contract, with Aviat Networks, is for the installation of a "microwave network connection," linking the Emergency Communications Center with the tower on Muddy Creek Mountain. These additional contracts will work in conjunction with the contract awarded to Motorola last week, bringing the total cost of

the project to \$3,077,935.

On-hand to answer questions was Greenbrier County System Administrator Jordan Clendenin. In response to a question from Rose regarding the project's timeframe for completion, Clendenin said, "It will vary."

"We won't know what the timeline actually looks like until we get into some of our beginning meetings with the project," Clendenin added. "But the estimated timeline right See "County Commission" _____ Page 3

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Nationally significant cave in WV permanently protected

The Conservation Fund, a leading nonprofit in U.S. land and water protection, recently transferred 298 acres in Monroe County to West Virginia Land Trust (WVLT) for ownership. The property encompasses the Greenville Saltpeter Cave, designated as a National Natural Landmark by the National Park Service because of its nationally significant historic and ecological values.

At the request of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, the Fund negotiated the acquisition of 149.6 acres from Amanda Sandell and Matthias Grawe in 2021 and 148.5 acres from the Institute for Earth Education in 2023. Both properties were transferred to the WVLT to be managed as the future Greenville Saltpeter Cave Preserve.

“The biological and historical value of this land made it clear to everyone involved that permanent conservation was more than just prudent - it was paramount,” said The Conservation Fund Vice President and West Virginia Director Joe Hankins. “Our partners at West Virginia Land Trust will serve as unparalleled caretakers for this land. We’re thrilled to have helped secure this outcome, which will benefit West Virginians for decades to come.”

WVLT will manage the preserve in cooperation with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WV DNR), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Institute for Earth Education, whose prior ownership launched conservation stewardship of the cave system, will partner with the Land Trust on educational, interpretive and stewardship programs at the preserve.

Amanda Sandell, the previous landowner and a Monroe County native, said about the project, “Working with The Conservation Fund toward the goal of protecting the cave habitat environment was a cooperative and solution-oriented process. These caves have long held a special place in the hearts of those living in Monroe County and beyond. May this protection serve to preserve the caves for generations to come.”

The most notable feature of the preserve is the Greenville Saltpeter Cave that has developed in the Greenbrier Limestone. The cave has 3.8 miles of mapped passage with five entrances. In the 18th and 19th centuries, one entrance was known as the Singing Cave for the gospel songs held there because of favorable acoustics.

As early as 1777, the cave was leased for saltpeter mining for the manufacture of gunpowder, mostly for use by the local communities. The cave was mined extensively for saltpeter prior to the Civil War and by the Confederacy during the war. William Davies, a notable American geologist who authored “Caverns of West Virginia,” noted in 1958 that the cave contained many “cart ruts, burro tracks, mattock marks, and other relics of saltpeter operations.” Unfortunately, many of these remnants and artifacts were removed, damaged or destroyed by vandalism.

The cave is especially significant for the imperiled bats it supports. Of these bats, currently the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat are listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as endangered; the tricolored bat has been proposed for listing as endangered; and the little brown bat is under review for possible listing as threatened or endangered. Once one of the most abundant bats in eastern North America, the tricolored bat has declined precipitously, but the Greenville Saltpeter Cave population has held up better and is now one of the largest surviving groups found anywhere.

Human disturbance and the fungal disease White-nosed Syndrome (WNS) have imperiled many cave-dwelling bat species. WNS is a disease that affects hibernating



The team at Greenville Saltpeter Cave

bats and is caused by an invasive, cold-loving fungus. The fungus grows on bats’ skin, disturbing their hibernation and resulting in dehydration, starvation and often death.

Following recommendations of the WV DNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Greenville Saltpeter Cave entrances were gated by the previous landowners, preventing unpermitted human visitation. Controlling access continues to be a major strategy for recovery of imperiled bats.

See “Greenville Cave” __ Page 5

\$111M announced for new schools and school upgrades in 19 counties

Gov. Justice, as Chairman of the West Virginia School Building Authority (SBA), announced a historic milestone recently as the SBA approved an allocation of \$111,687,534 to 19 counties for Fiscal Year 2024.

This funding, the largest annual award by the SBA since 2011, will be used to construct ten new schools

and perform major renovations on thirteen existing schools across the state.

In Greenbrier County, \$6,707,058 has been allotted for additions and renovations at Frankford Elementary School.

“I am truly proud to vote for this historic investment in our schools, because it represents our unwavering commitment to providing

West Virginia students with the best possible learning environment,” Gov. Justice said. “This funding doubles down on our belief that every student deserves access to a high-quality education. These new and upgraded facilities will ensure our students have the resources and technology needed to succeed in the classroom and beyond.”

Children’s Book Drive

Continued from Front Page

have been gathering 600 books for all of the kids at both schools,” explained Alderson. “Most all of our books are written by West Virginia authors, or they have West Virginia subject matter or tie into the state. But the majority of our books are written by authors from the state.”

The drive makes sure that each child at Alderson Elementary and Ronceverte Elementary gets a book on the last school day before the holiday break. This means that the deadline for donations and for purchasing a book is Wednesday, Dec. 20, the same day that the books are distributed out to the schools.

“People can come in and select books, or give checks or cash in-store, or mail a check,” said Alderson, “but the quickest way to donate is either by coming in or donating through PayPal.”

To accommodate the wide age range of the kids, books range from picture books to chapter books. “I’ve expanded the diversity of the types of books over the years, we try to include some middle-school age books for the kids who read at that level. When we get monetary donations it’s really great because I can fill in the gaps of what types of books we are still needing, I can help fill in the chapter books,” explained Alderson.

With 300 books still needed to make their goal as of press deadline, they are only halfway to the finish line. “This has been the first year that we’ve been this far

the help of the community to do it, but once we commit to it we are going to do it.”

Alderson mentioned that Gov. Jim Justice himself mentioned the book drive during one of his press conferences earlier this week, which she hopes will help them reach their 600-book goal before Wednesday.

The average cost of books is around \$10, with some as low as \$2.95, and others in the \$3-4 range, and some selections above \$10. “There is a wide range of prices,” said Alderson.

Alderson’s Store is located at 320 Monroe Street South, Alderson, and they are open Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Come in or call during store hours, or message the store on Facebook at “Alderson’s Store” to send book requests and payment information. Checks can also be mailed to Alderson’s Store, P.O. Box 594, Alderson, WV 24910 or monetary donations can be made via PayPal at j.m.alderonsstore@gmail.com.

“Most importantly, you’re giving to a child, but at the same time, but you’re also supporting a local business, and West Virginia publishers and authors. During the pandemic we actually really helped one distributor with our book drive get through the year.”

Have a submission?
 Email submission to News@mountainmedianews.com
 or Contact 304-647-5724 for more information

PICK OF THE LITTER



CHARLIE

Charlie is an eight-year-old male beagle mix and weighs 45 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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**WEDNESDAY
AFTERNOONS DURING
TWO FOUR-WEEK
SESSIONS:
Jan. 10 – Jan. 31
Feb. 14 – March 6**

Written referral from a health care provider (D.O., M.D., nurse practitioner or physician assistant) is required prior to making an appointment.

No open workers' compensation, disability or motor vehicle accident claims. Injuries currently or potentially involved in litigation will not be accepted.

**CALL TO SCHEDULE
304-647-6286**

WVSOM.edu

Briefly

American Heritage Music Hall, Inc.

located at 496 Island Park, Ronceverte, is open to the public, all welcome, handicap accessible. Listeners and tourists welcome. Admission \$7 Tuesday nights, \$10 Saturday - Audience provides food. Doors open at 7 p.m. Jam & Dance every Tuesday 7 to 10 p.m. **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.

Free Christmas Day meal in Rupert

Wellspring of Greenbrier will hold a free Christmas Day meal on Monday, Dec. 25, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. at 524 Nicholas Street in Rupert. They will be serving ham, homemade turkey casserole, mashed potatoes, rolls, a variety of desserts, drinks and more. This event is open to anyone in Greenbrier County who is in need of a place to eat their Christmas meal, dine in or take out, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. Call 304-392-2095 for more information.

Walk With a Doc in January

Ring in the New Year by taking steps toward better health and wellness! Walk With A Doc (WWAD) is a low-intensity activity set at your personal pace and respectful of your abilities; we welcome all new WWADers. Come as often as you want and get to know our students and HealthYeah!, a community-centered organization aimed at raising health awareness and healthy habits. WWAD meets weekly on Mondays at 4:30 p.m. at the Hollowell Park track on GMS Drive. Once a month, we will have a health topic talk given by a local healthcare provider or one of our HealthYeah! student leaders. Our January walks will be Jan. 8, 22, and 29. We look forward to seeing you then! (In the event of heavy snow or ice, walks will be cancelled. Please exercise caution during the winter months!)

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.

Lewisburg Building Commission

will meet Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 5 p.m. in the Paul R. Cooly Council Chamber, Lewisburg City Hall, 942 Washington Street West, Lewisburg. Items for discussion are:

- Resolution 538 Public Works Building Pay Request 10
- Approval of Minutes - Nov. 14, 2023

Greenbrier PSD #1

will meet Thursday, Dec. 21, at 8 a.m. at the District Office, 9035 Seneca Trail South, Fairlea. On the agenda:

- Approval of Minutes - Nov. 27, 2023
- Financial Report
- Manager Report
- Field Report
- Engineering Report
- Phase B extension project:
 - a. Payment Resolutions
 - b. Other Phase B project related business brought before the Board
- Phase C extension project:
 - a. Payment Resolutions
 - b. Other Phase C project related business brought before the Board
- Other business brought before the Board

Farm Bill extension will impact WV farmers

By Nadia Ramlagan

Despite the extension of the 2018 Farm Bill, many federal agriculture programs West Virginia farmers depend on won't be authorized to operate without passage of a new version of the legislation.

Agricultural producers continue to face rising operation costs and extreme weather events.

Spencer Moss, executive director of the West Virginia Food and Farm Coalition, explained that the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program is one resource that faces uncertainty.

The program provides federal funding for non-commodities, such as strawberries and leafy greens.

"The West Virginia Department of Agriculture does a really cool thing," said Moss, "and they re-grant that out to individual farmers, co-ops. We might actually see a pause in that program until the farm bill is reauthorized."

The extension gives lawmakers until the end of 2024 to pass a new farm bill or greenlight another extension.

Congress also failed to reauthorize a new Farm Bill in 2012 by deadline, extending the 2008 version by months.

Moss said Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) funding depends on the next Farm Bill. In 2021, more than 151,000 West Virginia households depended on SNAP benefits to put food on the table.

"We actually have a really high usage rate, and it really staves off hunger in the state," said Moss, "and it also puts millions of dollars into local businesses that accept SNAP EBT."

The bill's extension includes funding through next fall for farm programs and food assistance.

Funding for other programs, such as the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program for low-income moms, is slated to run out sooner.

For the Record

Deeds

Lorraine Monte to Michael L. Monte, Audra A. Preston, and Lorriejean Monte: 9.57 acres, Lewisburg District, Map 25 Parcel 0053. Filed Dec. 4, 2023.

Macy C. Thompson to Michael W. Thompson: lots 10 and 11 Hidden Valley plus 5.665 acres, Irish Corner District, Map 11 Parcel 97. Filed Dec. 5, 2023.

Travis D. Bennett and Jennifer J. Bennett to Tony N. Brown and Lauren N. Abbie: part of lot 29, Ronceverte District, Map 6-0038.0000. Filed Dec. 5, 2023.

Nina J. Fitzwater to Natalie Evans: 6.00 acres, Blue Sulphur District, Map 25 Parcel 11. Filed Dec. 5, 2023.

Jean P. Kirk and Diane Pepper Rose Proud Caddock to William J. Proud and Priscilla Ann Proud Supplemental Needs Trust: lot 164 Rolling Hills, Lewisburg District, Map 5 Parcel 102. Filed Dec. 5, 2023.

Carolyn F. Gilbert and John W. Critzer to Kenya S. Munguia: 1.06 acres more or less, Lewisburg District, Map 20F Parcel 3. Filed Dec. 5, 2023.

Tammy C. North and William North to Emma North: 2.00 acres, Fort Spring District, Map 19 Parcel 10.3. Filed Dec. 5, 2023.

Scott G. Harris and Kimberly S. Harris to Carrie H. Grundmann and Steven R. Harris: 2 tracts, Lewisburg District, Map 25 Parcel 0108. Filed Dec. 6, 2023.

Sharon Lee Fugate to Teresa Treadway: 0.10 acres, Rainelle District, Map 4 Parcel 0074. Filed Dec. 6, 2023.

Vickie L. Adkins to David Burgess: lot 11, Rainelle District, Map 5 Parcel 413. Filed Dec. 6, 2023.

Roselia Altizer to Cameron L. Altizer: 0.94 acres, Frankford District, Map 9 Parcel 0006 0000 6002. Filed Dec. 6, 2023.

Kelly D. Banton to James Banton and Kelly D. Banton: 0.344 acres, Ronceverte District, Map 9 Parcel 0321. Filed Dec. 7, 2023.

Rausenberger LLC to Main St. Building Group LLC: lot 6, White Sulphur District, Map 26K Parcel 6. Filed Dec. 7, 2023.

Mary Copeland Godby to Mary Godby: lot B of revised Maple Grove Subdivision, Lewisburg District, Map 18N Parcel 76. Filed Dec. 7, 2023.

Ben Routson and Melissa Routson to WV Department of Transportation Division of Highways: Springdale Estates, Summer Albany Lane, Lewisburg District, Map 14 Parcel 3.30. Filed Dec. 7, 2023.

Wallace K. Corhn to WV Department of Transportation: Springdale Estates, Lewisburg District, Map 9 Parcel 43. Filed Dec. 7, 2023.

Donnie Perry and Jaina S. Perry to WV Department of Transportation Division of Highways: right of way deed, Aidan Lane, Lewisburg District, Map 14 Parcel 3.41. Filed Dec. 7, 2023.

Fred H. Wiman and Joyce Morris Wiman to WV Department of Transportation Division of Highways: right of way deed, Aidan Lane, Lewisburg District, Map 14 Parcel 3.39. Filed Dec. 7, 2023.

William A. Easton and Sarah E. Easton to WV Department of Transportation Division of Highways: right of way deed, Aidan Lane, Lewisburg District, Map 14 Parcel 3.40. Filed Dec. 7, 2023.

Rosewood Cemetery Association to David McMillion: 2 grave spaces, Avenue C, plot 68, grave spaces 6 & 7. Filed Dec. 7, 2023.

Alma M. Hanson Revocable Trust (by successor/trustee) to W. Dean Hanson: 2.99 acres, Falling Spring District, Map 67 Parcel 10. Filed Dec. 7, 2023.

Andrew Schriefer and Sarah Yocke to George Palmer Stacy III: lot 3 and part of lot 2, Lewisburg District, Map 24 Parcel 0066, 0097. Filed Dec. 7, 2023.

Marriages

Emma Lea Toller and Colt Joseph Armand Broce
Janessa Kay Hatfield and William Alexander Trainer
Aleasha Dawn Cales and Craig Scott Cales

Ronceverte City Council

Continued from Front Page

The City of Ronceverte also plans to send out the vacant structures' registry at the beginning of the New Year, and those who own vacant structure will be required to participate in the registry. There will be a specific time frame to register those properties. This is a hopeful solution to the dilapidated property problem in Ronceverte and try to remediate as many as possible. This would help property values as well as beautify the City. Any property that has not had water or electricity hooked up to it for six months is considered a vacant property.

The Lions Club basketball teams have begun their season and are always looking for volunteers to help with concession stands.

The city is also looking to add some additional activities to be hosted in the armory such as movie nights, so that kids have activities available to them during the cold months.

Living The Good Life After Retirement

- Activity Rooms
- Bingo
- Church Services
- Parties
- Potluck Dinners
- Cookouts
- Live Bands
- Social Areas

Country Living With City Conveniences

All common areas have been *remodeled and redecorated*. We welcome you to stop by and see all of the improvements that have been made. One bedroom apartments for the elderly, near elderly and handicapped. HUD approved. Non-assisted living. Rent based on income.

A staff member is on call 24/7 for emergencies.

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Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Convictions

Seth Dilley, Renick, obstructing an officer, NCP, fine \$50, jail 30 days - suspended and placed on 12 months unsupervised probation

Seth Allen Dilley, Renick, DUI, NCP, jail 30 days - suspended and placed on 12 months unsupervised probation

Madeline M. Highlander, Rupert, possession of a controlled substance, NCP, fine \$100

Kelly Surface, Alderson, speeding, GP, fine \$38
Halley D. Todd, Charlottesville, VA, speeding, NCP, fine \$5

Raymond L. Dunbar, White Sulphur Springs, shoot or discharge firearm within 500 ft. of a dwelling, NCP, fine \$20

Madison Graney, Charleston, WV, 1) obstructing and officer, GP, fine \$500, jail 30 days - suspended and placed on 12 months unsupervised probation: 2) reckless driving, fine \$500

Thomas Dean Butler, Alderson, deposit dead animal near road, NCP, fine \$100

Aaron Matthew Koontz, Bluefield, VA, violation of protective order, condition of bail, probation, or parole, NCP, jail 30 days - suspended and placed on 12 months unsupervised probation

Donnie James Dowdy, Jr., Caldwell, 1) failure to check game, GP, fine \$40; 2) illegal possession, fine \$75

Darrell M. Anderson, Charmco, reckless driving - no bodily injury, NCP, fine \$100, jail 21 days - suspended and placed on 12 months unsupervised probation

Patience King, Alderson, possession of a controlled substance without valid prescription, NCP, fine \$100

Sobriety Checkpoint scheduled in Fairlea

The West Virginia State Police will conduct a sobriety checkpoint at U.S. Rt. 60 (Midland Trail W) in Rupert (Greenbrier County) at the intersection with Church Street on Thursday, Dec. 28 into Friday, Dec. 29, from 6 p.m. into midnight. The purpose of the checkpoint is to detect and deter impaired drivers, as well as to educate the public about the dangers of driving an automobile while impaired by alcohol and/or drugs.

The State Police urge the motoring public to assist law enforcement agencies in their efforts to stop driving under the influence incidents by reporting impaired drivers.

County Commission Cont. from Front Page

now is about 10 to 12 months from the contracts being signed."

With the commission's approval of the three contracts for the necessary system upgrades, it is likely that the county's 911 fees will be increased to offset the cost. Currently, Greenbrier County's 911 fee is fixed at \$2 per month, and has not been increased since the fee was established some 25 years ago.

"There are other aspects of this project that we are still looking at that will need to be addressed in order to get everything put in place," Commission President Tammy Tincher said. "But at this time, these contracts that have been approved today, and last Friday, were the three contracts in order for us to be able to keep our competitive pricing bids that have been provided to us by these companies, and make sure that we kept the lowest prices without them increasing. By approving these we put those contract prices in place and we're able to work with those companies to move forward with this."

Mountain Messenger

The Weekend Newspaper for the Greenbrier Valley

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1985

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- FARM NEWS
- GUEST EDITORIALS
- GUEST COMMENTARY
- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
- MILITARY NEWS
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Mountain Messenger

2024 Roadsides in Bloom calendar now available to order

The free calendar showcases state's wildflowers. Orders are limited to one calendar per household with WV residents as a priority.

The 2024 Roadsides in Bloom calendar is now available to order. The free calendar, sponsored by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's (WVDEP) Adopt A Highway program, includes 12 pictures of West Virginia wildflowers growing naturally along state roadways. The pictures were chosen from dozens of entries submitted by photographers from West Virginia and surrounding states.

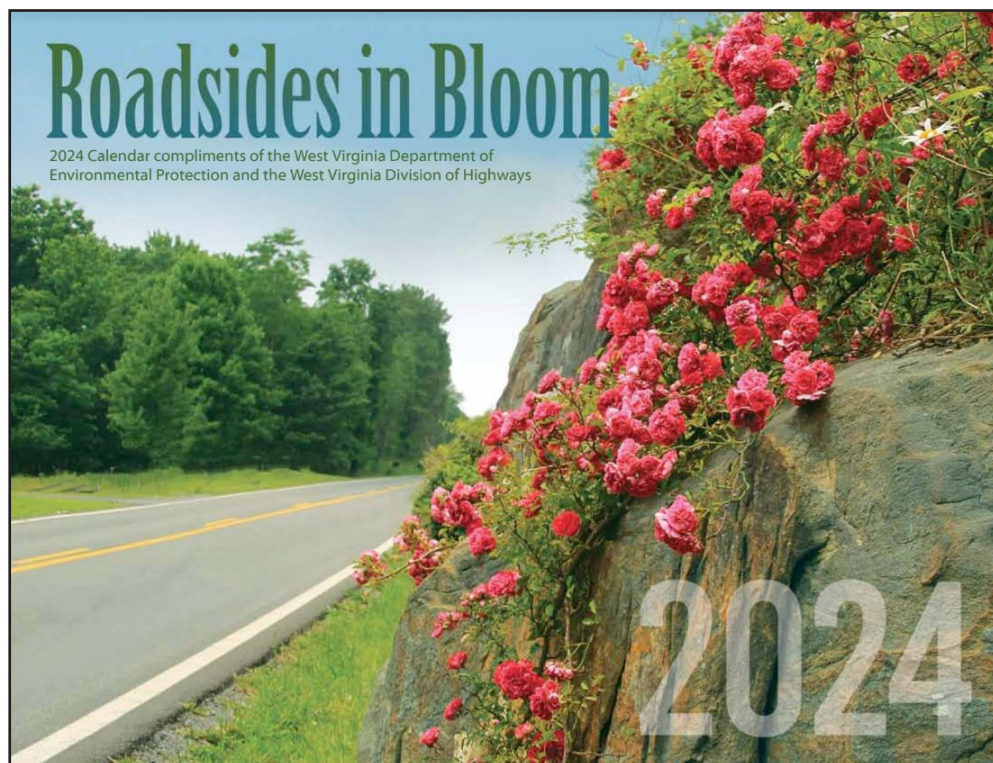
The photographers featured in the 2024 calendar include: January - Jason Crayton; February - Edward Rehbein; March - Sandra Miller; April - Janna Vaught; May - Sharon Boone; June - Cover winner - Angie Bolen; July - Alan Tucker; August - Eugene Walker; September - Karl Boone; October - Ann Walker; November - Jason Crayton; and December - Gary McCoy.

To order a calendar, complete the online order form, call 1-800-322-5530, or email dep.aah@wv.gov. If you call and get voicemail, please leave a message with your name and mailing address and you will be put on the order list. Requests are limited to one calendar per household. West Virginia residents receive priority.

Co-sponsored by the WVDEP and the state Division of Highways (DOH), the Adopt-A-Highway program is administered by the WVDEP's Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP) and improves the quality of the state's environment by encouraging public involvement in the elimination of highway litter.

Since the program's inception in 1988, state citizens have cleaned up close to

See "Calendar" _____ Page 5



OBITUARIES

Jerry Lee Hanson



Asheville, VA-Jerry Lee Hanson, born on Oct. 8, 1949, in Virginia, peacefully passed away on Dec. 8, 2023, in Asheville. Jerry's life can be described as a journey of dedication and service, from his accomplished career to his military service and cherished hobbies.

Jerry dedicated an impressive 39 years of his life working as a Field Service Technician at Air Liquide before retiring in 2012. Throughout his career, he exhibited unwavering commitment and expertise in his field. Jerry's colleagues admired his professionalism, problem-solving abilities, and meticulous attention to detail. His work ethic was unmatched, and his contributions left an indelible mark on the company.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Jerry honorably served in the US Army, stationed at Fort Bliss, TX, during the Vietnam War Era. Jerry's military service exemplified his dedication to the principles of liberty and justice.

Outside of work and military service, Jerry possessed an insatiable curiosity and an affinity for craftsmanship. Woodworking was one of his passions; he had a natural talent for transforming blocks of wood into beautiful creations. Jerry derived great pleasure from tinkering with electronics, fascinated by their inner workings. Additionally, Jerry had a profound understanding of electricity - an aptitude that he applied whenever the opportunity arose.

Jerry's family was deeply important to him throughout his life. He was preceded in death by his loving parents John and Hazel Duncan Hanson; he is also preceded in death by his siblings, Shirley Bobbitt, Dale Hanson and Karl Hanson.

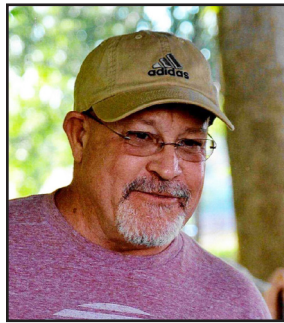
Jerry will be remembered and forever missed by his surviving family members, including his ex-wife, children, siblings, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. His enduring love, care, and guidance touched the lives of all those who were fortunate enough to know

him. Jerry's legacy as a devoted father, sibling, and grandparent will continue to resonate in the hearts of his loved ones for generations to come. Above all else, he valued family and leaves behind a cherished legacy filled with memories that will be forever treasured.

A Gathering of Friends and Family will be held from 4 until 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 15, at the Wells Events and Reception Center. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Wounded Warriors, PO Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675.

The care of Mr. Hanson has been entrusted to Wells Funeral Home of Waynesville and an online memorial register is available at "Obituaries" at www.wellsfuneralhome.com.

Jerry Christopher Evans



Ronceverte-Jerry Christopher "Chris" Evans, 59, passed away Dec. 9, 2023, in Roanoke Memorial Hospital.

He was born July 12, 1964, in Montgomery, WV, the son of the late Jack G. and Audrey Kincaid Evans.

Chris was a locomotive engineer with CSX Railroad, having worked with them for 28 years. He attended Trinity United Methodist Church in Ronceverte and he had attended WV Tech.

Other than his parents he was preceded in death by siblings, Jeffrey Evans and Terry Evans.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Cindy Sampson Evans; sons, Justin Martin (Trista) of Ronceverte and Harrison Martin (Hailey) of Waverly, WV; grandson, Jamesin Hurley of Waverly; siblings, Jack Evans, Jr. (Sally) of Faber, VA, Ann E. Blake (Mike) of Deland, FL, Kevin Evans (Maria) of Edgewater, FL, and Jennifer Allen; and his special furbabies, Cooper and Otis.

Funeral services for Chris will be Saturday Dec. 16, at 2 p.m. at the Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg with Pastor Mark Shaffer officiating. Interment will follow in Greenbrier Memorial Gardens, Lewisburg. The family will receive family and friends from 12 noon until 2 p.m.

at the funeral home.

Chris' love of children and in some way to make it better for the children it seems appropriate that in lieu of flowers memorial contributions should be made in his memory to either: The Children's Home Society, 9579 Seneca Trail South, Lewisburg, WV 24901 or to the Ronceverte Lions Club Youth Basketball Program, 212 Monroe Avenue, Ronceverte, WV 24970.

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

Layuna Brown Rapp



Renick-Layuna Brown Rapp, 92, passed away on Dec. 8, 2023. She was born on April 24, 1931, to Butler and Ora Brown in Frankford.

She was raised on the family's dairy farm, instilling in her a strong will and work ethic. Layuna was the owner and operator of Rapp's Drapery and Decorating for over 42 years. She was self-taught in interior design and decorating. Her decorating passion was sparked by taking a millinery class when she was young. Layuna's exquisite interior designs can be found in her countless red sketch books and in numerous places throughout the local area, including The Homestead Resort and several homes in The Greenbrier Sporting Club.

She was a loving mother to her three children, Debbie Rapp, David Rapp, and Beverly Rapp all of Renick. Layuna was a proud grandmother to her three grandchildren, Jason Gillilan of Renick, Brandy Rapp and fiancé George Lemon of Roanoke, VA, and Ashley and husband Patrick Parker of Lewisburg; and thoroughly enjoyed her three great-grandsons, James, Jackson, and Carson.

Layuna remained active in the community into her final years. She was instrumental in founding the Renick Community Center and took great pride in the many good deeds it did for the local community.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Burke Rapp, who

passed away unexpectedly in 1975, and six of her sisters, Lucille Carstetter, Lorriane White, Laverne Perry, Louise McSwain, Lois Atkins and Lorretta Rapp.

Left to cherish Layuna's life are her three sisters, Lillian Skaff of Charleston, WV, Lena Baldwin of Buffalo, NY and Lynda Mellert of Riverview, FL.

Layuna was a longtime faithful member of the Lewisburg congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses. A memorial service will be held on Dec. 16, at 2 p.m. at The Kingdom Hall, located at 30986 Midland Trail East, Lewisburg.

The family would like to give a special thanks to the Peyton Hospice House for the loving care and dedication to Layuna in her final days. Layuna gave orders like no other. We will miss being told what to do and how to do it. We will always love her deeply.

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

Colton Lee Sears



Lewisburg-Colton Lee Sears, 3, passed away Monday, Dec. 11, 2023, at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital, Roanoke, VA. Born April 24, 2020, in Ronceverte, WV he was the son of Jordan Lee Sears (Tabby Morgan).

Colton was a fun, loving boy, who loved watching Peppa Pig and dancing.

Including his father, he is survived by a sister, Kinsley Sears; paternal grandparents, April Blankenship (Carl); paternal great-grandparents, Deny Brown (Jacqueline) and Margaret Lynn Brown (John Wise); uncle, Denver Sears; aunt, Brookelyn Storm Sears; great-uncle, John Brown; and cousin, C.J. Brown.

Memorial service will be at 4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 16, at the Morgan Funeral Home Chapel,

Lewisburg, with Pastor Jacob Riley officiating.

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

Carolyn B. Bonds



White Sulphur Springs -Carolyn B. Bonds, 73, passed away Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023, at Coastal Hospice at The Lake in Salisbury, MD.

She was born Feb. 26, 1950, in White Sulphur Springs, the daughter of the late Homer M. and Hazel M. Brown.

Carolyn was a proud graduate of Marshall University, the first black person to graduate from the Communications Department with a degree in Speech Therapy. Carolyn began her career in 1973 as the only speech therapist in Greenbrier County Schools. During her career with the county, she went on to further her education by earning two Master's degrees. She retired after 39 years of service in June 2012.

Carolyn was an active member of her community. She was a member of St. James United Methodist Church in White Sulphur Springs and served as a member of the Retired Teacher Association. She was also an avid sports fan, known as a big supporter of Marshall University Athletics and the Denver Broncos. Carolyn was what some would consider a horticulturist because of her love of her yards.

Other than her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Allen F. "Pete" Brown.

Survivors include her daughter, Courtney N. Brown of Salisbury, MD; grandson Niklos Brown-Jones of Salisbury, MD; special daughter, Lisa M. Allen of Huntington, WV; special grandson Dominic K. Allen of Martinsburg, WV; special friends, Beverly "Pete" Peters of Colorado Springs, CO; David N. Harris of Huntington,

WV, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 17, at the Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in White Sulphur Springs.

A second visitation will be offered from 11 a.m. to noon at Rhema Christian Center; followed by the Funeral Service beginning at noon on Monday, Dec. 18, with Rev. Beverly Colombo, Pastor Greg Scott, Elder Mia Blakey, and Dante Shehan officiating. Burial will follow in the Rosewood Cemetery in Lewisburg.

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

Debra Lynn Whitt



Caldwell-Debra Lynn Whitt, 57, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, at CAMC Greenbrier Valley Medical Center. Born Mar. 27, 1966, in Sterling, IL, she was the daughter of John Ray Stevens and the late Donna Sue Vaughan Street.

Debra had worked in laundry at The Greenbrier for many years.

In addition to her mother, she was preceded in death by an aunt, Dinah Vaughan.

Survivors include her husband, Dale Whitt; sons, Heath Whitt, James Whitt, Jonah Whitt (Hannah) Bryan Bittinger, Tyler Whitt and Cody Whitt; daughter, Tarisa Whitt (Nathaniel Pitzer); brothers, Freddie Stevens (Sandi), Henry Street, Josh, Jeremy, Justin and Joey Stevens; sister, Brenda Street; 11 grandchildren, several nieces, and nephews.

A visitation will be held from 6 to 8 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 17, at the Morgan Funeral Home Chapel, Lewisburg.

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

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Club & Church

Church Bulletin

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.

Grace Baptist Church

Christmas Program

Grace Baptist Church, in White Sulphur Springs will have their Christmas program on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend.

First Baptist Church 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!

St. James' Episcopal Church

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services, 468 Church Street, Lewisburg (lewisburgstjames.org)
Dec. 24 - 10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with music
5 p.m. - Family Service with special music
10:30 p.m. - Festival Eucharist with Choir
Dec. 25 - 10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist

Geriatrics Club meets with Committee on Aging

The Geriatrics Club of the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine met recently with Greenbrier County Committee on Aging Board members to begin preparations for the "Senior Prom". Until COVID, this was an annual event in the Greenbrier Valley and greatly anticipated by many area residents who like to dance, including the residents from local nursing homes. Plans are for a Spring Prom and information will be forthcoming soon!



Terri Baker, Gbr. Co Committee on Aging (left), Breanna Lytton, Dalton McCown, Johnathan Yoder, and Kate Alfmanshofer, WV SOM Geriatrics Club, Gloria Martin and Vicki Dove, Gbr. Co. Committee on Aging

Christmas Cantata to be held at Old Greenbrier Baptist Church in Alderson

The Old Greenbrier Baptist Church Choir and Friends will present their Annual Christmas Cantata on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 3 p.m. at the Old Greenbrier Baptist Church in Alderson.

The title is: "Come Worship the King!" arranged by Russell Mauldin. Come and listen as the choir presents a joyous Christmas musical. God knew we needed a Savior, so He sent His son to rescue the world as our perfect Savior-King. The Cantata will be directed by Dell Wood and accompanied by Nancy Wood.

The participating choir members are: Sopranos - Rose Carter, Charlotte Grimmitt, Jo Honaker, Sylvia Keaton, Carolyn Jo Knapp, Mary Mitchell, Patty Reinhold,

Donna Simms, Shirley Tolosa, Liz Wood, and Louise Wood-Dixon. Altos - Stephanie Bachman, Cheryl Bice, Sandy Elam, Lea Ann Gwinn, Pam Hensley, Lynda Neff, Sophie Pace, and Dena Williams. Tenors - Greg Holliday, Peggy Patterson, Curtis Pauley, and Brennan Wood. Basses - Darrell Croy, Bob Holliday, Lawrence Lewis, Charlie Mulkey, and Gary Williams. The narrator for the Cantata is Sheila Harris. The soloists are Charley Mulkey and Brennan Wood. Gary Williams is the percussionist with Brennan Wood on trumpet.

We invite the public to attend this Christmas Cantata and worship with us through music. A reception will follow the performance in our fellowship hall.

Greenville Cave

Continued from Page 2

Although gating the cave entrances did help increase bat populations in the cave, the spread of WNS has caused further declines.

WVDNR will be implementing a new, experimental treatment for WNS in the Greenville Saltpeter Cave. Ultraviolet light in the "C" spectrum (so-called UV-C light) is capable of killing *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, the causative agent of WNS, without leaving trace residue within caves, and with minimal disturbance of other cave dwelling organisms. During UV-C treatments, WV DNR biologists will bathe the ceiling and walls of the cave in areas where bats aggregate, or historically aggregated, in large numbers. Treatment of these areas just prior to the hibernation season will significantly reduce the prevalence of Pd. Reduction of prevalence of Pd is expected to reduce infection rate and intensity of hibernating bats, thereby increasing survival of hibernating bats. Results of these treatments will be tracked by the WVDNR and provided to other state and federal natural resource agencies to help guide broader efforts at bat conservation.

Alex Silvis of WV DNR will be leading the WNS treatment project and said, "UV-C light treatment is a cutting-edge process, and this is the first time we are performing this method in West Virginia. I am enthusiastic the results will be positive, and the UV-C light method will become standard practice in reducing White-nose Syndrome."

After completion of WV DNR's research project, the West Virginia Land Trust plans to work with WV DNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as local partners, to safely open the property to the public. While the property may open to the public for hiking, bird watching, nature study and photography, the cave will remain closed to the public for the foreseeable future.

Funding for this project was made possible by the voluntary stewardship agreement between West Virginia Land Trust, WV DNR, Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC and The Conservation Fund. This agreement provided funds to secure conservation lands for public use and enhance community economic development, advance the WVLT's work to manage and protect the Greenville Saltpeter Cave system and fund bat research performed by WV DNR. These lands are being conserved, in part, by funding and technical assistance made available as mitigation for habitat impacts arising through construction of the Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC Project in partnership with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, and The Conservation Fund.

**THANK YOU FOR READING
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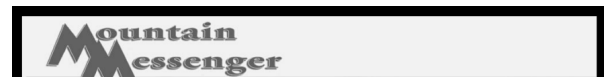
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OPINION

Commentary

Miller's statement on USPS' movement of South Charleston postal facility out of West Virginia

Congresswoman Carol Miller (R-WV) released the following statement on the USPS' Mail Processing Facility Review of West Virginia's only Processing and Distribution Center in South Charleston:

"I continue to be concerned about the USPS' Mail Processing Facility Review of the Charleston Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC) facility - the only of its kind in our state. This potential plan to move jobs and services to a P&DC in Pittsburgh is illogical and would threaten the economy in West Virginia while leaving the state's dedicated postal delivery workers uncertain about their job security and commutes. Our state is full of older Americans in rural areas that rely

on the postal service to deliver their life-saving medications and veterans who rely on the postal service to deliver their hard-earned federal benefits. Any policy that would jeopardize the timely delivery of the mail to West Virginians is unacceptable and downright dangerous. I encourage everyone who lives in West Virginia to share your concerns about the proposed changes to our P&DC with the USPS at the www.surveymonkey.com/r/mpfr-charleston-wv. As Charleston's representative in Congress, I will do everything in my power to ensure that the Charleston Processing and Distribution Center continues to serve West Virginia for years to come," said Congresswoman Miller.

Henning Church of God Ladies have Christmas Celebration

The Ladies of the Henning Church of God held their Christmas celebration on Tuesday, Dec. 5, in the church fellowship hall. Pastor Robert Hefner, Jr. blessed the meal and the members enjoyed a delicious dinner. President Carole Spencer presided and Donna Scott led in prayer.

Dyan Hefner brought us our devotion, "Just A Simple Home." This time of year we think about Mary, the mother of Jesus. What about the mother of Mary? Someone had to raise Mary to know the voice of the Lord. She was highly favored by the Lord. Mary's mother did not have an angel to tell her that Mary would be the mother of Christ. Mary clung to the word of God even in the time of silence and only knew what the angel told her. Who you raise can affect eternity. Mary's mother raised her the best she knew how. Who are you raising? It is speculated that Mary's mother was named Anne and her father was Joachim. Dyan also read the words to the song, "Mary, Did You Know?"

All reports were dispensed of due to the Christmas celebration.

Angie Scott will be delivering food items donated by members to the food pantries in Renick and Williamsburg on Monday, Dec. 11. The group will be donating to the Laugh group for Christmas projects. The group will be serving the Maxwellton Ruritans on Dec. 21. The church will be presenting the play, "A Stranger for Christmas," on Dec. 22 at 7 p.m. The Christmas cantata, "Glorious Impossible," will be presented on Dec. 24 at 11 a.m. in the morning church service. All are invited.

The next meeting will be Jan. 9. Carole Spencer dismissed in prayer.

Attending were: Alice Coff, Angie Scott, Barb Sel-domridge, Breanna Carpenter, Cari Nelson, Carole Spencer, Cindy Fleshman, Carol Spencer, Donna Scott, Dyan Hefner, Fran Spencer, Jamie Harvey, Joan Vance, Kim Brookman, Linda Spencer, Marty Burns, Michelle Carpenter, Pauline Perkins, Patty Owens, Peggy Sel-domridge, Sue Hunt, and Pastor Robert Hefner Jr.

Calendar

Continued from Page 4

70,000 miles of state highways and roads during annual spring and fall Adopt-A-Highway events.

REAP, whose motto is "Keeping WV Clean and Green," was created in 2005 and strives to clean up West Virginia and rid the state of litter. The program empowers citizens to take ownership of their communities by providing technical, financial, and resource assistance in cleanup and recycling efforts. More information is available on the REAP webpage.

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PUBLIC ONLINE AUCTION

Fulton BSH LBWV, LLC/Secure Store - 135 Maple Carriage Drive, Lewisburg, WV 24901, has a possessory lien on all of the goods stored in units 180 and 181. The auction will end on December 21, 2023 at 12 noon. All these items of personal property are being auctioned online through lockerfox.com. These auctions will run until December 21, 2023. Pictures of these units can be inspected online. Cash payments only. For more details visit www.lockerfox.com/storage-auctions/us/

LEGAL

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA CHARLESTON

CASE NO. 23-0855-MC-TC
ALMOST HEAVEN TAXI SERVICE, LLC,
Application for the transfer and assignment of P.S.C. M.C. Certificate No. 7613 to Ambassador Limousine dba Almost Heaven Taxi Service

PROCEDURAL ORDER

The Applicants Almost Heaven Taxi Service, LLC possesses MC Certificate No. 7613, authorizing it to transport passengers in taxicab service between points and places in Greenbrier County, on the one hand, and points and places in West Virginia on the other hand.

On November 1, 2023, Almost Heaven Taxi Service, LLC filed an application to transfer and assign this certificate to Ambassador Limousine, dba Almost Heaven Taxi Service.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Almost Heaven Taxi Service, LLC, give notice of the filing of said application by publishing a copy of this order once in a newspaper, duly qualified by the Secretary of State, published and of general circulation in Greenbrier County, making due return to this Commission of proper affidavit of publication within 10 days of such publication. The transfer and assignment may be granted, without formal hearing thereon, unless written protest stating the reasons therefore is filed with the Commission, at the above address, within 10 days after the date this notice is published.

Darren Olofson
Administrative Law Judge

LEGAL

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Division of Highways NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia, until January 17, 2024 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project(s):

Call	Contract	State Project	Federal Project	Description
002	2021000712	S389-STR/IP-24 00	STP-2024(052)D	PAVEMENT MARKINGS ROADWAY STRIPING DISTRICT WIDE
				COUNTY: District 9, Nicholas, Greenbrier, Summers, Monroe, Mercer, McDowell, Raleigh, Fayette

DBE GOAL: 10% OF CONTRACT BID AMOUNT. BIDDER MUST PROVIDE WRITTEN ASSURANCE OF MEETING GOAL ON FORM IN PROPOSAL.

REMARKS:

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

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

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

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Application deadline is Dec. 31, 2023.

Applications available on wvpress.org

For information or to have the applications mailed, contact Executive Director Betsy Miles at bmiles@wvpress.org, at 304-342-1011 or write to: WV Press Association Foundation, 3422 Pennsylvania Ave., Charleston, WV, 25302.

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Dear Recycle Lady,

Dear Recycle Lady,

Boxes that hold aluminum foil have a thin metal strip with teeth at the top of one side of the box. This metal strip is used for tearing off a single sheet of foil. Must this metal strip be removed before adding the box to the cardboard recycling bin?

Remove It or Not

Dear Remove It or Not,

Yes, the metal strip must be cut or torn off before it is put in with cardboard recycling. Cardboard and metal do not mix. You may not know that cardboard is our most recycled item. The bin at the Recycling Center is more than twice the size of the other bins and it must be emptied with a skid steer several times a day. This is a good thing as the sale of cardboard is fairly stable and helps to keep the Center self-supporting. Unfortunately, the Recycling Center is no longer able to accept aluminum foil for recycling as there are no buyers for it. Much of the new aluminum foil is so thin that it burns up with the amount of heat that is required for processing used aluminum foil into new foil.

Dear Recycle Lady,

Are there any problems in reusing plastic water bottles? Instead of purchasing new plastic bottles of water I have been refilling my old plastic water bottles.

Saving Money

Dear Saving Money,

Plastic water bottles, made of polyethylene (PET) #1 plastic, are basically made to be a single use product, and are not meant to be reused. According to Healthline.com, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved PET bottles for both single use and for reuse, but many consumer advocates urge the public to limit PET bottles to one time use only. There seems to be disagreement as to whether or not reusing single use plastic bottles is a safe practice. Some studies suggest that reused bottles can shed microplastics while others suggest that the amount of microplastics shed do not pose a significant threat to the health

of humans. Some studies suggest that chemicals, such as BPA (bisphenol A), may leach from the plastic and be harmful to humans, while others suggest that the amounts leached are lower than what is considered dangerous.

There are concerns, however, about chemical leaching when a plastic water bottle is left in extreme heat. Increased leaching occurs at higher temperatures so leaving your water bottle in a closed-up car on a very hot day could be dangerous. According to www.ScienceAlert.com, the one widely accepted risk of reusing plastic water bottles is not chemicals, but contamination. Plastic water bottles are made of a very thin plastic and are subject to cracks, which can harbor bacteria, particularly if the inside of the bottle is damp. So, if you do decide to reuse your plastic water bottles, be sure to wash them regularly and keep them out of extreme heat. Better yet, purchase a stainless steel or aluminum water bottle. The upfront cost is greater, but they are a better choice for many reasons: they last for years, they are proven completely safe for cold and hot beverages, they are easily cleaned, and are proven safe even in a hot car. Plus, you avoid the purchase of plastic and all the problems that go with it.

ECO TIP: Have you considered giving an experience gift this year? Instead of purchasing a material item, give a gift of something the recipient can do. Perhaps a gift card to a restaurant, movie, or theater, an annual pass to our national or state parks or maybe an online subscription for an interesting new subject. An experience gift involves no production or transportation of stuff that uses up natural resources and can cause pollution. It is a gift that is fun for the recipient and better for the environment.

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

A Look Back



Photos courtesy of West Virginia Public Broadcasting and the West Virginia University Regional History Center.

Sources: Beckley Post-Herald, Charleston Daily Mail, The Independent Herald, and The History of The Greenbrier America's Resort by Robert S. Conte.

By William "Skip" Deegans

For many years the name Gladys Tuke was, essentially, synonymous with the Art Colony at The Greenbrier. She was born in 1899 in Linwood, Pocahontas County, and lived there on a farm until her family moved to another farm, "Westward Ho," on the Big Draft Road near White Sulphur Springs. She studied at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, DC, and under the sculptor Albert Laessle at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia. By 1937, she had been studying with Laessle for three years and was teaching at a YWCA in Philadelphia. Laessle was known for his animal sculptures and Tuke developed a specialty in sculpting horses. (She was an accomplished horsewoman. Her uncle, Cecil Tuke, was a horse breeder in Hot Springs, VA, and riding master at The Greenbrier).

It is unclear as to when Tuke joined the Art Colony, but it was shut down when The Greenbrier was converted to the Ashford General Hospital during World War II. At the hospital, she was

engaged as the director of the Arts and Skills Corps and taught sculpting to patients as a therapy program. During the time the Art Colony was closed, Tuke had a private studio over a bowling alley in White Sulphur Springs.

The Art Colony was revived in 1956 by Tuke and Jeanne Coyne who was an art instructor at Greenbrier College for Women. Tuke studied pottery at The Greenbrier under Charles Tennant and sold pottery in addition to sculpture. Esther Wilson joined her in the 1960s as an assistant in her pottery production. Tuke's sculpture was exhibited at the Corcoran Gallery, Cincinnati Art Museum, and Philadelphia's Woodmere Gallery. From time to time, her sculpture and pottery will show up for sale at art auction houses.

Tuke was uncommonly generous in taking time to demonstrate her skill as a sculptor and potter at civic clubs in Greenbrier, Summers and Raleigh Counties. She was active in St. Thomas Episcopal Church and the Greenbrier Humane Society. She died in 1982 at Denmark State Hospital.

Greenbrier East High School Wrestler of the Week

Name: Aiden Fleshman

Grade: Junior

G.P.A.: 4.0

Current Record: 6-0 (5 Pins)

Guardians: Jennifer and Doug Hamilton

Hometown: Maxwelton

Favorite Wrestler: Michael Carr (University of Illinois/WVSOM)

Favorite Quote: "This is your life, and it's ending one minute at a time."

- Fight Club

Began Wrestling: In the Third Grade

Past Accomplishments: Aiden is a 2x State Qualifier

Why he Wrestles: "I got the signup sheet at school and I went to the club team practice. After the first practice I knew that it felt right for me. I've been working hard ever since."

Coach's Comments: Aiden has re-



ally improved over the summer and started the new season strong. His work ethic and attitude this year should put him on the podium.

Miluk Humor: "I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit." Ha!

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WV students named 2024 U.S. Senate Youth Program Delegates

The West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) is pleased to announce Peyton Barker from Greenbrier East High School in Greenbrier County and Bryson Riggelman from Petersburg High School in Grant County as 2024 West Virginia delegates in the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP). Students are selected based on demonstrated leadership skills through roles in student government, education, public affairs or community service.

Barker and Riggelman will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship and join Senator Joe Manchin III (D-WV), Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) and 102 other high school students from across the country in Washington, DC, during the 62nd annual Washington Week from Mar. 2 - 9, 2024. Throughout this week, USSYP delegates will hear policy addresses from senators, cabinet members, departments of State and Defense officials, other federal agency leaders, and more.

Barker currently serves as the student body president for Greenbrier East High School and student representative for the Greenbrier County Board of Education. She plans to pursue mechanical engineering in post-secondary studies and remain active in the Student Government Association.

Riggelman is Petersburg High School's national honor society historian, student council president, senior class president and Skills USA president. He plans to pursue a career in criminal justice or politics.

"These students embody what it means to be dedicated to personal, professional and academic development. Each of them is an active member of their school and local community, and they prioritize selfless service to others," said State Superintendent of Schools Michele L. Blatt. "They have shown exceptional work, and we are fortunate to have them represent the Mountain State at the national level."

Bryan Cole from Spring Mills High School in Berkeley County and Gavin Bias from Scott High School in Boone County were named 2024 West Virginia alternate delegates.

The USSYP was created in 1962 with the passing of Senate Resolution 324 to inspire generations of high school students to deepen their understanding of American political processes, encouraging them to pursue careers in public service.

To learn more about the USSYP, visit the USSYP website.



Peyton Barker of Greenbrier East High School

Warner and County Clerks announce Voter Education Campaign related to maintaining clean voter rolls

County clerks will mail over 109,000 confirmation postcards to those who may have abandoned their voter registration address

Voter list maintenance has been a priority for the WV Secretary of State's Office since Warner first took office in 2017. By working closely with all 55 county clerks to provide the tools necessary to operate a uniform, non-partisan voter registration list maintenance process, Warner reports that over 400,000 deceased, duplicate, out-of-state, convicted-felon voter, or otherwise ineligible registration files have been removed from the Statewide Voter Registration System since the 2016 election, as indicated by the most recent Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS). At the same time, more than 333,000 new voters have been registered to vote, which includes more than 100,000 high school students.

Over 109,000 instances of possible abandoned voter registrations in West Virginia have been identified by an updated address comparison with the United States Postal Service (USPS), the WV Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), or by official election mail that was returned as undeliverable. These addresses will soon receive an important confirmation postcard from their county clerk's office.

"West Virginia and federal laws require election officials to send a postcard to each address of a voter who is identified as possibly abandoning their registration. These voters were identified when they provided a newer address to the USPS, DMV, or when official

election mail was returned which indicated a voter may have moved," said Secretary Warner. "If the voter moved to another West Virginia county, we can help them update their registration," Warner continued. "If they moved out of state, they are no longer eligible to vote and we encourage them to cancel their voter registration."

These postcards are expected to arrive in voters' mailboxes in the coming weeks. The postcard asks the voter to confirm that they are still a resident of the state and county at the address on their voter registration record.

Secretary Warner encourages every voter who receives the confirmation postcard to confirm that they reside at the address on file or update the address by scanning the QR code on the postcard with a mobile device and follow the easy steps to keep their registration in "active" status. Voters can also check and update their registration information online at ovr.sos.wv.gov, or by returning the pre-paid postage postcard to their county clerk.

Regular maintenance on voter registration lists is mandated by the National Voter Registration Act and West Virginia law. Voters who confirm their address by returning a postcard will remain "active."

Voters whose postcards are not returned, or are returned by the USPS as "undeliverable," will be categorized as "inactive." Voters who are "inactive" still remain eligible to vote in the next two federal election cycles. However, if a voter's registration address remains unconfirmed for the next two federal general elections after receipt of the confirmation notice, and the voter fails to vote in any state or local election during that time period, state law mandates that the registration be canceled.

"The law is in place to make sure voters on West Virginia's voter registration rolls are still residents of West Virginia at the address on file with their county clerk. Many times, we find that these voters moved and simply forgot to cancel their registration," Warner said.

For more information, please contact your county clerk or the WV Secretary of State's Office at 304-558-6000.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

B	A	N	J	O	B	O	D	E	G	A	L	A	V	A	L	A	M	P		
A	L	O	U	D	R	A	I	N	O	N	O	N	E	L	I	N	E	R		
L	O	O	S	E	F	I	T	T	I	N	G	P	I	N	E	C	O	N	E	
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M	E	S	S	R	O	O	M		R	E	R	U	N	S		S	T	E	E	P

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A Stellar Evening: The Greenbrier Historical Society's 60th Anniversary fundraiser exceeds expectations

The Greenbrier Historical Society (GHS) marked its 60th anniversary with an unforgettable celebration at the Schoolhouse Hotel on Saturday, Dec. 2. The annual fundraiser, themed "Swingin' 60s Stellar Evening," transported attendees back to the magic of 1963, creating an atmosphere of joy, nostalgia, and community spirit.

The Schoolhouse Hotel's Ballroom was the place to be as the community gathered for an evening of music, fashion, and historical celebration. The event, which promised to be a night of entertainment, exceeded expectations, and the ballroom was filled to capacity with enthusiastic guests, creating an electric atmosphere that resonated with the spirit of celebration.

Guests fully embraced the theme by donning their best '60s attire, adding a touch of authenticity to the night. The Monkees table, sponsored by Vest, won the table decorating contest and the Beatles table, sponsored by Kim & Stephen McBride, emerged victorious in the costume contest, adding a playful and competitive edge to the evening's festivities.



A Stellar Evening fundraiser for the Greenbrier Historical Society was a success.

One of the evening's highlights was the live performance by the Dark Matters, a band that skillfully transported the audience back to the sounds of the '60s. The live and silent auctions also added an element of excitement, with exclusive experiences like a plane ride for two above the Greenbrier Valley and a private tour

of the Greenbrier by historian emeritus Dr. Robert Conte being auctioned off. Dr. Conte captivated the audience with insightful remarks about the rich history of the Greenbrier Historical Society, serving as a poignant reminder of the importance of preserving the past and educating the present.

Tickets for this highly anticipated event sold out, underscoring the community's enthusiasm for supporting the Greenbrier Historical Society. The success of the 60th anniversary fundraiser will undoubtedly contribute to the GHS's ongoing efforts to preserve the rich history of the Greenbrier Valley and educate future generations.

The Greenbrier Historical Society extends its heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of the Swingin' '60s Stellar Evening. This event not only celebrated a milestone in the society's history but also showcased the strong sense of community and commitment to preserving the past that defines the Greenbrier Valley.

Hunters in WV harvested 45,155 bucks during traditional buck firearms season

Preliminary data collected from the electronic game checking system indicated that deer hunters in West Virginia harvested 45,155 antlered deer during the two-week firearm season from Nov. 20 through Dec. 3, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) announced recently.

The 2023 harvest was 7.5 percent below the 2022 harvest, which totaled 48,810 bucks.

"The harvest during the 2023 traditional buck firearm season was

expected to be lower than that of 2022," said Paul Johansen, chief of the Wildlife Resources Section. "Average hard mast indices paired with bad weather during the opening few days of the buck firearms season probably hindered the success of many hunters this season. All areas of the state registered an average decrease of 11 percent; with the exception of the southeastern areas that had an increase of 19 percent from the 2022 harvest."

The top 10 counties for the 2023

buck harvest were Greenbrier (1,892), Randolph (1,604), Preston (1,413), Pendleton (1,413), Monroe (1,396), Braxton (1,394), Hardy (1,329), Kanawha (1,242), Pocahontas (1,236) and Fayette (1,226).

WVDNR reminds hunters that several days of deer hunting opportunity remain for 2023, including the remainder of the archery and crossbow season, which runs through Dec. 31. Muzzleloader deer season is open from Dec. 11-17.

The Youth, Class Q/QQ and Class

XS deer season for antlerless deer will be open Dec. 26-27 in any county with a firearms deer season. This will be followed by the reopening of Class N/NN antlerless deer season Dec. 28-31 in specified counties or portions of counties. See the 2023-24 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary or visit WVdnr.gov for county and area listings.

Hunting, trapping and fishing licenses and stamps for the 2024 seasons are now on sale. Learn more at WVdnr.gov.

Governor signs MOU between WVDNR and Girl Scouts to promote education, conservation

Agreement will provide scouts with free and reduced-price activities at state parks in exchange for service projects

Gov. Jim Justice has announced a partnership between The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources and the Black Diamond Council of the Girl Scouts of America to allow scouts to utilize state parks for activities while contributing to conservation service projects.

Under the terms of the memorandum of understanding, scouts from the Black Diamond Council will be

able to camp for free at various parks as long as the requested facility is available for use on the requested date and its use will not interfere with other groups or scheduled activities at the park. Recreational activities may also be provided at a reduced or negotiated rate, depending on volume, availability, operational hours and the time of year.

"I'm thrilled to continue to create partnerships with incredible organizations like the Girl Scouts of America and encourage the youth of our state to enjoy and conserve West

Virginia's natural resources," Gov. Justice said. "This agreement will not only provide scouts with access to our beautiful state parks, but help foster a sense of responsibility towards our natural environment while offering enriching experiences."

Before starting a service project, scouting units will be required to complete volunteer agreements and obtain project approval from the WVDNR's West Virginia State Parks section. State Parks personnel may also provide educational programming, such as merit badge classes and counseling, to visiting scouts subject to the availability of parks personnel, scheduled events, operations and availability of facilities or activities.


"We are excited to partner with the Black Diamond Council and help develop the outdoor skills and leadership potential of these truly incredible kids," WVDNR Director Brett McMillion said. "We hope the time they spend in our incredible state parks will translate into a lifelong love for West Virginia and an ongoing positive impact on the scouts, our

state parks and the community as a whole."

The Girl Scouts of America's Black Diamond Council is headquartered in Charleston and serves more than 5,000 girls, helping them develop their academic skills, self-confidence, ethics, leadership skills and citizenship skills through outdoor activities.

This new agreement is one of several public-private partnerships forged during the Justice Administration to promote environmental stewardship, outdoor education and community engagement. In July, the WVDNR signed a similar agreement with the Buckskin Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Other partnerships include hunting trips, trout stocking and stream improvement projects with the Mountaineer Challenge Academy.

To learn more about the Black Diamond Council and scouting opportunities in West Virginia, visit bdgsc.org. For more information about West Virginia's State Parks, visit WVstateparks.com.




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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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