



Mountain Messenger

Vol. XL, No. 51

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

December 23, 2023

Penny Pitch in final week of donations

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

We are so grateful for all of the giving hearts who have joined us to help families this Christmas. Opening your hearts to your neighbors is a kindness that speaks to your love for the spirit of Christmas and for your community.

We are edging closer to our goal, and we still have another week to go. 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.

We hope each of you has a wonderful day with your loved ones and finds all the blessings the season can bring. Thank you!

- 100.00 The American Legion Post 69 (Lewisburg)
- 100.00 Joe & Missy Darnell
- 100.00 Harold Crane
- 100.00 Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church
- 200.00 Barbara Sanders
- 100.00 James & LaDonna Reynolds
- 100.00 Mary Leb & Robert Foster
- 25.00 Anonymous
- 200.00 Frankford Ruritan Club
- 100.00 Anonymous
- 250.00 Robert & Susan Richardson
- 100.00 Dr John R Tomlinson, Sr & Midge Wiseman
- 100.00 Sunrise Chapel United Methodist Church
- 50.00 In loving memory of Joe, HaU and Mike
- 100.00 Davis Arbuckle
- 200.00 Mary Edgar Bobbitt
- 100.00 James M. Miller
- 500.00 John Wesley United Methodist (Lwbg)
- 200.00 Margaret LaFollette
- 1,000.00 Latelle & Kirsten LaFollette
- 100.00 Alpha Delta Kappa WV Alpha Zeta Chapter
- 200.00 Connie Jo Bryant
- 100.00 Peggy Brown
- 1,000.00 In memory of Andrew and Steven Andrew Detch from Helen Detch
- 100.00 In memory of J.J. O'Brien from Kathy Foley
- 100.00 Mr. & Mrs. William Satterfield, Jr.
- 100.00 Preceptor Alpha Lambda Chapter of Beta, Sigma Phi in memory of Karen Eggleston
- 25.00 In memory of Gwen Clingman from Alice & Luther Hollingsworth
- 25.00 In memory of Michael Osborne from Alice & Luther Hollingsworth
- 100.00 In memory of John Godfrey
- 150.00 Brenda Patterson
- 200.00 Mike & Cindy Quick
- 100.00 Anonymous
- 200.00 Sally A. Ford
- 200.00 Bob & Jill Modlin
- 150.00 Steve & DeEtta Hunter
- 100.00 In memory of Johnny & Elva Clemons and W.E. "Sniffy" & Tawnuah Surgeon
- 200.00 Richard & Patty Ford
- 20.00 Dulee Spence
- 100.00 Sara J. Jones
- 150.00 Alderson Quilt Guild
- 300.00 Richard & Nada Smith
- 100.00 In memory of Connie & Nathan Manchester
- 100.00 Charles & Nancy Owens
- 150.00 In honor of Justin, Kelli & Amanda and their families from their Mom
- 10,000.00 The Daywood Foundation (Charleston)
- TOTAL \$40,975.00

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

Local businesses, towns named 2023 Best of West Virginia winners

By Sarah Richardson

Each year West Virginia Living magazine showcases the best places to eat, drink, and be merry, from the northern panhandle of the state to the southernmost borders. The "Best of West Virginia" competition is a recognition for businesses and destinations across the state.

This year, Lewisburg was named the winner of the Best Town in the New River/Greenbrier Valley Region, with White Sulphur Springs being named second runner up. Lewisburg also scored first runner up in the Best Historic Town, and second runner up in Best Town for the Arts, and was the winners of the Best Downtown Shopping category.

Other category winners include:

- Best Bed & Breakfast/Inn - Winner: General Lewis Inn, Lewisburg
- Best Boutique Hotel - Second Runner Up: The Schoolhouse Hotel, White Sulphur Springs
- Best Campground - Second Runner Up: Greenbrier River Campground, Cabins, and River Trips, Alderson
- Best Casino - First Runner Up: The Greenbrier Casino, White Sulphur Springs
- Best Golf Course - Winner: The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs
- Best Mountain Biking Trail - Winner: Snowshoe Mountain Resort, Snowshoe; First Runner Up: Greenbrier State Forest, Caldwell
- Best Resort - First Runner Up: The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs
- Best Spa - POMONA Salt Cave and Spa, White Sulphur Springs



- Best Fair/Festival/Event - Winner: State Fair of West Virginia, Fairlea
- Best Cidery - Hawk Knob Hard Cider and Mead, Lewisburg
- Best Coffee House - Manic Espresso, Lewisburg
- Best Brunch - First Runner Up: The Humble Tomato, Lewisburg
- Best Butcher Shop - First Runner Up: Mountain Steer Meat Company, White Sulphur Springs
- Best Donut Shop - First Runner Up: Ben Ellen Donuts, State Fair of WV, Fairlea

See "Best of West Virginia" — Page 2

Greenbrier County Commission discusses snow removal, approves \$600,000 for water line extension

By Matthew Young, RealWV
www.TheRealWV.com

The Greenbrier County Commission, during their regular meeting on Tuesday, reviewed a bid from Charleston-based Terracare for snow removal during the upcoming winter season. Bids were initially requested by the commission last month, with Terracare being the only service provider to submit.

The bid, as read by Commissioner Blaine Phillips, was divided into individual "snow events."

"Removal begins at approximately one-inch of snowfall," Phillips read. "They (Terracare) automatically report when the snowfall begins, and treat the surface of parking lots and drive-throughs."

"This is a per-occurrence bid," Phillips added.

The breakdown of the bid is as follows:

- County Courthouse sidewalk and parking lot: \$450.
- Andrew Lewis Park parking lot: \$300.
- Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office: \$300.
- Greenbrier County 911 Center: \$300.
- Homeland Security and Emergency Management: \$400.
- Day Report Office: \$350.

"We will review everything to make sure it's all in order, and follow up at a later date for hiring," Commission President Tammy Tincher said.

Next on the agenda was consideration of the 2022/2023 Single Audit contract. The county's annual full Single Audit is a requirement of the W.Va. State Auditor's Office.

"At this time, we are presenting the request to go into contract with BHM CPA Group, out of Huntington, to complete the audit," Audit Committee Member Kelly Banton told commissioners. "They are at \$26,000 for the audit, and then we will pay the auditor's processing fee we're required to pay also, which I believe is \$2,080."

With no further discussion, commissioners unanimously approved the Audit Committee's request.

Personnel matters were then addressed, including finalizing the county's separation with several former employees, and the approval of a new hire at the Circuit Clerk's Office.

The consideration of bids for the installation of the 911 Center's equipment shelter was originally scheduled as per the published agenda. However, as no bids were submitted, commissioners were unable to move forward.

On-hand to again explain the scope of the project was Greenbrier County System Administrator Jordan Clendenin.

"As part of our upgrade project at the Communications Center, we are in need of additional space," Clendenin explained. "We've chosen to source a prefabricated shelter to be placed on the property of the Communications Center to move some of our radio equipment into."

At the conclusion of Clendenin's explanation, Tincher added, "We will be looking at if we need to make changes for the request, and putting out a new bid request in hopes of being able to get what you all would like to have in order to accommodate the needs for the agency."

In other business, commissioners signed a resolution to release \$20,000 in federal grant funding to the Lewisburg Fire Department to maintain and upgrade hazmat vehicles, and for the purchase of additional personal protective equipment. Approval of a second grant application for the 2022 Emergency Management Performance Grant was postponed until a future meeting as commissioners are awaiting additional documentation.

In the day's final piece of business, commissioners approved a \$603,000 payment for work completed related to the Greenbrier County Public Service District #2 waterline extension project.

"This is for the Thrasher Group, for the Sam Black to Asbury water line extension project," Tincher explained. "This is for all of the preliminary designs, final designs, bidding, engineering, and permitting for the entire project that Thrasher has done over the last year-and-a-half."

"This also will be paid out of our American Rescue Plan funds from the amount that the county has committed to that project," Teacher added, noting that Greenbrier County has committed a total of \$2.5 million for the water line extension.

The next meeting of the Greenbrier County Commission is currently scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 26 at 10 a.m.

Bart Baker sworn in as Chief Deputy

Bart Baker was sworn in as Chief Deputy of the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Dept. on Wednesday, Dec. 20. Greenbrier County Circuit Jennifer Dent administered the oath of office.

Bart is a 21-year veteran of the Sheriff's Department and is a United States military veteran.

Sheriff Bruce Sloan stated, "I am pleased to appoint Bart Baker as Chief Deputy of the Sheriff's Department. He has years of experience and expertise, and I am confident that he will do an excellent job for the department and the citizens of Greenbrier County. I am looking forward to work-



Bart Baker is sworn in as Chief Deputy for the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Department.

ing closely with him during my last year in office." I also want to express my appreciation to Josh Martin who has served as my Chief Deputy during the last seven years. He did an exceptional job as Chief Deputy and the department made tremendous strides during his tenure. He served the department and the citizens of Greenbrier County with distinction.

Visit us at —
www.mountainmessenger.com

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Lewisburg Elks donate to Penny Pitch



A big thank you to the Lewisburg Elks Lodge #1758 for donating \$3,000 to Penny Pitch. Your donation is greatly appreciated to help children in our area have toys and warm winter clothing. Pictured is Willie Hylton presenting the check to Judy Steele.



Organ Cave 4-H Helpers spread cheer

Organ Cave 4-H Helpers recently spread Christmas cheer at Season's Place. They led Christmas carols and distributed gifts. The gifts were packed in WVU grow bags with flower seeds enclosed for spring planting.

Best of West Virginia

Continued from Front Page

- Best Drive-In Restaurant - Winner: Jim's Drive In, Lewisburg
- Best Hot Dog - First Runner Up: Jim's Drive In, Lewisburg
- Best Italian Restaurant - First Runner Up: The Humble Tomato, Lewisburg
- Best Local Floral Shop - Winner: Gillespie's Flowers and Productions, White Sulphur Springs
- Best Outdoor Gear/Shop - Winner: Serenity Now Outfitters, Lewisburg
- Best Real Estate Agency - Winner: Greenbrier Real Estate Service, Lewisburg

WVABCA reminds shoppers of liquor store closures on Christmas Day

The West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration (WVABCA) reminds last-minute shoppers that retail liquor stores will be closed on Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25. The closure applies to all retail liquor stores in the state, but does not apply to businesses such as a restaurant that may sell liquor, wine, or beer for on-premises consumption.

"We at the WVABCA wish all West Virginians a safe and enjoyable holiday season," said WVABCA Commissioner Fred Wooton. "As we gather around tables laden with holiday feasts, let's remember that the greatest gift of all is the company of family and friends. Let's raise a glass in gratitude but do so with care. Designate drivers, pace yourselves, and let safety be the star of your celebrations.

Tips for responsible drinking:

- Do not drink and drive. Use a designated driver, public transportation, or a ride-sharing service.
 - Heed prescription medication warning labels for alcohol consumption. Alcohol is a depressant, and some medications can interact with alcohol dangerously.
- Drinking too much may lead to alcohol poisoning, accidents, assaults, and fires. The mission of the West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration is to regulate, enforce, and control the sales and distribution, transportation, storage, and consumption of alcoholic liquors and nonintoxicating beer as mandated by the West Virginia Liquor Control and Nonintoxicating Beer Act.

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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- Lung cancer
- Sleep apnea
- Other airway disorders

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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OSTEOPATHIC MANIPULATIVE MEDICINE
CLINIC**

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. **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.

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!)

Marriages

Sidney Blair Baker and Michael Shepherd Stearns
Mary Margaret Frantz and Matthew Scott Fuller

For the Record

Deeds

Sarah A. Hylton to Michael B. Rogers: 24.9 acres more or less, Meadow Bluff District. Map 77 Parcel 27.1. Filed Dec. 7, 2023.

Mary D. Goodwin to Isaac Shortridge: 1.00 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 6 Parcel 2.3. Filed Dec. 8, 2023.

Twila L. Adkins to Twila L. Adkins and Randall Adkins: part of lot 64 Marfrance Fairview Road, Meadow Bluff District, Map 23N Parcel 0060. Filed Dec. 8, 2023.

Terry L. Sampson and Robin L. Perrine to Zachary P. Drennen and Lida P. Shepherd: 16.07 acres more or less, Fort Spring District, Map 4 Parcel 48. Filed Dec. 8, 2023.

Edward H. Hensley Revocable Trust (by trustees Edward H. Hensley and James N. Hensley), William K. Hensley and Charles D. Hensley to Edward H. Hensley Revocable Trust (by trustees Edward H. Hensley and James N. Hensley), William K. Hensley and Charles D. Hensley: Mineral deed, 110 acres, 147 acres, and 6 acres, Frankford District, Map 9999 Parcel 0000, 0003. Filed Dec. 8, 2023.

Charles Jeffries to Barbara A. Jeffries: 18.51 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 83 Parcel 5.1. Filed Dec. 11, 2023.

Joseph M. Chevront and Norma Thompson to Myralyn Curry: lot 7, Lewisburg District, Map 20K Parcel 33. Filed Dec. 11, 2023.

William B. Bell and Lesa M. Bell to New Haven Homes LLC: 1,939.3 square feet more or less, Rainelle District, Map 5 Parcel 217. Filed Dec. 11, 2023.

Jacoba K. Johnston and Kelly L. Johnston (sole heirs of Charles E. Johnston) to Jacoba K. Johnston and Kelly L. Johnston: 204.332 acres more or less, Lewisburg District, Map 12 Parcel 10. Filed Dec. 11, 2023.

Renee N. Gibson to Herbert F. Ley III and Lorene K. Ley: 0.018 acres more or less, Ronceverte District, Map 9 Parcel 564. Filed Dec. 11, 2023.

William D. Bassett Jr. (by attorney-in-fact Eliot Bassett) to Elsie L. Bassett: 2.87 acres more or less, Lewisburg District, Map 20K Parcel 5. Filed Dec. 11, 2023.

Elsie D. Bassett (by attorney-in-fact Shannon Bowman) to Kala D. Dunbar: lot 2, Lewisburg District, Map 20K Parcel 5. Filed Dec. 11, 2023.

Michael J. Fife and Katra B. Fife to Blair Donovan and Lois Donovan: lot 9 Underwood Estates, Lewisburg District, Map 13 Parcel 161. Filed Dec. 12, 2023.

Steven B. Cole to Michael J. Fife and Katra B. Fife: lot 3, 0.405 acres, Lewisburg District, Map 13L Parcel 113. Filed Dec. 12, 2023.

Robert E.L. McCurdy to Bruce Properties LLC: lot no. 7,

Alderson District, Map 6 Parcel 249. Filed Dec. 12, 2023.

DOF Hotel LLC to Disability Fund Inc. (DBA Disability Opportunity Fund): lots 2, 3, 14, 15, half of 13 and new lot 12, White Sulphur District, Map 12 Parcel 233. Filed Dec. 12, 2023.

DOF Hotel LLC to Disability Fund Inc. (DBA Disability Opportunity Fund): lots 3, 8, 9, 1, & 2, White Sulphur District, Map 11 Parcel 264. Filed Dec. 12, 2023.

Gregory J. Parseghian and Christine M. Parshegian to Gregory J. Parseghian and Christine M. Parshegian: new lot 34A or 10.95 acres, White Sulphur District, Map 26 Parcel 0041 0000 0000. Filed Dec. 12, 2023.

Jackie Eilts Credit Shelter Trust (by trustee) to Henry E. Eilts: 54 acres and 151 poles, 91 ares, 20 acres, and 50 poles, Meadow Bluff District, Map 64 Parcel 0021, 0047, 0017, 0022. Filed Dec. 13, 2023.

Juanita L. Counts to Holly Clark: 6.46 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 8 Parcel 35. Filed Dec. 13, 2023.

Gregory J. Parseghian to Gregory J. Parseghian WV Qualified Personal Residence Trust: new lot 34A or 10.95 acres, White Sulphur District, Map 26 Parcel 0041 0000 0000. Filed Dec. 13, 2023.

Christine M.. Parseghian to Christine M.. Parseghian WV Qualified Personal Residence Trust: new lot 34A or 10.95 acres, White Sulphur District, Map 26 Parcel 0041 0000 0000. Filed Dec. 13, 2023.

Henry E. Eilts to Tamara G. Eilts-Helm, Karen J. Eilts, Alexandra McIlvenny, and Calvin Van Buskirk: 54 acres and 151 poles, 91 acres, and 20 acres and 50 poles, Meadow Bluff District, Map 64 Parcel 0021 0000 3005, 0047 0000 3006, 0014 0000 3010, 0022 0000 3005. Filed Dec. 14, 2023.

Dewey A. Taylor and Heather R. Taylor to Vianny Soto: 12,240 square feet, Lewisburg District, Map 18N Parcel 21. Filed Dec. 14, 2023.

Autumn Wooling to Autumn Wooling and Virginia Wooling: deed of conservation easement, 216.61 acres, Falling Spring District, Map 44 Parcel 51, 13, 3. Filed Dec. 14, 2023.

Mikeel D. Rich to J. Steven Hunter (trustee): property, Lewisburg District, Map 31 Parcel 15. Filed Dec. 14, 2023.

William H. Hensley revocable trust (by trustee Edward H. Hensley) to Edward H. Hensley and William K. Hensley: 110, 147, Frankford District, Map 9999 Parcel 0003, 0000, 0000. Filed Dec. 14, 2023.

Samuel B. Mann revocable trust (by trustee) to Samuel B. Mann revocable trust (by trustee): termination of trust. Filed Dec. 14, 2023.

Timothy J. Berggren to 234 Route 23 Hamburg LLC: new lot 2, 0.133 acres, Alderson District, Map 6 Parcel 0279. Filed Dec. 14, 2023.

Tammie Parrish to Arianna N. Fogus: half of lots 16 and 17, White Sulphur District, Map 22D Parcel 95. Filed Dec. 15, 2023.

Terry Hanna to Tyler J. Hanna, Spencer H. Hanna, and Haylee R. Hanna: 0.489 acres, lot 4, Frankford District, Map 14, 15 Parcel 130.2, 58.6 Filed Dec. 15, 2023.

Joseph E. Atkins and Boren Atkins to Jack E. Cormack and Claudia P. Cormack: lot 21 Grass Run Farms: Anthony Creek District, Map 29 Parcel 55. Filed Dec. 15, 2023.

Mary E. Jorka (by attorney-in-fact) to Mary E. Jirka (by attorney-in-fact): lot 24 Rolling Hills Subdivision #2, Lewisburg District, Map 9 MParcel 31. Filed Dec. 15, 2023.

Kurt J. Jirka (attorney-in-fact for Mary E. Jirka) to Joseph E. Atkins and Phyllis B. Atkins: lot 24 Rolling Hills Subdivision #2, Lewisburg District, Map 9 MParcel 31. Filed Dec. 15, 2023.

Matthew P. Stevens and Terry Ann Stevens to Lee J. Shockey and Patricia A. Shockey trust (by trustee): lot 58 overlook at Greenbrier, Irish Corner District, Map 20 Parcel 26. Filed Dec. 15, 2023.

John Crookshanks Jr. to Christina Crookshanks: lot 66, White Sulphur District, Map 8 Parcel 167, suffix 168. Filed Dec. 15, 2023.

Dwayne L. Bowles and Trista L. Bowles to Aaron W. Phillips: 16,146 square feet, Ronceverte District, Map 27 Parcel 14. Filed Dec. 15, 2023.

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 at the WVU Extension - Greenbrier Co. Office, 1046 Maplewood Avenue, Fairlea WV 24901. The public is invited to attend. Call 304-520-3221 for more information. Note: there is no fourth Thursday meeting in December.

Greenbrier County Commission

will meet Tuesday, Dec. 26, at 10 a.m. in Room 203 (new addition). LIVE STREAM FROM <https://www.facebook.com/gbrcourthouse/>. On the agenda:

- Regular Business
 - Approve Minutes of Dec. 12, 2023, regular meeting
 - Settlements of Estates
 - Exonerations/County Splits/Consolidations
- Financial Approvals
 - Arts & Recreation Transfer
 - Budget Revisions
 - Line Item Transfer
 - Pay Bills
- New Business
 1. Consider the fiduciary commissioner's report and recommendations for the Estate of Carl Edward Canfield (No. 3980)
 2. Open and consider bids for snow removal services
 3. Consideration of new hire employment application to fill vacancy in Greenbrier County Sheriff's Dept.
 4. Consideration of new hire employment application to fill vacancy at the Greenbrier 911 Center

5. Confirm separation of employment of Lucas Kessler effective 12/11/2023 from the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Department (date of hire 10/27/2021)
6. Confirm retirement of Janet King effective 9/30/2023 from the Greenbrier County Prosecutor's Office (date of hire 1/1/2009)
7. Consider promotion of Building Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer Stephen Simmons to the Greenbrier County Building Code Official effective on November 30, 2023.
8. Consider request to reorganize 911 Center management positions and for the promotion of Carla Blankenship to Greenbrier County 911 Manager effective on December 3, 2023.
9. Consideration of proposed project budget for funds already committed to the Greenbrier County GigReady Project.
10. Consideration of proposed project budget for funds already committed to the Quinwood Area Broadband Project.
- Construction Project
 1. Consideration of any necessary actions related to the design, acquisition, construction and equipping of the Greenbrier County Courthouse Project, specifically including, but not limited to, any aspects of the construction contract.
 2. Consideration of one or more requisitions related to the Greenbrier County Courthouse Project.
 3. Update on status of Greenbrier County Courthouse Project.
 4. Consideration of any necessary actions related to the financing for the Greenbrier County Courthouse Project.
 5. Consideration of any and all actions related to the foregoing.

Sea Dragons set new person bests, team records

On Dec. 9, the Sea Dragons hosted the Allegheny Highlands YMCA Dolphins and the Chief Logan Stringrays. It was the largest meet so far with 64 swimmers participating. The Sea Dragons had 67 personal best times and 30 new team records.

The most improved swimmer was Keith Benedict, who dropped over 33 seconds in his events. The swimmers who set new individual team records in their competition categories were Emil Applegate (50 Yard Backstroke), Ella Butler (50 Yard Free, 50 Yard Fly, 100 Yard Breast, and 200 Yard IM), Juliet Cooke (25 Yard Fly), Emily Hobbs (50 Yard Backstroke, 50 Yard Free, and 500 Yard Free), Zoey Hobbs (25 Yard Free), Avery Hodges-McGuffin (50 Fly), Cooper Homer (50 Yard Free, 200 Yard Free, and 100 Yard Fly), Ben Kelso (100 Yard Breast), Solomon Rodebaugh

(25 Yard Backstroke, 25 Yard Free, 50 Yard Backstroke, and 50 Yard Free), Luke Taylor (50 Yard Free, 100 Yard Free, 50 Yard Breast, 100 Yard Breast), and Marley White (100 Yard Free). The 200 Yard Freestyle relay team of Ella Butler, Cooper Homer, Ben Kelso, and Marley White set a new team record in that event.



Over 60 swimmers participated in the latest swim meet, hosted by the Sea Dragons.

Everyone who participated in this swim meet did an amazing job. We are extremely proud of the hard work that the swimmers have been putting in to make these swim meets successful. They are over-achievers! The Sea Dragons will be attending the Mountain State Storm Winter Invite on Jan. 7, 2024, in Bridgeport, WV.

Mountain Messenger

The Weekend Newspaper for the Greenbrier Valley

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OBITUARIES

Clare X. Bredell
June 20, 1940 -
November 29, 2023



Clare X. Bredell passed away peacefully Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023, after a very short battle with cancer. She was loving, compassionate, generous, kind and always emotionally available with a GREAT sense of humor. She was spiritual and intuitive and would read the palms or cards of people everywhere to help them heal and be their best selves. She shared her love and light with everyone. She was loved by all and will be greatly, greatly missed. A future celebration of life will be planned in June of 2024 with close friends and family.

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

Elaine Dianne Canterbury



Lewisburg-Elaine Dianne (Hinkle) Canterbury, 63, passed away on Dec. 13, 2023, at UVA Hospital in Virginia. She was born on June 6, 1960.

Elaine is survived by her loving husband, David Canterbury; her father, Maynard "Brownie" Hinkle; her brother, Maynard Lee Hinkle; her sister, Elizabeth "Beth" Hinkle; her special daughter, Sarah Taylor Morgan; her special granddaughters, Ainsley Taylor Sparks and Laurel Morgan; and her special sister, Judy Henson. She was preceded in death by her mother, Dianne Fawcett Hinkle.

Elaine was a beloved elementary school teacher in Greenbrier County Schools. Her passion and gift for teaching and entertaining her students with special stories, activities, and lessons made her a cherished educator. Elaine's ability to connect with children effortlessly and her talent for storytelling made her an exception teacher. She retired due to disability.

Elaine had a vibrant personality and a wide range of interests. She enjoyed her dogs much like children. She loved spending time with her large extended family and countless friends. Her joy and laughter were contagious, and she had a gift for vividly recounting events in her life and others. Her connections to forge deep connections and remember details of her friends' lives led her to have many friendships that spanned decades and geography. She derived great joy from giving to others and celebrating their accomplishments.

Elaine was a member of

Lewisburg United Methodist Church since birth along with generations of her family.

A memorial service to celebrate Elaine's life was held at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home, located at 884 Jefferson Street North, Lewisburg, on Wednesday, Dec. 20. Visitation was held before the service. Burial followed in Rosewood Cemetery, Lewisburg. Pastor Bev Colombo officiated the services.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Elaine's memory can be made to the Greenbrier Valley Humane Society, located at 151 Holliday Lane, Lewisburg WV 24901.

Elaine Canterbury will be remembered for her infectious laughter, her gift for storytelling, her strength to cope with Lupus and her love for family and friends. She touched the lives of many and will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg is in charge of arrangements. Please send online condolences by visiting: www.WallaceandWallace-FH.com.

Keith Edward Brown



Ronceverte-Keith Edward Brown, 73, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, at the UVA Medical Center, Charlottesville, VA. Born Oct. 3, 1950, in Ronceverte, the son of the late Horace Andrew and Leona Josephine Massie Brown.

Keith had retired from the WVDOH as a Comptroller, currently worked in transportation at The Greenbrier, and was a member of the Ronceverte Christian Church.

Survivors include his loving wife, Kathy L. Brown; son, Brian Brown (Julia); daughter, Kara Boone (Jimmy); brothers, Jink Brown (Faye), Jeff Brown (Lisa), and Tim Brown (Jennifer); sisters, Carolyn McManamay (Paul), Phyllis Brown, Cindy White (Tim); grandchildren, Bailey McCoy (Kyle), Jensen Brown (Gabby Chretien), Riley Boone, Juddson Boone, Isaac Brown, Isaiah Brown, Jamie Boone (Abigail), Kaitlyn Boone (James Gravelly) and Austin Boone (Tori); great-grandchildren, Asher McCoy papaw's little buddy and Emerson Gravelly; several nieces and nephews.

Funeral service was held Sunday, Dec. 17, at the Morgan Funeral Home Chapel, Lewisburg, where Pastor Cliff Stone, and Pastor Mike Teubert officiated. Visitation was Saturday evening, Dec. 16, at the funeral home. Burial followed the service in the Riverview Cemetery, Ronceverte, WV.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations of sympathy be made to the Shriner's Childrens Hospital online at donate.lovetotherescue.org.

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

David Franklin Long



Caldwell-David Franklin Long, 80, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023 at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital following a short illness.

He was born Mar. 7, 1943 at Renick, a son of the late James Marion and Opal Pittsenbarger Long.

David was owner and operator of April's Pizzeria in White Sulphur Springs and was a 20-year Army veteran.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by two daughters, Lynn Higgins and April Long; 9 siblings, Arlege Ray Long, Belza May Long, Thomas Jacob Long, Rose Mary Long, Belvia Evalie Long, Dortha Christina Long, Naomi Ruth Long, Robert Lee Long and Varge Long.

Survivors include his wife of 40 years, Lisa Ann Watson Long; daughter, Renae Long of Charlottesville, VA; son, Mark Long (Leslie) of Cincinnati, OH; son-in-law, Tim Higgins of South Carolina; grandchildren, Korrynn, Roland, Jessie and Bonnie; great-granddaughter, Autumn; and sister, Emily Kaye Long.

As per his wishes his body will be cremated.

A visitation was held Friday evening, Dec. 15, at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Chapel in White Sulphur Springs.

Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallace-FH.com.

David Ross Smith II



Gibsonville, NC-David Ross Smith II, loving husband and father unexpectedly passed at work from a short illness on Dec. 6, 2023, on the MV/William R. Barr Barge in Paden City, WV.

He was born to Karen Denise Smith and Donnie May on Nov. 19, 1977, in Spartanburg, SC.

He worked as a tugboat deckhand for Amherst Madison for over half of his life. He had recently been working towards earning his pilot's license and was very excited for this new career venture. David was always a hard worker, and he loved the outdoors, hiking, fly/trout fishing, golfing or anything involving family time. David was a die-hard Redskins' and Mountaineers fan. David had a smile that would light up the room and was always a shoulder to lean on for those around him.

David is preceded in his death by his mother, Karen Smith Withrow and her parents, David Ross Smith (PA) and Jeanne Harless Smith (MA) who helped

raise him. Both natives of Lewisburg, WV.

David is survived by his loving wife, Chelsie Lowe Smith; son, Brevon David Westfall; daughters, Sophia Lowe and Sonya Springs; sister, Kayla Marie May; brother, Travis Dalton Withrow and his wife Tiffany Cauthren Withrow and their two children, his niece and nephew, Carleigh and Corbin; step-parents, Carl and Michelle Withrow; maternal aunt and uncle, Carol and Steve Lilly, as well as a host of family and friends.

A celebration of life will be held at the Moose Lodge on Jan. 27, 2024, at 3 p.m. Address for Moose Lodge is 5031 Blakeshire Road, Greensboro, NC, 27406.

Any flowers or contributions can be mailed to his home at 5501 Saddle Trail, Gibsonville, NC, 27249.

Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallace-FH.com.

Rebecca Hern Ryder McGinnis



Lewisburg-Rebecca Hern Ryder McGinnis, 63, passed away Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023, at CAMC Greenbrier Valley Medical Center after a short illness.

Born Mar. 18, 1960, in Lewisburg, she was a daughter of the late Harold C. and Nancy Hern Ryder.

Rebecca was a member of Calvary United Methodist Church in the Richlands Community of Lewisburg and was a retail clerk.

In addition to her parents, Rebecca is preceded in death by her husband, Dallas Gene McGinnis in 2016; father and mother-in-law, James and Anna Hatcher McGinnis; and a brother-in-law, James McGinnis.

Survivors include a daughter, Erin Nicole McGinnis of Lewisburg; sister, Debra Allen (Darrell) of Beckley; nieces and nephews, Seth Allen of Beckley, David Allen of Beckley, Andrew Allen of Morgantown, Michael Allen of Beckley, Katherine Hutsenpiller (Tanner) of Meadow Bridge, Garrett McGinnis of Orlando, FL, Megan Van Hall (Ryan) of Land O' Lakes, FL, Jillian Jamison (Keith) of Odessa, Florida, Emily Neel (Chuck) of Winston Salem, NC, Lucy Neel of Winston Salem, NC and Carden Neel of Winston Salem, NC; great-nephew, Avery Joseph Allen of Beckley; and sister-in-law, Glenda Jo Humphreys (Mike) of King, NC.

Graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 23, at Calvary United Methodist Church Ceme-

tery, Richlands, with Rev. Emory Hanna officiating.

There will be no public visitation.

In lieu of flowers, donations of sympathy may be made to Calvary United Methodist Church.

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

Michael L. Coy White Sulphur Springs

-Michael L. Coy, 72, passed away Dec. 14, 2023 at Peyton Hospice House in Fairlea.

Mike was born Mar. 15, 1951, in Glen Jean, WV, the son of the late Melvin and Dorothy Leftwich Coy.

He was an Army Veteran and a retired Bellman for The Greenbrier Hotel.

Other than his parents he was preceded in death by his wife, Celesta Mae Crump Coy in September 2022.

He is survived by his daughter, Charmeita LaMons and his two sons, Cameron and Christopher Lewis.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Dec. 21, at the Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg where Pastor Greg Scott officiated. Interment followed in the Greenhill Cemetery in White Sulphur Springs.

The family received family and friends prior to services on Thursday at the funeral home.

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

Harriet Morlene Donaldson Dancy



Alderson-Harriet Morlene Dancy 95, went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023, following a long illness. Born on June 19, 1928, at Cornstalk, WV, to the late Henry L. and Lula F. Donaldson.

Mrs. Dancy was a correctional officer at the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Alderson, retiring in 1973 after 18 years of service. She was a member of the Old Greenbrier Baptist Church. She volunteered at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center Auxiliary for 17 years. She loved to work in her garden and doing her yard work.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Foster Dancy; son, Earl Snedegar; and her brothers, Ormont and Delbert Donaldson.

Those left behind to cherish her memories include her son, Carl "Sned"

Snedegar of Alderson; Judy Snedegar Pendry of Alderson; grandchildren, Jessica Snedegar Pauley (Jason) of Mount Clair, WV, and Nathan Pendry (Dana) of Due West, SC; and four great-grandchildren.

Graveside services will be at Greenbrier Memorial Gardens at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23.

Online condolences can be made at www.lantzfunerhome.com.

Roger Howard Lawhorn, Jr.



White Sulphur Springs-Roger Howard "Pepper" Lawhorn, Jr., 42, passed away Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023.

Pepper was born June 24, 1981, at Ronceverte, a son of Roger Howard Lawhorn, Sr. and Lisa D. Dixon Lawhorn of White Sulphur Springs.

He was a foreman for BFL Contracting Company for over 28 years.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by three daughters, Kaitlyn Burns of White Sulphur Springs, Chloe and Kylie Lawhorn, both of Asbury; the mother of his children, Nicole Burns of Asbury; two sisters, Jennifer Lawhorn of White Sulphur Springs and Kimberley Campbell (Glen) of Clifton Forge, VA; a brother, Levi Lawhorn of White Sulphur Springs; one nephew, Christian McNeely of White Sulphur Springs and a niece, Erica Aleshire of Clifton Forge, VA.

A celebration of life was held Thursday evening, Dec. 21, at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in White Sulphur Springs. He will be cremated following the service.

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

Latelle McKee LaFollette III



Sarasota, FL-Latelle McKee "Bud" LaFollette III passed away peacefully, surrounded by loved ones, at his home in Sarasota, FL, on Dec. 16, 2023. Bud, son of Latelle McKee LaFollette, Jr. and Thelma Hatfield LaFollette was born in Charleston, WV, on Dec. 13, 1932.

Bud is survived by his loving wife of 66 years,

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Obituaries

Continued from Page 4

LaFollette obituary continued

Alice Maynard Kuhn, and their three children, DeArmond LaFollette Arbogast (Rodger), Latelle Mckee LaFollette IV (Kirsten), and James Calvert LaFollette (Carolyn). He leaves four grandchildren, Alexander LaFollette Arbogast, Margaret Suzanne LaFollette, Julianna Grace LaFollette and James Calvert LaFollette, Jr.

Bud was known for his loving and compassionate nature. In his free time, he was an avid tennis player, an enthusiastic fisherman, a history buff and a charitable contributor to many organizations. His kind and generous spirit will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Bud graduated from Augusta Military Academy and West Virginia University. There, he served as a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity, the WVU track team, and as co-captain of the first WVU swim team.

After graduating, Bud worked as a real estate agent before serving in the US Army Reserves as an Infantry Captain. He later founded Pineview Cemetery, where he served as president for over 40 years. Bud was also appointed as West Virginia Securities Commissioner and served from 1959-1960 and from 1972-1977. In addition, he spent most of his career managing his family's business in natural resources and investments.

Bud was a member of several churches, includ-

ing the Old Stone Church in Lewisburg, Church of the Palms in Sarasota, and First Presbyterian Church of Charleston, WV. He was a founder of the International Association of Investment Advisors, President of the Southern Securities Commissioners and a member-registered principal of the National Association of Securities Dealers. He was part of the Boy Scouts of America's "Buckskin Council" of WV and served as a board member for the Meadows Country Club in Sarasota, the Edgewood Country Club-Swimming Committee in Charleston, and the Ringling School of Art in Sarasota. He was also a member of The Greenbrier Sporting Club in White Sulphur Springs.

Bud was predeceased by his parents, his sister Clara Jane LaFollette Wright, his brother-in-law Thomas Hastings Edelblute, and his nephew Thomas Hastings Edelblute, Jr.

Friends and family will gather to celebrate Bud's life on Dec. 23 at 11:30 a.m. at Church of the Palms in Sarasota, FL. A reception will follow at the church. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Church of the Palms. The service can be streamed on the Church of the Palms' website and FaceBook page.

Our family is very grateful to all of Bud's loving caregivers who took such wonderful care of him.

Martha Louise Miller Lewisburg-Martha Louise Miller, 87, went home to be with her loved ones Monday, Dec. 18, 2023, after a long illness.

Born Oct. 29, 1936, at Providence, RI, she was the only child of Wallace L. and Ernestine Nickse.

Martha was an active member of Lewisburg United Methodist Church for many years.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Eugene F. Miller in 1978, a son, James Miller and her best friend, Frances Richardson.

Those left to cherish her memory are her daughter, Carole Jones of Lewisburg; her grandchildren, Kristin Crislip of Gap Mills, Michael Jones of Sacramento, CA, and Jacqueline Miller of Alpharetta, GA; several great-grandchildren; and many of her church friends.

Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 26, at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg, with Pastor Bev Colombo officiating. Private interment will follow in Rosewood Cemetery in Lewisburg.

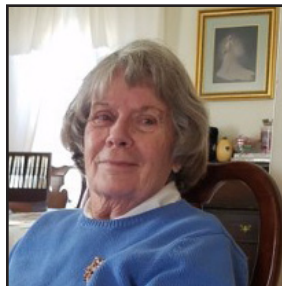
In lieu of flowers, donations of sympathy may be made to Lewisburg United Methodist Church.

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

Kenneth Wayne Bonner Leslie-Kenneth Wayne Bonner, 68, passed away Friday, Dec. 15, 2023.

Memorial service will be planned at a future date. You may send condolences to his family at larrybr@aol.com or 274 Rosewae Avenue, Cortland, OH 44410. Barlow Bonsall Funeral Home, Charleston, WV 25301 is in charge of arrangements.

Marilyn Lee Campbell Carney



Marilyn Lee Campbell Carney, 87, of Greenbrier County, died on Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023, after a long illness. Born Nov. 17, 1936, in Charleston, WV, and raised in Greenbrier County, Marilyn was the daughter of the late Brack and Mildred (Smith) Campbell of Rupert.

She was preceded in death by her husband Charles O.L. Carney in 2015 and her daughter Elizabeth Carney Curry in 2020.

Marilyn was a graduate of Rupert High School and Marshall University, and she was a teacher of different subjects in elementary, middle, and high schools, including teaching special education at Greenbrier East High School in Fairlea.

As a special education teacher, Marilyn was a strong advocate for the disabled and disadvantaged. She was known to be a strong woman and independent thinker who participated in public issues to support West Virginians and all Appalachians.

Marilyn was devoted to her family and friends, and she enjoyed spending summers with them on the banks of the Greenbrier River. Marilyn also enjoyed traveling with her husband Charlie, her sister Sue, and Sue's husband Bruce Moss. Sue and her family were part of the daily life of Marilyn in many ways.

Marilyn was a member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in White Sulphur Springs, where she had many dear friends and served on the Vestry. She also served on the board of the Frankford Ruritan Club and supported its fundraising efforts to provide scholarships for local young people in the area.

Surviving are her children, Charles B. Carney and wife Angel of Roanoke, VA, Clinton Carney and wife Marielena of San Diego, CA, Jon Carney and wife Angela of Coos Bay, OR, and son-in-law Craig Curry of Parkersburg, WV. She is also survived by her five grandchildren, Cate Carney, Sarah Campbell Carney, Nick Curry, Cat Curry, and Sean Curry, and three great-grandchildren, Sophia Curry, Elliott Curry, and Nora Elizabeth Curry.

A memorial will be held on Jan. 27, 2024, at 2 p.m. at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in White Sulphur Springs, with Reverend Betsy Walker presiding. Friends and family will be received at the church before and after the service.

The interment will take place on a different date in a private ceremony with family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Marilyn to St. Thomas Episcopal Church in White Sulphur Springs or the Frankford Ruritan Club Scholarship Fund.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg is in charge of arrangements. Please send online condolences by visiting: www.WallaceandWallace-FH.com.

Joseph E. Sizemore Lewisburg-U.S. Army Veteran Joseph E. Sizemore, 49, passed away at home on Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023. He was born on Mar. 26, 1974, in Ronceverte, to Jackson and Camilla Sizemore.

He is survived by his parents and his two children, Jamison and Jacquelyn Sizemore, and was preceded in death by his sister, Evelyn Holley. He leaves behind a large, grieving extended family and group of friends.

Morgan Funeral Home in Lewisburg is handling arrangements, which are incomplete at this time. A service will be announced next week via social media.

Club & Church

Greenbrier Valley's Bicycle Club's annual Bikes for Kids holiday project underway

It's that time of year again when members of the Greenbrier valley Bicycle Club are busy collecting donations and purchasing bicycles for the Toys for Tots program at the Greenbrier Valley Fitness South facility. Now in its tenth year, this annual project has been one that club members hold dear to heart.

Each December, the club purchases as many bikes as possible with the amount of donations received. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of those donating this year, with a total amount collected being \$1,000, the club was able to purchase 15 bicycles. These bikes will then be gifted to selected area Greenbrier Valley youth age 2 to 12. Without a doubt, each one of these bikes is sure to put a smile on the face of the child receiving it!

Greenbrier Bike Club members Liz Wickline, LT Ball, Terry Casey, and Isela Casey



Lewisburg Lions Club holds Christmas Dinner

On Dec. 12, the Lewisburg Lions Club held their annual Christmas Dinner and meeting. The club had 31 club members and their guests meeting at the Lewisburg United Methodist Church, including two young grandsons. After a very delicious meal catered by Mrs. Lisa Carter and enjoying Christmas songs and carols accompanied by Lion Pam Lewis, the club welcomed a



Lion's Club Christmas Dinner attendees were welcomed by Santa Claus.

Christmas guest who made a surprise appearance.

With a candy cane for everyone, Santa Claus made sure that everyone was afforded a chance to offer their Christmas wish list. The two grandsons were so excited and couldn't get enough time with the jolly ole elf. Santa has made many visits throughout our community and everyone that attended our event stated that it was our best Christmas dinner and celebration they've ever had. One family had four generations of attendees for our dinner.

The Lewisburg Lions Club has been known for our annual Christmas tree sales. Recently, we have been unable to obtain trees on a wholesale basis. We are still looking, but our main fundraiser now is a golf tournament that will we have on May 4, 2024. The club would like to remind the public that our main goal is to provide eye exams and glasses to those in our community that would otherwise not be able to afford them. We will be looking at new fundraisers in this coming year but if anyone would like to make a financial donation to assist the club with our goals of helping many non-profit organizations in our community, please address your contributions to Lewisburg Lions Club, PO Box 1215, Lewisburg, WV 24901.



Club members with Santa Claus.

Church Bulletin

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, Sunday, Dec. 24 at 6 p.m. All are welcome!

St. James' Episcopal Church

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services, at 468 Church Street (lewisburgstjames.org)
Sunday, 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
Monday, Dec. 25 - 10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist

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 Pursuant to WV Code 5G-1-3, the Greenbrier County Board of Education is seeking Expressions of Interest from qualified design professions to provide Architectural/Engineering Services to include design and construction phase administration for the renovation and construction of Frankford Elementary School. Qualified firms are invited to contact David McClure, CSBO (304)-647-6460, damclur@k12.wv.us at the Greenbrier County Board of Education Office to obtain a copy of the Statement of Qualification and submission requirements. Statement of Qualification must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. local prevailing time on Friday, January 12, 2024, at the Administrative Office of Greenbrier County Board of Education, 653 Church Street, Lewisburg, WV 24901, attn.: David A. McClure

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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 contractors' 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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Dear Recycle Lady,

Dear Recycle Lady,

I have received several Christmas cards this year that have red envelopes. Are these red envelopes recyclable?

Red is a Christmas Color

Dear Red is a Christmas Color,

Red definitely is a Christmas color, but it isn't a recyclable color, unless when torn it has white paper in the middle. This is true for all dark colors such as black, brown and chartreuse. Make a tear in your red paper and you probably will see that it is red all the way though. This indicates that the fibers are red and only white fibers are recyclable. If you see white in the middle of the paper, then its fibers are white, and it is recyclable. When recycled paper is processed it must have white fibers in order to make new paper. Bright fluorescent colors are not recyclable either for the same reason. However, fluorescent paper is now undergoing a change. According to link.springer.com, a highly stable recyclable fluorescent paper is being developed into an environmentally friendly cellulose-based paper derived from waste bagasse, and to be used for anti-counterfeiting and security. Bagasse is also known as sugar care pulp. When the juice is squeezed from the sugar cane stalks, the waste that remains is fibrous and is being proposed as a means of making environmentally friendly fluorescent paper.

Dear Recycle Lady,

After all the packages are opened on Christmas day there is always a pile of ribbons and bows left. Are ribbons and bows recyclable?

Love Christmas

Dear Love Christmas,

Ribbons and bows make packages festive and pretty, but they are a definitely a no-no for recycling. If ribbons get into any of the baling equipment, they can bring everything to a halt. Bows are less

hazardous to equipment than ribbons, but they usually have a plastic component and a glue that sticks the bows to the packages. Both of these components make bows non-recyclable. Please do not take any ribbons, bows, twine, or anything long and stringy to a recycling center. Whenever you are opening packages, keep a bag or a box handy for the bows and ribbons. They will then be ready for use the next time you wrap a package.

Dear Recycle Lady,

Most wrapping paper comes on a long roll. Can the roll be recycled with cardboard?

Wrapper

Dear Wrapper,

Yes, the wrapping paper tube can be recycled with cardboard. All those gift boxes you find under the tree after opening packages can also be recycled with cardboard. Just be sure they are clean, dry, and empty. Besides recycling, the empty wrapping paper tube can be reused to store used wrapping paper on for safe keeping until its next use.

Good News: Four species of large animals in Asia - tigers, elephants, wild boars, and clouded leopards - are showing signs that their populations have grown in areas near humans. Typically, the populations of these larger animals decline when humans are close by.

Dear Readers, The Greenbrier Recycling Center, Greenworks, and I send you best wishes and much joy for this holiday season. We greatly appreciate all your questions, comments, and encouragement. Please keep them coming in 2024.

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



Photo: Courtesy of the West Virginia Regional History Center. Sources: Beckley Post-Herald, The Greenbrier Independent.

By William "Skip" Deegans

Perched in a curve on Sewell Mountain along U.S. Route 60 just west of Rainelle, Lee's Tree Tavern (shown in this undated photo) was a landmark for motorists for many years. In 1952, Roscoe C. Johnson, the proprietor, advertised the tavern as an "excellent hotel, restaurant and gas station."

At an elevation of 3,170 feet, he promoted the tavern as located at the highest point on the Midland Trail.

The tavern and local community were named for a maple tree under which General Robert E. Lee and Confederate troops were encamped in 1861. It was here that Lee first met Traveler, a horse bred near Blue Sulphur Springs who was later purchased by Lee. In 1935, the tree died as a result of a drought. It has been reported that the Daughters of The Confederacy had the tree cut and sold souvenirs from its wood to raise funds.

The winding highway near the tavern could be treacherous, especially during the winter. In November of 1951, the brakes on a truck transporting torpedoes failed, and the driver crashed. Two 60 lb. torpedoes were dislodged and slide down the mountain. At least one of the bombs was located and retrieved by personnel from the South Charleston Naval Ordnance Department. The location of the other bomb was a bit of a mystery.

Under management of John R. Goff, the tavern's restaurant was well known for its food. In the early 1950s, Goff and his wife, Edith, who was a teacher at the Lee's Tree School, became proprietors of the Pioneer Hotel in Rainelle. Evidently, the Goff's left the tavern with the recipes as the Pioneer Hotel's restaurant was known far and wide for excellent food. Both the tavern and Pioneer Hotel were razed - each a victim of having been bypassed by Interstate 64.

Greenbrier East High School Wrestler of the Week

Name: Carter Hamilton
Grade: Senior
GPA: 3.8
Current Record: 19-5 (15 Pins)
Parents: Jennifer and Doug Hamilton
Hometown: Maxwelton
Favorite Wrestler: John Smith (Olympic Champion / World Champion)
Favorite Quote: "A person is a person."
Began Wrestling: In the seventh grade
Past Accomplishments: Carter is a multi-time State Qualifier and currently ranked #6 in the state.



Why he Wrestles: "Carter wrestles for fun!"

Coaches Comments: As a senior, Carter is a leader in the room. The younger wrestlers look up to him. This past week, he won all seven of his matches and pinned every opponent. Hopefully, the younger wrestlers will notice that hard work pays off when you

are having fun!"

Miluk Humor: "My daughter always says that she never gets any phone calls. So, for Christmas, I put one of those "How's my Driving?" bumper stickers on her car. The phones pretty much ringing off the hook now." Ha!

Gov. Justice announces 2024 Governor's Schools applications now open

Gov. Jim Justice announced the application period for the 2024 Governor's Schools of West Virginia is now open and can be accessed online through the West Virginia Department of Education.

The Governor's Schools of West Virginia program presents an enriching and immersive summer learning experience within college-based residential settings. These programs, hosted at our state's prestigious colleges, universities, and prominent locations across the state, come at no expense to families.

"This is an incredible opportunity for some of the most outstanding students in our state, and I encourage everyone to apply," Gov. Justice said. "This is just another way we are investing in our brightest young

minds, helping shape future leaders, and contributing to the overall prosperity of West Virginia."

Students eager to participate in these educational opportunities undergo a stringent application process to secure a spot in programs taught by esteemed college faculty. This initiative underscores the commitment to providing quality education and fostering academic excellence in the state.

Since 1984, the Governor's Schools have been a cornerstone of extended summer learning, offering invaluable educational experiences to thousands of West Virginia students over the decades.

Learn more about the application and history on the WVDE's website, wvde.us/gov-schools.

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USDA seeks applications to advance economic development and create jobs for people in rural WV

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development announced recently that it is accepting applications to advance economic development and create jobs for people in rural America.

USDA is making this funding available under the Rural Business Development Grant program to support business opportunities or business enterprise projects in rural communities. Organizations eligible to receive funding include rural towns, communities, state agencies, authorities, nonprofits, federally recognized Tribes, public colleges and non-profit cooperatives.

Rural Development staff from West Virginia will hold a webinar from 10 a.m. to noon on Jan. 18, 2024. Registration is open at the following link: tinyurl.com/WVRBDG2024.

“Supporting our entrepreneurs and small businesses is at the core of Rural Development,” said USDA Rural Development West Virginia State Director Ryan Thorn. “Programs like these ensure that rural West Virginians have the what they need to succeed.”

Projects must be consistent with local community and economic development strategic plans. They must also support other economic development activities in the surrounding community.

Funds may be used to establish business support centers or to finance job training and leadership development in rural areas. They may also be used to repair or modernize buildings; finance feasibility studies or business plans; or purchase equipment to lease to small or emerging businesses.

In fiscal year 2024, USDA anticipates that part of the funding may be set aside for:

- Federally recognized Tribes.
- Rural Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities/Rural Economic Area Partnerships.
- Projects located in persistent poverty areas.
- Strategic Economic and Community Development (SECD) projects.

Eligible applicants for the persistent poverty and SECD set-aside funds must demonstrate that 100% of the benefits of an approved grant will assist beneficiaries in the designated areas.

The Department expects to invite applications in winter 2024 for set-aside funding to enhance the operation of rural transportation systems.

USDA is particularly interested in

applications that will advance Biden-Harris Administration priorities to:

- Reduce climate pollution and increase resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities.
- Ensure all rural residents have equitable access to Rural Development (RD) programs and benefits from RD-funded projects; and
- Help rural communities recover economically through more and better market opportunities and through improved infrastructure.

Applications must be submitted to the nearest USDA Rural Development state office where the project is located by 4:30 p.m. ET on Feb. 28, 2024. For more information, visit Grants.gov or see page 84123 of the Dec. 4, 2023, Federal Register.

WVSOM students learn about coal industry, tour working mine

About 10,000 coal miners went underground in the Mountain State in 2023, as reported by the West Virginia Office of Miners' Health Safety and Training. On Dec. 4-5, students in the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine's (WVSOM) Rural Health Initiative had a chance to see firsthand what those miners go through in order to work in a subterranean environment.

A total of 23 WVSOM student - more than in any previous year that the mine activity has been offered - visited the National Mine Health and Safety Academy in Beaver, WV, operated by the U.S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration, to learn about the coal industry and its associated health risks. The trip also included a visit to Arch Coal Mine in Eccles, WV, where students went underground to see an operational mine and speak with miners on the job.

Rebecca Thacker, WVSOM's Rural Health Initiative program director, said the event was a valuable educational resource for medical students who plan to practice in West Virginia.

“It showcased advancements in the coal mining industry and allowed stu-

dents to see current working conditions and potential health risks, equipping future doctors with the knowledge and empathy needed to serve the healthcare needs of West Virginia's diverse population,” Thacker said. “A handful of major industries are typically prevalent in rural areas, and successful medical education involves imparting to students the skills to establish rapport with and treat their patients. My hope is that our students are learning how to seek more insight into the populations they will end up serving.”

At the National Mine Health and Safety Academy, students toured the facility's mine simulation lab and were trained in the use of self-contained self-rescue devices - portable oxygen sources that provide breathable air when none is available - in addition to taking part in two simulated rescue scenarios created by the staff of WVSOM's Clinical Evaluation Center, involving amine collapse and a fire, respectively. After completing the scenarios, students discussed potential plans of action under the guidance of WVSOM faculty members Dwight Bundy, D.O., and Mark Waddell, D.O.

As part of the experience, West Vir-

ginia state Sen. Tom Takubo, D.O., a graduate of WVSOM's Class of 1999 who practices pulmonology and critical care, gave a presentation to students that introduced some of the conditions physicians see frequently in miners. He also discussed the decrease in coal mining employment in West Virginia and emphasized the importance of physicians being aware of legislation that affects the health of their patients.

At Arch Coal Mine, students learned about safety regulations and toured a coal processing facility in addition to exploring the working mine. Hannah Ankrom, a WVSOM Class of 2025 student and native of Sistersville, W.Va., who traveled underground, said being inside a mine gave her a new perspective on the lives of miners and the health challenges they may face.

“It was eye-opening to see what a day in the life looks like for coal miners and what they endure to make a living for themselves and their families. One of the most important takeaways was understanding the hazards and why they take those risks,” Ankrom said. “I've seen patients who have worked in mines, but after

this I have a better understanding of the working conditions. They're in places where the roof might be barely five feet high, or in some cases where they have just enough room to crawl around. And you hear about pneumoconiosis, or black lung, but when you're down there with a light on, you can see the particles floating in front of you.”

WVSOM's Rural Health Initiative is designed to enhance the primary care curriculum at WVSOM in order to produce graduates qualified to practice in rural and underserved communities. Students in the program learn about common West Virginia industries such as the coal, timber, agricultural and oil and gas industries.

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Clasp
2. Slack;
3. Strain;
4. Compel

Today's Word

SPOKEN

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

H	O	P	I	M	W	A	H	F	B	I	L	A	B	A	M	P	S		
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B	E	L	A	I	R	I	T	A	L	L	D	A	T	S	U	N			
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O	D	D	S	H	A	T	T	E	R	N	O	E	S	T	H	E	Y		



WVSOM students stand with Mark Waddell, D.O., a WVSOM faculty member, at the National Mine Health and Safety Academy in Beaver, W.Va.



WVSOM students went underground to see Arch Coal Mine in Eccles, W.Va., and speak with miners on the job.

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Bridging Resources West Virginia provides tips for supporting those alone during the holidays

We all have an image in our minds of a “perfect” holiday season. The family gathered around the table, matching pajamas, holiday cards, and festive food, fun, and laughter. While much joy surrounds us throughout the holiday season, for some, the holidays look very different.

For some, being alone at the holidays may be a choice, but for many aging adults it is not. There may be a recent loss of a loved one or a mobility challenge in getting out the door or traveling. One’s family may live too far away or there may be no family at all. Financial circumstances may make travel too expensive. And, in some cases, they

may be struggling just to make ends meet.

How can you help make this holiday season a little sweeter? Consider these five simple ways you can check in on your neighbors and make their season brighter:

- For neighbors who are 60 years of age or older, check out the hours for the local senior center in your area. Many senior centers will host a holiday party and meal. Senior centers are a great place to connect and engage socially with others. For a list of senior centers in your area, visit br-wv.org.

- A handwritten letter, a phone call, or a visit might be just the thing they

need this season. The holidays can be a very lonely time. Just knowing someone cares enough can be very uplifting.

- An invite to dinner or ask if you may deliver dinner to them. If you are not cooking or at home, this can be done in advance.

- For some aging adults, signing up for Meals on Wheels might be a great way to receive, not just a holiday meal, but meals consistently throughout the week. Check with your local senior center to find out more information.

- Assist with shopping or decorating for the season. As you unpack holiday decorations take time to ask questions and hear stories of family and memo-

ries of past holidays.

West Virginians are kind people with hearts of gold. You may already check on your elderly neighbors, provide transportation to the grocery store, or help them with home or yard maintenance. Those gifts keep on giving all year long!

If you have an aging neighbor/friend or are caring for an aging family member and are looking for additional resources that can help, check out Bridging Resources West Virginia at br-wv.org or call the WV Aging and Disability Resources Center at 866-981-2372. Our team of compassionate professionals is here to help.

NCWVCAA Forgotten Angel Program a success

Thank you to everyone who donated their time, money, and goods to the Forgotten Angel Program through North Central West Virginia Community Action. Several individuals adopted angels and purchased directly. Others contributed financially and materially. Thanks to all! I’d like to specifically mention the following: ClearView Fellowship Church (Lewisburg), Ronceverte Womans Club, Ronceverte Fairlea Ministerial Association, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation (Ronceverte), Maxwelton

Ruritan Club, Hanshaw Insurance (Fairlea), Vietnam Veterans Group #10 (Ronceverte), Schewels Home, and Grand Home Furnishings.

Through these generous donations we were able to provide for 21 children age 12-17 in 11 different households. Additionally, the parents were able to select gifts for their younger children from the generous donations from The Greenbrier.

From me and each of these families, thank you and Merry Christmas!

Fun books to read to children this holiday season

The holiday season is a special time of year for people of all ages, but children might be the most enthusiastic celebrants come December. Children spend much of the holiday season anticipating the arrival of the man in the red suit, and that enthusiasm can be contagious.

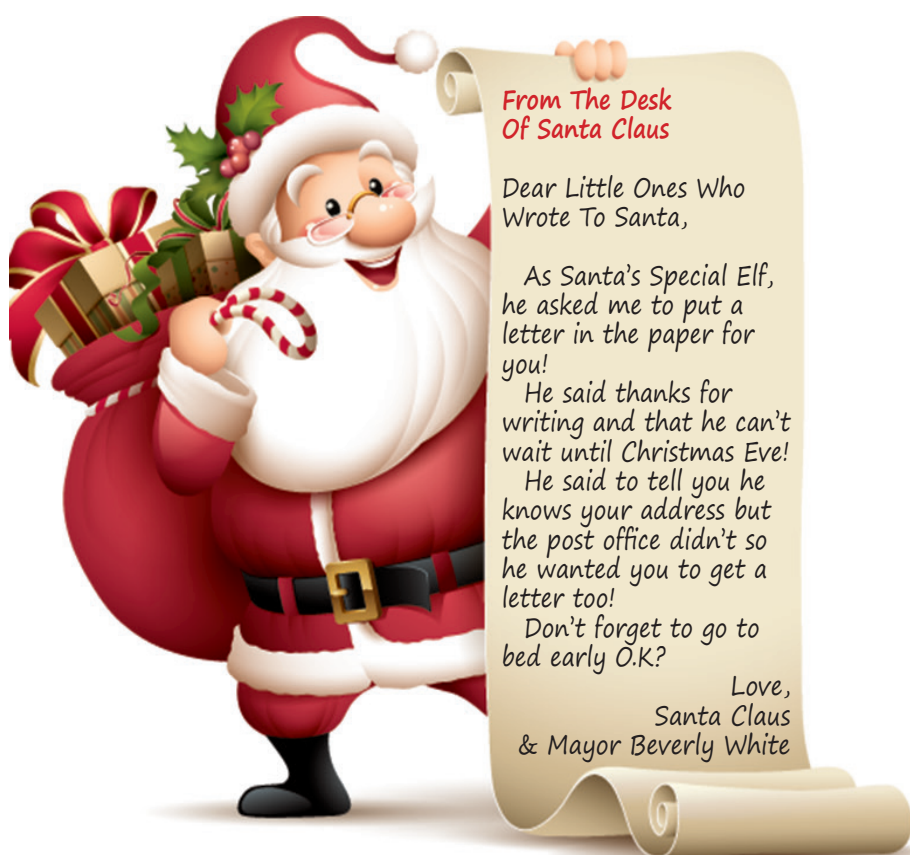
Families have their own unique traditions during the holiday season, but one popular way to harness kids’ enthusiasm between Thanksgiving and Christmas Day is to read their holiday stories. There’s no shortage of great holiday books for kids, but here are a handful that kids may remember well into adulthood.

- ‘The Polar Express,’ by Chris Van Allsburg: The beloved tale is the story of a young boy who boards a mysterious train bound for the North Pole.
- ‘The Littlest Elf,’ by Brandi Dougherty: Part of a series, this story focuses on a tiny elf named Oliver and a series of misadventures as he navigates his way through Santa’s workshop.
- ‘Olive, the Other Reindeer,’ by Vivian Walsh: Olive is no ordinary reindeer. In fact, Olive is a dog who heads to the North Pole believing she is a reindeer. Her decision to join Santa’s team ultimately benefits the big man and his trusty reindeer.
- ‘The Miracle of the First Poinsettia: A Mexican Christmas Story,’ by Joanne Oppenheim: A little girl named Juanita is the star of this retelling of a traditional Mexican tale with a valuable lesson.
- ‘Gingerbread Mouse: A Christmas Holiday Book for Kids,’ by Katy

Bratun: A fallen tree branch almost ruins Christmas for Mouse, whose determination and resourcefulness mixed in with a little Christmas magic ensures she finds a place to call home in time for the holidays.

- ‘A Night in Santa’s Great Big Bag,’ by Kristin Kladrup: Santa saves the day in this tale starring a young boy’s favorite stuffed animal, whose excitement for Christmas compels him to climb into Santa’s big bag of presents on Christmas Eve.
- ‘Santa Claus and the Three Bears,’ by Maria Modugno: This twist on the popular tale ‘Goldilocks and the Three Bears’ finds three unsuspecting bears encountering a familiar fellow in a red suit upon returning home after a nighttime walk.
- ‘Twas the Night Before Christmas: Edited by Santa Claus for the Benefit of Children of the 21st Century,’ by Clement C. Moore: Parents will appreciate this updated version of the popular tale that, among other things, has removed the reference to Santa smoking.
- ‘How the Grinch Stole Christmas!’ by Dr. Seuss: Children can join generations of fans that came before them as they hear the redemption story of the Grinch who was once determined to ruin Christmas for the happy people of Who-ville.
- ‘The Nutcracker,’ by the New York City Ballet: The classic story is retold based on famed choreographer George Balanchine’s production.

The holiday season is steeped in tradition. Reading new and classic holiday stories to children is one tradition any family can embrace.



Ruth Wyand

Carnegie Hall’s Second Stage Series continues with Ruth Wyand

Carnegie Hall’s Second Stage Series continues with singer-songwriter Ruth Wyand on Thursday, Jan. 25, at 7 p.m. in the Old Stone Room. Guests are invited to come early to Club Carnegie from 6 to 6:45 p.m. A cash bar and snacks are available.

Being diversified is Ruth Wyand’s specialty! Demonstrating powerful fingerpicking, bottleneck-slide and a warm alto voice, Ruth plays a mix of Americana, jazz, blues, folk, country with a portion of Piedmont picking and bluegrass clawhammer thrown in. Her songwriting is universal, using a melting pot of styles with lyrics that are timeless, relatable, emotionally resonant, sometimes witty, sometimes serious but always human and genuine.

Ruth performs a mix of Americana songs with guitar virtuosity. She presents a mixture of originals with poi-

gnant lyrics as well as well-crafted instrumental arrangements of classics ranging from Doc Watson, Etta Baker, Jimi Hendrix, Leo Kottke to Theloniou Monk and Nina Simone. Each song, no matter how different, has a firm Ruth Wyand stamp of style on it.

The Second Stage Series consists of five special events that take place in the Old Stone Room located on the ground floor of the Hall. The intimate setting creates a “speak easy” vibe with an eclectic line-up of entertainment. Seating is general admission and limited. The next and final Second Stage performance will be Music from the Songbook of Stage & Screen Mar. 14, 2024.

Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased by visiting www.carnegiehall-wv.org, calling 304-645-7917, or stopping by 611 Church Street, Lewisburg.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

Tips to pick the perfect Christmas tree



This holiday season, celebrants can consider these tips as they look for the perfect Christmas tree.

Christmas trees are among the most recognizable symbols of the holiday season, and the popularity of trees is undeniable. According to the National Christmas Tree Association, approximately 25 to 30 million real Christmas trees are sold in the United States each year. Christmas trees also are big business in Canada, where Statistics Canada notes cash receipts from Canadian Christmas tree producers totaled nearly \$163.5 million in 2022.

Annual spending on Christmas trees underscores how important they are to holiday decor. Christmas trees serve as the centerpiece in millions of holiday home decor schemes, so it's important to pick a tree that can shine in that role. This holiday season, celebrants can consider these tips as they look for the perfect Christmas tree.

- Measure the area where the tree will be placed. A large tree can be awe-inspiring, but also can stick out like a sore thumb if it takes up too much space. There should be enough room around the tree for families and their guests to sit around it. The home interior experts at Better Homes & Gardens

- recommend leaving a minimum of six inches between the top of the tree and the ceiling. If a tree topper will be added, make sure the top of the tree is at least 12 inches from the ceiling. Measure the area before leaving to buy a tree so it can fit nicely into the room and the surrounding decor.

- Try the shake test. Anyone who has purchased a fresh-cut Christmas tree is undoubtedly familiar with the shake test, which remains an effective way to measure the dryness

of the tree. A slight shake will produce some fallen needles. If the needles are brown and few and far between, then the tree likely is not overly dry. However, a lot of falling green needles indicates the tree is already drying out, which means it could shed quite a bit and lose its looks before Christmas Day.

- Pick a tree with a symmetrical look. Trees are living things, so it's unlikely that buyers will find a perfectly symmetrical tree. However, a tree that's misshapen or already has some

sagging branches won't make for an awe-inspiring addition to a home decor scheme.

- Find the trunk (if you can). A trunk that's visible through the branches indicates the tree does not have dense branches, which will be necessary if homeowners want to dress the tree with ornaments. If it's hard to find the trunk because of all the thick branches and green needles, then the tree is likely pretty healthy.

- Test the needles. The home improvement experts at Lowes note that needles should be flexible but still snap when bent sharply. Avoid trees with needles that are already losing their color and can easily be pulled off.

A Christmas tree garners a lot of attention come the holiday season, which only underscores the significance of finding a tree worthy of being the centerpiece of holiday decor.



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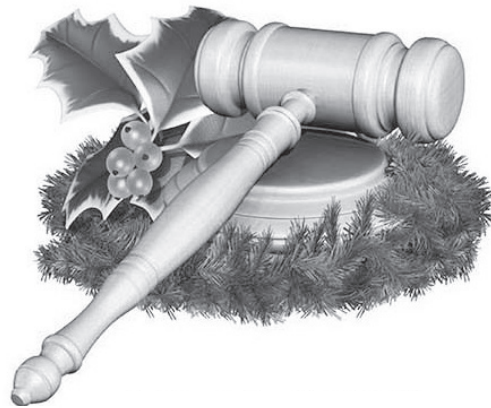
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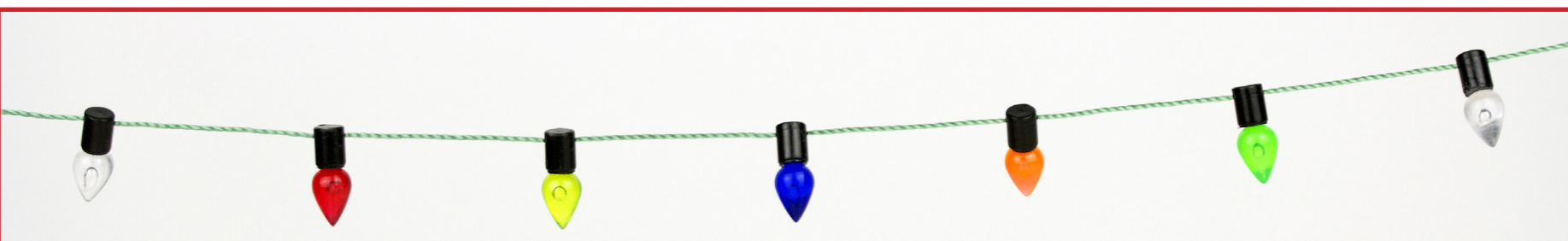
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Step back in time with Christmas goose

The holiday season is a sentimental time of year. Nostalgia for past holiday seasons and excitement about what's to come make this a particularly special time of year for millions of people across the globe.

It's not uncommon for Christmas celebrants to include a little history in their decorations and celebrations each year. Some families may read Charles Dickens' early Victorian novella A Christmas Carol together before watching one of the many film adaptations of the beloved story. Many popular Christmas carols also date back to the nineteenth century if not earlier, adding another degree of nostalgia to the season. Even food can add a touch of the sentimental to Christmas celebrations. This year, holiday hosts can create some nostalgia around the Christmas dinner table by serving this recipe for 'Roasted Christmas Goose' courtesy of the Food Network and Mark Slawson



of the The Wort Hotel in Jackson, Wyoming.

Roasted Christmas Goose

Yields 6 to 8 servings

- 1 14- to 16-pound goose
- 1/4 cup sea salt
- 1 lemon, halved
- 1 apple, cut into chunks
- 1 potato, cut into chunks
- 1 orange, sliced

- 1 cup chopped celery
- Basting Syrup**
- 1/3 cup corn syrup
- 1/3 cup cane syrup
- 1/3 cup melted butter
- 1/4 cup light brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons brandy

Stuffing

- 3 cups whole chestnuts, roasted and peeled
- 1 14-ounce bag stuffing mix
- 1 cup raisins
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 1/4 cup diced apple
- 1/4 cup diced onion
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 3 cups chicken stock
- 3/4 cup melted butter
- 1/4 cup heavy cream

Cumberland Sauce:

- 1 1/2 cups beef stock
- 3/4 cup port wine
- 3/4 cup red wine vinegar
- 3 shallots, peeled and chopped
- 1 tablespoon crushed black peppercorns

- 3 oranges, juiced
- 1. Place goose in a large pot. Add water to cover and stir in the sea salt. Refrigerate overnight.
- 2. Preheat oven to 450 degrees F.
- 3. Remove goose from water and drain well. Remove all innards and trim excess fat from the tail. Rub inside cavity with lemon juice. Place apple, potato, orange and celery inside the body cavity. Truss the bird like a turkey.
- 4. Place the goose in the preheated 450 degree F oven. Reduce oven temperature to 350 degrees F. Cook 20 to 25 minutes per pound. Baste the goose every half hour with the Basting Syrup.
- 5. Carve goose and serve with Stuffing and Cumberland sauce.

Basting Syrup:

- 6. Mix all ingredients together in a small bowl.

Stuffing:

- 7. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
- 8. Coarsely chop the chestnuts and put in a large bowl. Add the stuffing mix, raisins, celery, apple, onion and salt and pepper. Toss to combine. Pour in the chicken stock, butter and cream and mix until evenly moistened.

- 9. Transfer to a baking dish and bake until the top is browned and crisp, about 1 hour.

Cumberland Sauce:

- 10. In a saucepan, combine the stock, port, vinegar, shallots, peppercorns and orange juice. Bring to a boil, cook until reduced by 2/3, about 25 minutes. Strain and refrigerate. Serve cold over roast goose.

ENJOY the Season

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Happiest holiday wishes from our entire team!

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MERRY Christmas



7 ways to organize and store holiday decorations



Decorating a home for holidays is quite popular. A survey from the National Retail Federation found that 53 percent of respondents said they were planning to decorate their home or yard for Halloween in 2023. Lombardo Homes polled 1,000 Americans in 2021 and 94 percent said they celebrate Christmas in at least some way, and 84 percent said they decorate. According to Time2Play, which surveyed 1,000 Canadians about their holiday decorating habits, Manitoba puts up Christmas decor earlier than any other province, with these residents taking out decorations 4.3 weeks ahead of Christmas Day on average.

With so many avid holiday decorators, individuals will need to find ways to organize and store their seasonal items. Holiday decor comes in many different sizes, from the smallest tree ornaments to illuminated statues for the yard or inflatable items. Figuring out a storage plan can take a little effort. These seven tips can help.

1. Purchase clear, similarly sized storage bins and shelving racks, hanging them where you plan to keep the decorations. Most people prefer an out-of-the-way spot, such as in the garage, attic or basement. Label each bin by holiday and put the bins in chronological order to make finding items more convenient. Uniform bin sizes make it easier to stack and store.
2. Store smaller items inside larger decor items. Decorative baskets or wrapped boxes brought out for Christmas or Chanukah are ideal places to keep smaller tchotchkes like ceramics, dreidels, candlestick holders, or mantel hooks. Delicate items can be tucked into

Christmas stockings or wrapped and stored in a fluffy tree skirt. Egg cartons can be used to keep small items safe as well.

3. Label everything so you will not need to dig through boxes or bins to know what is inside. This might be a good year to ask for a label maker for the holidays!
4. Use overhead or wall storage for holiday decor. Overhead spaces in the garage or basement walls can be good spaces to keep holiday decorations. Always keep bins and boxes off the floor so they are not vulnerable to damage related to leaks or floods.
5. Garment bags can protect larger decorations, such as wreaths, artificial trees or signs. If you have a large number of mechanical, illu-

minated or inflatable lawn ornaments, consider investing in a small shed where these items can be safely kept. Wrap the extension cords and any bracing stakes or strings used with the decorations so it's easy to find.

6. Utilize pieces of cardboard as well as toilet paper or paper towel tubes to keep lights and wires tidy. Tuck cords into the toilet paper tubes, and wrap lights around the cardboard to avoid tangles.
7. Each year, take inventory of your decoration collection and toss out anything that is damaged or has seen better days.

Storing holiday decorations will take some time, but once you establish a system, things will be simple year after year.

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Christmas has a different meaning to everyone, and that meaning can change from year to year, depending on what fate has brought your way. For some, it has been a year of prosperity... for others, it has been a year of loss. Fortunately, time has a way of healing, and letting us go forward—to celebrate again. Whatever the year has brought your way, we want you to know our family's thoughts are with you.




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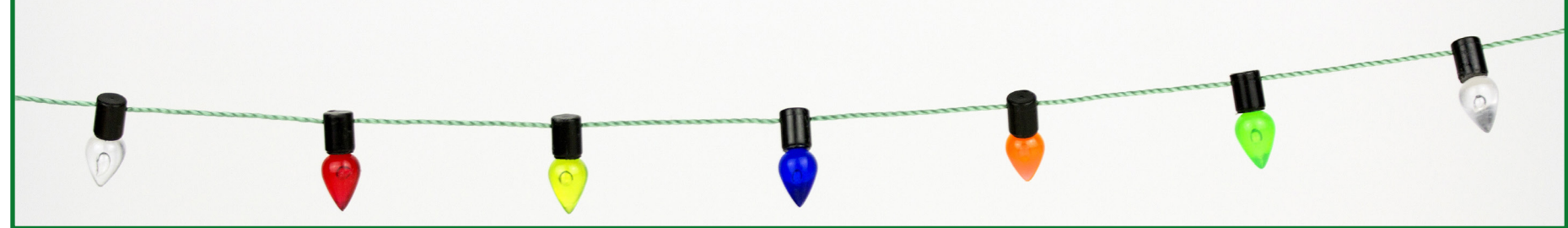
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Day trips to entertain holiday guests



Travel tends to heat up as the weather begins to chill around the holiday season. With friends and family to see and holiday cheer to spread, it's no wonder why millions of people take to the roads, railways and friendly skies to travel during the holiday season.

It's not uncommon for holiday hosts to open their homes to loved ones for days at a time. Holiday hosts who want to ensure that visitors enjoy their stay can plan certain excursions to make the

most of their time together.

- Go see the lights. Holiday lighting displays are popular across the country. Treat guests to a visit to a nearby attraction. That could be an amusement park that drapes the center of the park in lights, Main Street storefronts and town centers that put on tree lighting ceremonies, urban centers where department stores showcase impressive windows, or other attractions where lights take

center stage.

- See a show. From productions of 'A Christmas Carol' to other holiday favorites, it's not difficult to find entertainment that showcases some holiday spirit. Dance troupes may be showcasing 'The Nutcracker' or a choral ensemble may be putting on a concert of Christmas carols. Enjoy a night or day out at one of these events.
- Visit a cathedral or temple. The holiday season brings many individuals closer to their faiths. Travelers may want to visit a house of worship during their stay. Many churches are dressed

up for Christmas and some may even have live animals in their living nativity scenes.

- Cut down a Christmas tree. Save the tree cutting and trimming for when guests arrive. This way everyone can enjoy a day out at the tree farm as families select the perfect evergreen. Partake in refreshments such as hot chocolate or warm cider, then return home to decorate the tree together.

Day trips with overnight guests staying for the holidays can make for an entertaining way to get out of the house and enjoy time together.

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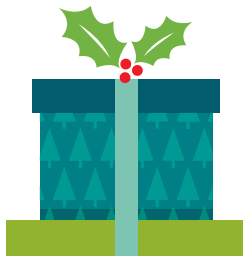
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