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CEOS Christmas**
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Byrnside Fort**
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Mountain messenger

January 13, 2024

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

Ronceverte Council hears presentation from CVB, plans website updates

By Dakota Baker

Ronceverte City Council held their monthly meeting on Monday, Jan. 8, at 7 p.m. The meeting began with an approval of the minutes for the Dec. 11, 2023, meeting and was followed by citizens' comments.

Melodie Pester, president of the Ronceverte Development Corporation (RDC), thanked the city for their support in 2023, specifically for the city's help with the open house. Mayor Deena Pack stated the RDC did a great job with the open house this year. Members from the Greenbrier County Convention and Visitors Bureau then gave council their annual presentation on their work in the area and around the Greenbrier Valley. The Greenbrier County CVB's mission is to positively impact the area economy by marketing it as a premier tourist destination. According to their reports, in 2023 there were \$5.3 billion in direct spending in the tourist industry, 17 percent higher than in 2019, which was the last normal year before the Covid-19 virus. Additionally, there are 53,000 hospitality jobs currently in West Virginia, with \$2 billion in income.

In other news, council hopes the city website will be up and running soon and are going to attempt to post a highlighted version of the minutes from previous council meetings to the City of Ronceverte Facebook page. The City of Ronceverte will also now be advertised as a Rail Fan Friendly City. Council also discussed a proposed update to the shelter fees, with the Parks and Recreation department suggesting three time slots to rent the shelter at increased rates. Council has moved to table this vote due to the action items not being on this meeting's agenda, and they plan to vote on the matter during February's meeting.

WV VOAD facing investigation after recent Joint Committee on Flooding interim meeting

By Autumn Shelton
WV Press Association

In light of recent allegations surrounding the possible misappropriation of state funds by Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) leadership, the West Virginia Legislature's Joint Committee on Flooding has asked for increased investigations into the organization.

During the interim committee's Sunday meeting, Sen. Eric Tarr, R-Putnam, questioned WV VOAD's Executive Director Jenny Gannaway on alleged misconduct.

"I'm sure you're aware of videos and pictures that have come out that have questioned some of the behaviors that you personally have had through VOAD," Tarr began.

These videos and photos were first posted on the Facebook page for Charleston-based "Scoop Squad," Tarr noted.

In the videos posted online, Tarr said that Gannaway can be seen discussing an appliance and firepits that had been donated to VOAD.

See "VOAD Investigation" Page 4

Viral tweet leads to worldwide interest in Monroe County fort's history

7 million interactions from around the world put a spotlight on Byrnside Fort

By Sarah Richardson

In April 2019, area lawyer John H. Bryan and his wife purchased a home in Union with a fascinating reported history. Located just a mile outside of town, the massive home was suspected to actually be built around what used to be Byrnside's Fort, built in 1770 by James Byrnside and five other families.

Bryan, who is also a history enthusiast and YouTuber, said that he had been researching frontier fort sites that had been lost to history prior to buying the property. A metal-detecting buddy of his had gotten permission to detect around the home previously and was finding interesting relics. Bryan joined him one day, and learned that the house and surrounding acreage had recently been sold to someone who was more interested in the farming the land than dealing with the huge home, and Bryan ended up purchasing the home and five surrounding acres.

The U.S. National Register of Historic Places has the site registered as the Byrnside-Beirne-Johnson House, also known as "Willowbrook," and stated that it began as a pioneer log fort that was later built and enlarged into a home. The house was lived in consistently from 1770 all the way up to 2016, with the same family living there from 1869 through 2016.

See "Byrnside Fort" Page 9



John Bryan is pictured mid-reveal of the original walls of the Byrnside Fort.

The top photo shows the view of the outside of the home as it stands today, and the bottom photo is an old picture found inside the home showing members of the Johnson family out front. It's estimated that the picture is from the 1890's.



This room was once encased with plaster, including the ceiling.

Ruff day? Stop by The Dawg House in Ronceverte

By Stephen Baldwin
RealWV, www.therealwv.com

Brittany McCulley and Lee Carter love their dogs, each other, and hot dogs. For the past year, they've operated The Dawg House, a hot-dog-focused food truck, at fairs and festivals across southern West Virginia.

In a twist of fate, their first food truck event was outside The Sportsman Tavern in Ronceverte last spring. Now, they're moving inside as a food vendor working behind the bar.

"It's a good thing we like each other," Lee jokes of the close quarters he and Brittany share. "We do everything together."

Their customers will order directly from them at the bar, with a food prep area in the back. Customers can dine in at the bar or one of the dining tables, or they can take food to go.

See "The Dawg House" Page 2



At the Dawg House, hot dogs are of course on the menu, along with nachos, dips, sandwiches, and more.



Located inside The Sportsman Tavern and beside Flavor Mutt, The Dawg House provides an additional food option in the River City. All three establishments are in downtown Ronceverte on Edgar Avenue, across from the railroad tracks. (Photo by RealWV)

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Richardson designated as Chief Judge of Greenbrier County Circuit Court for sixth year

Judge Robert E. Richardson has been designated as Chief Judge of West Virginia’s Eleventh Judicial Circuit for 2024, marking the sixth year he has served in that capacity. The chief judge has the responsibility of managing the day-to-day administrative business of the court, including supervising employees and workflow, and ensuring compliance with all West Virginia judiciary policies. Certain types of cases are also assigned by law to the chief judge for resolution. The Eleventh Circuit includes both Greenbrier and Pocahontas Counties.

“I am honored to serve our community as Chief Judge of the Circuit Court and am proud of what we have been able to accomplish in recent years,” said Judge Richardson. “Despite increasing workloads and the special difficulties associated with COVID-19 outbreaks, we have not wavered in our commitment to the fair administration of justice. The coming year will present new challenges and opportunities, as we continue to deal with the ongoing drug epidemic and its impact on the courts and on families throughout the region.”

To address the high number of drug-related child abuse and neglect cases before the circuit court, Judge Richardson noted that efforts are well underway to initiate a family treatment court program within the circuit, with operations expected to begin within the next few months. Family treatment court programs are designed to assist parents in accessing substance abuse treatment in a more timely and effective manner, and to provide greater supervision for families participating in the pro-

gram; their goal is to permit children to return home safely with their parents at a potentially faster rate than through traditional abuse and neglect court proceedings, and to ensure that fewer children experience subsequent maltreatment and return to foster care.

“Child abuse and neglect cases make up a significant part of the circuit court’s docket,” Judge Richardson said. “I want to thank my colleague, Judge Jennifer Dent, for her work in developing our circuit’s family treatment court program. While this program will require extra work on the part of judges and others within the court system, I am confident that we will see better results for children involved in these cases.” Judge Richardson is also currently serving on an advisory group established by the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals under the leadership of Chief Justice Tim Armstead, to identify ways to attract and retain a greater number of qualified guardians ad litem to represent children in abuse and neglect cases.

Judge Richardson was appointed circuit judge in 2014 to complete the unexpired term of retiring Judge Joseph Pomponio, and then elected for a full eight-year term in 2016. For a period of 27 years prior to taking the bench, he engaged in a wide-ranging law practice, representing individuals and small businesses in both litigation and transactional matters. During portions of that time, he also taught as an adjunct professor at the West Virginia University College of Law and at the Georgetown University Law Center.



Judge Robert E. Richardson

The Dawg House

Continued from Front Page

“If you’ve got a griddle, you’re in business,” Lee says. “When you smell it, everybody wants one.”

The Dawg House menu includes specialty hot dogs like The Ebony (named after Lee’s dog) which has chili, beer cheese, ketchup, and mustard. All hot dogs are \$4. And even though The Dawg House is new, their hot dogs are already well-liked by locals. They took a surprise third place in The Real WV’s Best Hot Dogs in the Valley 2023.

They also have a wide variety of options including burgers, a buffalo chicken sandwich, crab rangoon dip, nachos, and loaded pretzel bites.

Why they do it
“One of the biggest things for us is providing a meal out that’s affordable,” Brittany says. “We want to keep our prices reasonable for families, especially with multiple kids.” Lee recalls a time last sum-



The Sportsman Tavern in Ronceverte.

(Photo by RealWV)

mer when a family of eight people came to eat at their food truck. He looked at Brittany and said, “That’s the reason we do this.”

“I quit my job to do this,” Brittany says of The Dawg House. “It’s so much fun! I’m doing what I love to do. It’s the biggest blessing.”

The Dawg House will continue to operate their

food truck at fairs and festivals come spring, but customers can find them at The Sportsman Tavern every Tuesday-Sunday from 12-6 pm... or later.

“More options means more people,” Lee suggests. “We hope it brings more people here to town and believe there’s plenty of room at the table.”

Red Cross: Emergency blood shortage may delay medical procedures

Donors urged to give now as nation faces lowest number of blood donors in decades. Donors have the chance to help save lives, win trip to Super Bowl LVIII

The American Red Cross is experiencing an emergency blood shortage as the nation faces the lowest number of people giving blood in 20 years. The Red Cross blood supply has fallen to critically low levels across the country, and blood donors are urged to make a donation appointment to help alleviate the shortage and help ensure lifesaving medical procedures are not put on hold.

Over the last 20 years, the number of people donating blood to the Red Cross has fallen by about 40%. When fewer people donate blood, even small disruptions to blood donations - such as the nearly 7,000-unit shortfall in blood donations the Red Cross experienced between Christmas and New Year’s Day alone - can have a huge impact on the availability of blood products and dramatic consequences for those in need of emergency blood transfusion. Blood products are currently going to hospitals faster than blood donations are coming in, and in recent weeks, the Red Cross has had to limit distributions of type O blood products - among the most transfused blood types - to hospitals.

“Small changes in blood donor turnout can have a huge impact on the availability of blood products and dramatic consequences for those in need of an emergency blood transfusion,” said Dr. Eric Gehrie, executive physician director for the Red Cross. “More challenges may lie ahead

as the potential for severe winter weather and seasonal illness may compound the dire blood supply situation. Donors of all types - especially those with type O blood and those giving platelets - are urged to give now.”


Don’t wait - to make an appointment, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

The Red Cross and the National Football League (NFL) are partnering this January, during National Blood Donor Month, to urge individuals to give blood or platelets and help tackle the emergency blood shortage. Those who come to give blood, platelets or plasma in January will automatically be entered for a chance to win a trip for two to Super Bowl LVIII in Las Vegas. For details, visit RedCrossBlood.org/Super Bowl.

About the American Red Cross:
The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation’s blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit red-cross.org.


Jan. 16	11 a.m.-4 p.m.	Sports Performance Center	274 Greenbrier Medical Way, White Sulphur Springs
Jan. 19	10 a.m.-3 p.m.	Federal Prison Camp	Box B Glen Ray Road, Alderson
Jan. 22	12 noon-6 p.m.	Lewisburg United Methodist Church	214 E. Washington Street Lewisburg
Jan. 24	12 noon-6 p.m.	Beckley Blood Donation Center	200 Industrial Drive, Beckley
Jan. 31	12 noon-6 p.m.	Beckley Blood Donation Center	200 Industrial Drive, Beckley

PICK OF THE LITTER



VOYAGE

Voyage is a one-year-old male pit mix and weighs 50 pounds



PAULINE

Pauline is a five-year-old female domestic longhair

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

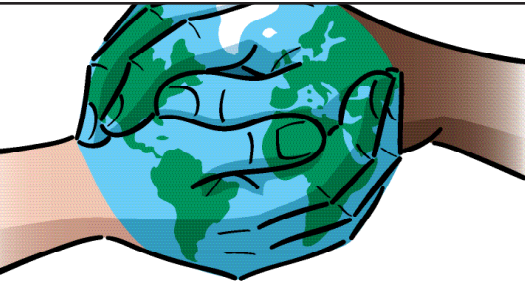
Their cat adoption fee is \$65 and covers spay/neuter surgery, first kitty vaccinations, rabies vaccine, de-worming, toe nail trim and flea treatment.

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

Call 304-645-4775 for more information.

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

DON'T SHOP • ADOPT!



His Dream Is in Our Hands

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: ‘What are you doing for others?’” – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As a civil rights leader, Dr. King fought for justice, peace and equality through a campaign of nonviolent resistance. He was committed to erasing racial inequality here in the United States and around the world, and he was devoted to fighting poverty while building strong communities. Today, 49 million Americans live below the poverty line, and much work remains to be done in addressing the persistent problems that affect communities around the country. You can honor Dr. King’s memory and his dream by serving your community. For information about community service projects you can contribute to on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and year round, visit www.mlkday.gov.

The Mountain Messenger

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Briefly

Williamsburg Shooting Match

Come join us for the Williamsburg Shooting Match that will be held Jan. 20. The Shooting Match will begin at 7 p.m. at the Community Building 6571 Shoestring, Trail, Williamsburg beginning at 7 p.m. Match will be eight rounds, 12-gauge guns only. Full choke, .660 inch minimum. Screw in chokes must be from a recognized supplier (patented) and extend no more than 3 inches beyond original barrel. Barrel length 34" maximum. First seven rounds at \$2.50 per shot, eighth round 50/50 at \$7.50 per shot. Shooters must compete in the first 7 rounds in order to compete in the 8th round. 50/50 splatter match is \$1 per chance between rounds - Cash prizes will be awarded. Delicious hot food and refreshments will be available starting at 6 p.m. Families welcomed; you don't have to shoot to come get a meal! We hope to see you all there. Sponsored by a joint effort of the Williamsburg Community Action. For more information and directions visit our website: www.williamsburgwv.com or Bill Jarvis, 304-645-3690.

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. **Dance Saturday, Jan. 27 will feature the Flash Back Band 7 to 10:30.** 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.

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 next January walks will be Jan. 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 County 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.

Lewisburg City Council

will meet Tuesday, Jan. 16, at 7 p.m., at City Hall, 942 Washington Street West, in the Paul R. Cooley Council Chambers. Also available via Teleconference. For information on how to participate on ZOOM contact Lewisburg City Hall at 304-645-2080 by 3 p.m. on the day of the meeting. On the Agenda:

- Proclamation:
 - Volunteer of the Year
 - Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. Week
- Communications from Mayor White
- Communications from City Manager Hill
 - Police Department recognition
 - Chapman Technical Group, Inc. Task Order No. 39 Kayak Launch Design
 - Lease Purchase - bucket truck
- Resolution:
 - Resolution 540, Authorize bank account for opioid settlement
 - Resolution 541, Water system improvement project pay request # 20
 - Resolution 542, Public Works pay request #11
 - Resolution 543, Lease purchase of bucket truck
- Communications from City Council Members
- Communications from Chief of Police Teubert
- Communications from Fire Chief Thomas
- Communications from Council Committees:
 - Finance Committee Report
 - The Thrasher Group, Inc. Pay Request 10
 - HVAC replacement in Council Chambers located in City Hall
 - American Disability Act - Voluntary Compliance Agreement
 - Amendment to personnel policy - holiday pay
 - Health Insurance renewal
- Public Works Department Report from Director Legg
- Approval of Minutes - regular session, Dec. 19, 2023
- Visitors' reports (3-min. limit per subject not on agenda)

Greenbrier PSD #1

will meet Friday, Jan. 19 at 8 a.m. at the District Office, 9035 Seneca Trail South, Fairlea. On the agenda:

- Approval of Minutes - Dec. 21, 2023
- Financial Report
- Manager Report
- Field Report
- Engineering Report
- Phase B extension project:
 - Payment Resolutions
 - Other Phase B project related business brought before the Board
- Phase C extension project:
 - Payment Resolutions
 - Other Phase C project related business brought before the Board
- Election of Officers of the Board for Calendar Year 2024
- Other business brought before the Board

Marriages

Emily Marie Pacheco and Joseph Clark Hoke
Skylar May Hoke and Mark Wayne Rhodes
Christine Baerbel Gottwald and Tony Wayne Martin
Rachel Michelle Warner to Jason Tal Baker
Marjorie Carol Conley and James Alan Dunlap

Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Convictions

Kevin L. Falls, Ronceverte, failure to stop at stop sign, GP, fine \$10
Xing Z. Zheng, Live Oak, FL, failure to stop at stop sign, GP, fine \$10
James D. Goldizen, Marlinton, stop sign violation, NCP, fine \$10
Sarah D. Lewis, Gap Mills, improper lane change, GP, fine \$15
Stacy Marie Spade, Charmco, no operators, NCP, fine \$25
Pacheco Emmi Padilla, Ronceverte, 1) no operators, NCP, fine \$25; 2) improper lane change, fine \$20
Lavonna L. Walker, Lewisburg, stop sign violation, NCP, fine \$10
Timothy Scott Brannon, Lewisburg, petit larceny, NCP, fine \$50, jail 60 days - suspended and placed on 12 months unsupervised probation, Day Report 60 days
Daud A. Odell, Lewisburg, improper lane change, GP, fine \$50
Jesse James White, Wayside, trespassing, NCP, fine \$100
Macie J. White, Wayside, trespassing, NCP, fine \$100
Isiah Daniel King, Lewisburg, shoplifting, NCP, fine \$20, restitution \$60
James Matthew Ellison, Rainelle, seatbelt violation, GP, fine \$25
Seth Allen Dilley, Renick, 1) hunting between half hour after sunset, GP, fine \$30; 2) hunting without license (resident), fine \$20; 3) hunting between half hour after sunset, GP, fine \$30
Alexander Leonard Sizemore, Ronceverte, 1) improper registration, GP, fine \$50; 2) no motor vehicle inspection, fine \$10

For the Record

Deeds

Heather A. Dolan to Roger Dolan Jr.: lot 25 & 26, Lewisburg District, Map 17 Parcel 17. Filed Jan. 4, 2024.
David R. Rodgers, Charles A. Rodgers, Richard L. Rodgers, Robert D. Rodgers, Elizabeth Wolfson, Rebecca S. Cleland and Mary K. Kosarzycki to Hoke Mill Farm LLC: 8 acres, Irish Corner District, Map 24 Parcel 2. Filed Jan. 4, 2024.
Matthew L. Rowan and David Wigglesworth to Heather M. Clawges: lot 9, Fort Springs District, Map 13 Parcel 108. Filed Jan. 4, 2024.
Craig D. Truitt and Annhonor Gunn Truitt to John A. Grieco Jr. (by trustee Dorothy E. Key): lot no. 14, Howards Creek, waiver of repurchase option, White Sulphur District, Map 22P Parcel 42. Filed Jan. 4, 2024.
Oak Hall to B and B3 LLC (A Utah LLC): lot 17 & 19 Lamplighter, Lewisburg District, Map 21, 22 Parcel 168, 19. Filed Jan. 4, 2024.
WV Co. Tax Cert. Purchase 2021 LLC to G. Russell Rollyson (appointee of State Auditor): lot 5, Ronceverte District, Map 10 Parcel 0073. Filed Jan. 4, 2024.
G. Russell Rollyson (appointee of State Auditor) to WV Co. Tax Cert. Purchase 2021 LLC: lot 1 block 34, Rupert District, Map 4 Parcel 0162. Filed Jan. 4, 2024.
G. Russell Rollyson (appointee of State Auditor) to WV Co. Tax Cert. Purchase 2021 LLC: lot 5 block 34, Rupert District, Map 4 Parcel 0166. Filed Jan. 4, 2024.
Kenneth Dennison Jr., Lewis A. Dennison, James W. Dennison, Shirley L. Shortridge, Odie Joe Gibson, and Jessica Gibson to Kenneth Dennison Jr., Lewis A. Dennison, James W. Dennison, Shirley L. Shortridge, Odie Joe Gibson, and Jessica Gibson: 0.888 acres, Williamsburg District, Map 54 Parcel 0004. Filed Jan. 4, 2024.
Donald J. Chupp and Laura E. Kantor-Chupp to Eric J. Malus and Tricia E. Green: 1.95 acres, Blue Sulphur District, Map 26 Parcel 34. Filed Jan. 5, 2024.
Steven W. Bowyer and Doris L. Ramsey to Doris L. Ramsey and Marvin D. Ramsey: 2.42 acres, Irish Corner District, Map 11 Parcel 0068. Jan 5, 2024.
David Mills to Stephanie Custer Amber Gunther: lot 6, 2.21 acres, Frankford District, Map 14 Parcel 158. Filed Jan. 5, 2024.
Cynthia A. Wickline to Denis Casto: 0.55 acres, Irish Corner District, Map 10C Parcel 3.1, 3.2, 4. Filed Jan. 5, 2024.
Carl A. Holmes and April Polzin-Holmes to Daniel Ream: 80.659 acres, Fort Spring District, Map 5 Parcel 0033 0003. Filed Jan. 5, 2024.
Willie A. Ryder to John Ryder: 4.629 acres, Anthony Creek District, Map 2 Parcel 3. Filed Jan. 4, 2024.
Jo Ann Wiblin to Robert M. Cox, Cassandra J. Cox, Jesse F. Cox, Jeremy L. Cox: 18.10 acres, Williamsburg District, Map 7 Parcel 0005. Filed Jan. 5, 2024.
Christine E. Jerman to Amanda M. Tope: lots 21A, 22A, 23 and 24, Ronceverte District, Map 9 Parcel 0332. Filed Jan. 8, 2024.
Greg S. Weikle and Donna S. Weikle to Marvil Family Revocable Trust: 34.70 acres, Irish Corner District, Map 11 Parcel 45.2. Filed Jan. 8, 2024.
Dennis W. Legg and Blaine E. Legg to Carl B. Legg: lot 8, Meadow Bluff District, Map 31N Parcel 0038. Filed Jan. 8, 2024.
Nancy White McClure to Kyle White: lot 9, Meadow Bluff District, Map 47H Parcel 70. Filed Jan. 8, 2024.
Anna Darlene Milem Estate (by executor Homer D. Milem) to Pamela M. Vanreenen and Jeremy M. Crowell: 0.44 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 70 Parcel 39, 39.2. Filed Jan. 8, 2024.
Jill Cochran, Ben Johnson Jr., Michael S. Johnson, and Cindy Goins to Brenda Harris: two tracts, 0.687 acres, Quinwood District, Map 4 Parcel 501. Filed Jan. 9, 2024.
Janet Morgan to Janet Morgan: part of lots 53 & 55, 2 tracts and 0.006 acres, Ronceverte District, Map 9 Parcel 0376, 0373. Filed Jan. 9, 2024.
Nancy C. Renick to Nancy C. Renick and Angelyn K. Renick: lot B, Lewisburg District, Map 14 Parcel 0013. Filed Jan. 9, 2024.

Mountain Messenger

The Weekend Newspaper for the Greenbrier Valley

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VOAD Investigation

Continued from Front Page

“In that process, you made a statement that, ‘I wish we hadn’t added these items to inventory because we wouldn’t have to worry about the audit,’” Tarr said, before asking Gannaway to explain the videos.

Gannaway responded that a donated stove did go to a woman in Kentucky but added that supplies can go to any person in need, not just flood victims.

In response to additional questioning, Gannaway stated that VOAD had permission to take donations that couldn’t be given to flood survivors in exchange for monetary donations.

Gannaway stated that she did have certain items taken to her home in Roanoke, but she donated at least \$2,600 and a generator valued at \$800 to the organization. She said she has since donated those items to other people and did so before allegations against her became public.

Other VOAD employees took donations as well, Gannaway stated.

“They were allowed to make a donation and get a patio set,” she noted.

Tarr then asked about an alleged conversation Gannaway had regarding the sale of donated items from Good 360, an organization that partners with corporations, like Lowe’s, to distribute items to victims following a natural disaster.

“In that conversation, you suggested to sell [the items] for \$100 per \$1,000 of value,” Tarr said. “Do you recall that?”

Gannaway did recall that conversation but couldn’t remember who was present in the room with her.

“Is that typical that you sell them?” Tarr asked, speaking of donated items.

Gannaway responded that Good360, a charitable organization, had given VOAD permission to sell the items as long as those funds “went into disaster relief and helped clients recover from the flood.”

Tarr then asked if items, such as fire-pits and patio sets, were gifted to VOAD employees, including Gannaway’s daughter, in exchange for monetary donations.

Gannaway responded, “Yes.”

Gannaway also stated that she hired her brother, great niece and great nephew for VOAD positions. Those hires did not require board approval, she said, adding that family members were hired during the COVID pandemic when it was hard to find people to work.

“Looking back on that, that was probably something I would never do again,” Gannaway said. “But, at that time when we had to get things done, we felt that would be a way we could do it. I did not directly supervise anyone that was related to me, and any of the other employees didn’t supervise anyone that was related to them.”

“Did you tell Tyler Hager (an employee), to use a rental truck paid for with federal funds to transport a patio set, several flower boxes, fire-pit and a smart refrigerator valued at more than \$4,000 from VOAD’s Quincy warehouse to your home in Roanoke?” Tarr asked.

Gannaway stated that she didn’t tell Hager to use a federally funded truck, but instead to use a rental truck leased by VOAD.

“I did pay him to do what he [did] out of my own pocket,” Gannaway stated.

Tarr stated, “Tyler Hager, I think, was planning to file a lawsuit against VOAD - a suit for about \$230,000 - and he went to a Charleston law firm to do that. Shortly after, did you fill out an application for insurance for employment practices liability?”

“No, I did not,” Gannaway stated, adding that the application was filled out by VOAD’s insurance agent, board chair and human resources advisor, along with former Chief Financial Officer Benjamin Cisco.

“I was not involved in that application,” Gannaway said, adding that the application was never filed.

Gannaway added that BRIM (Board of Risk and Insurance Management) did settle on a VOAD claim for embezzlement conducted by Benjamin Cisco.

In response to additional questioning, Gannaway concluded that she signed check bonuses for “hero relief,” paid to herself, Hager and other employees from federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funds.

“Were those funds eligible to give bonuses out to individuals?” Tarr asked.

“It was told to me from our CFO at the time that he had cleared this with our CPA and our auditor, and we had had employees working weekends and things and [were] not paid for those times.”

Gannaway said VOAD did not have to pay back any of the funds used for employee bonuses.

“There’s about \$400,000, as far as I can tell, that went to VOAD. Is that accurate from PPP? Do you recall?” Tarr asked.

“Most of that money was returned to them,” Gannaway stated, noting that she couldn’t recall the amount of her hero bonus.

At the end of the committee meeting, Tarr stated, “I’m not convinced that the funds that went through VOAD, and I’m not sure how much of that would have been state dollars with just even the recent appropriations let alone what’s happened since 2016, were used appropriately.”

At Tarr’s request, the committee moved to refer this matter to the Committee on Investigations, the state auditor and the Legislative auditor.

EMS Leadersip

Continued from Front Page

education department,” Ratliff began. “Our education department is so far outdated, it’s actually embarrassing. We’re not only just updating the format, we’re updating the content, so it’ll be better for patient care as we move forward.”

“The next thing we’re working on is licensure,” Ratliff continued. “The way we do agency inspections, we’ve been able to streamline that, and we’re actually going to be able to make it more streamlined for the future. That makes it easier for the agencies to continue doing what they need to do without causing any disruption to the operation.”

The third topic, Ratliff said, is mental health. According to Ratliff, as directed by the legislature during the last session, OEMS will be developing Critical Stress

Debriefing Teams across different regions of the state.

“We are working on that right now,” Ratliff told committee members. “We also continue to work with the 988 system for their crisis hotline. Our long term goals for mental health - we’ve been working with the EMS Coalition to develop whatever we can to help our folks. Just this past week I took two phone calls; one was to order one (EMS worker) to get help, and one was to basically convince one to get help.”

“Mental health is a crisis in this state within the EMS community,” Ratliff added. “It truly is.”

Sunday marked the final time the Joint Committee on Volunteer Fire Departments and EMS will meet during the Interim period. The Legislature’s 60-day Regular Session begins on Wednesday.

WV leads nation in wildlife collisions; federal funding could lower the odds

By Nadia Ramlagan

West Virginia ranks number one in the nation for wildlife/vehicle collisions, with residents having a one-in-37 chance of hitting an animal in a given year.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation said in the first 11 months of last year, nearly 11,000 deer were hit on Mountain State highways, as well as 15 bears.

Jeremy Romero, wildlife connectivity manager for the National Wildlife Federation, said safe wildlife crossings like underpasses, or overpasses with fencing help animals migrating or searching for food avoid darting out onto highways.

“By pursuing these important projects, we’re going to reduce the amount of wildlife/vehicle collisions,” Romero asserted. “There’s been some studies out there that show that if the project’s done right, it can reduce collisions by over 90%.”

The federal infrastructure law allocated \$350 million to states and tribes over five years for wildlife crossing construction and related projects. According to insurer AAA,

the average claim for hitting a deer in the region is around \$5,600 and continues to climb, due to rising parts and labor costs, and vehicle technology like sensors and cameras that are costly to replace.

Lori Weaver Hawkins, public affairs manager for AAA Bluegrass, explained wildlife crashes are more common dur-

ing morning and evening commute times. If traveling in an area with sparse oncoming traffic, she recommended turning up the headlights to help extend your range of sight.

“Go ahead and turn on those bright headlights,” Hawkins advised. “That helps you see a little bit further distance. You

might be able to see those animals sooner and be able to take precautions.”

Federal data show between 1 million and 2 million car crashes involving deer or other large animals every year in the U.S., causing around 200 human deaths, 26,000 injuries, and at least \$8 billion in property damage.



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OPINION

Commentary

Capito disappointed in USPS responses regarding Charleston facility’s future

U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) recently released the below statement after receiving a response from the United States Postal Service (USPS) following a letter she sent in December asking for more information regarding USPS’s Mail Processing Facility Review of the Charleston Processing and Distribution Center. Senator Capito has remained active on this issue, and has spoken personally with Postmaster General DeJoy and other local officials on the matter.

“After multiple follow-ups, I am disappointed that USPS’s responses failed to adequately address many of my concerns and questions regarding the future of the Charleston facility. While I am glad that the facility will not close, I am still concerned that some jobs may be transferred out of state. In the meantime, I will continue working to seek clarity and answers from USPS and fight against these jobs being transferred out of West Virginia,” Senator Capito said.

CAMC Women and Children’s Hospital enrolls in national breastfeeding initiative

CAMC Women and Children’s Hospital joins nine other hospitals in a new, hospital-based quality improvement collaborative to improve maternity care practices supportive of breastfeeding.

The program’s goal is to decrease racial inequities in hospital breastfeeding rates.

“West Virginia has consistently been ranked one of the lowest breastfeeding states in the United States,” said Elizabeth Copenhaver, MD, Pediatric Newborn Hospitalist. “This is unfortunate because breastfeeding is known to have lifelong positive health impacts for both mother and newborn. I am very excited to be one of the first 10 hospitals partnering with CHAMPS National beginning January 2024! Through this program the CAMC Women’s and Children’s faculty and staff will work together to improve the uninterrupted golden hour and rooming in practices to optimize the breastfeeding success rates for all patients.”

CHAMPS (Communities and Hospitals Advancing Maternity Practices) National is bringing together experienced partners specializing in racial equity and using a diverse team of maternal-child health and health equity experts to increase safe, equitable hospital practices consistent with the WHO/UNICEF’s Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding (Ten Steps) initiative.

Along with CAMC Women and Children’s Hospital, the first 10 sites include six hospitals in Alabama, two in New Jersey, and one in Georgia.

United States’ breastfeeding rates are lowest among Black infants due, in part, to institutional racism and lack of quality, evidence-based prenatal and postpartum care. Breastfeeding-supportive, evidence-based maternity practices equitably applied increase hospital breastfeeding rates, especially in populations at the highest risk of not breastfeeding.

About Charleston Area Medical Center Health System: Established in 1972, CAMC is a nonprofit, 1,138-bed, regional referral center made up of seven hospitals CAMC General Hospital, CAMC Greenbrier Valley Medical Center, CAMC Memorial Hospital, CAMC Plateau Medical Center, CAMC Charleston Surgical Hospital, CAMC Teays Valley Hospital and CAMC Women and Children’s Hospital, CAMC Cancer Center (with three locations: Beckley, Charleston and Hurricane), the CAMC Institute for Academic Medicine and the CAMC Foundation. More than 1,500 providers are members of the medical staff of CAMC, which is also West Virginia’s premiere medical teaching facility hosting, on any given day, more than 1,000 students in programs leading to degrees or certifications in health professions. For more information, visit camc.org.

Top mountain towns and hidden gems

If you want to own your own mountain retreat, you don’t even have to leave West Virginia, according to a new study by Architectural Digest.

A recent study by Architectural Digest set out to find the best places to own a mountain home and the best “hidden gems.”

One West Virginia town was in the top 10 mountain towns overall, and three West Virginia towns were in the top 10 hidden gems.

Thomas, West Virginia, in Tucker County, was ranked the fourth-best mountain town in the entire country and was ranked the #1 hidden gem. It scored 95.09 out of 100 based on things such as snowfall, restaurants, entertainment and skiing. With fewer than 1,000 people, Thomas was also one of the smallest and most affordable towns mentioned in the study. According to Architectural Digest, the median value of a home in Thomas is approximately \$140,400.

Although the western part of the U.S. had most of the top mountain towns overall, West Virginia dominated in the hidden gems section.

Elkins, West Virginia, in Randolph County, was ranked #2 right after Thomas as a hidden gem and was ranked 30th overall. Marlinton in Pocahontas County was ranked as the #8 hidden gem.

This isn’t the first time that Architectural Digest has given West Virginia recognition. Another 2023 study said that Davis in Tucker County and Snowshoe in Pocahontas County are among the best winter wonderland destinations in America.

Club & Church

Williamsburg CEOS holds Christmas celebration



Club members participating in the Christmas Celebration at the Dutch Haus

The Williamsburg CEOS Club met for lunch at the Dutch Haus in Lewisburg for their December meeting/Christmas celebration. Club members brought gifts for the Greenbrier Valley Children's Home in Rupert. Laura Ann and Denver Tiller brought the club sponsored Williamsburg Historical Foundation Museum sign that was created by Jacob Butala. The sign is now installed at the entrance to Sinking Creek road off Route 60.

A raffle and party was planned by club member Linda Spencer.

Lara Sevy of Senior Americorp collected member's community service hours. Those participating in the celebration were Barbara Deeds and her daughters, Kim and Kay, and her grandson, Ollie, along with Blanche Knicely, Shela McComsey, Burl and Patty Post, Laura



The new Williamsburg Historical Foundation Museum sign.

Rose, Lara and Jerry Sevy, Loretta Shirley, and LauraAnn and Denver Tiller.

The next club meeting will be held in March. Please visit the WVU Extension Service website to learn more about the Community Educational Outreach Service.

This week in West Virginia History

The following events happened on these dates in West Virginia history. To read more, go to WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia at www.wvencyclopedia.org.

Jan. 14, 1842: Marion County was established and named after Revolutionary War hero Francis Marion. Middletown was chosen as the county seat, but the name was changed to Fairmont the following year.

Jan. 14, 1873: The first session of the Glenville Branch of the State Normal School began in the old Gilmer County courthouse. The legislature changed the name to Glenville State College in 1943 and to a university in 2022.



Jan. 15, 1864: Frances Benjamin Johnston was born in Grafton. Johnston gained national renown as the first female press photographer and enjoyed a long and remarkable career as one of the nation's leading documentary, portrait and artistic photographers.



Jan. 16, 1850: Lawman Dan Cunningham was born in Jackson County. His remarkable career involved him in the Hatfield-McCoy Feud, the West Virginia Mine Wars, and the destruction of moonshine stills.

Jan. 16, 1869: Ephraim Franklin Morgan was born in Marion County. Morgan, a Republican, was governor during the tumultuous West Virginia Mine Wars.

Jan. 17, 1918: The War Department hired a New York engineering firm to build the DuPont munitions plant in Nitro. Within 11 months, the powder plant and a complete town with houses, a civic center and a hospital, were completed.

Jan. 17, 1956: Musician Blind Alfred Reed died. He was a street singer, fiddler, and songwriter from Pipestem, Summers County. He also is a member of the West Virginia Music Hall of Fame.



Jan. 18, 1842: Wayne County was established from part of Cabell County. It was named for General "Mad Anthony" Wayne, a Revolutionary War hero who later defeated Ohio Indian tribes at the 1794 Battle of Fallen Timbers.

Jan. 19, 1818: The Virginia General Assembly established Preston County from part of Monongalia County. The new county was named for James Patton Preston, then governor of Virginia.

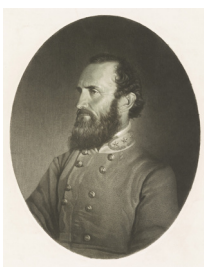
Jan. 19, 1844: The Virginia General Assembly established Taylor County from parts of Barbour, Harrison, and Marion counties. The county was named in honor of U.S. Sen. John Taylor, a soldier-statesman from Caroline County, Virginia.

Jan. 19, 1848: Wirt County was created by the General Assembly of Virginia from portions of Wood and Jackson counties. It was named for William Wirt, Virginia statesman and a presidential candidate in 1832.

Jan. 19, 1894: Railroad worker John Hardy was hanged for killing a man in a drunken gambling dispute. The episode inspired the widely popular ballad "John Hardy."

Jan. 19-20, 1978: An overnight snowstorm paralyzed Charleston. Unusual in that more snow fell in the capital city than in Randolph County, total snow depth in Charleston averaged 24 inches, the deepest on record for the city. January 1978 became the snowiest month for both Huntington and Charleston and extended cold kept snow on the ground into March, the longest known continuous snow cover for most West Virginia towns.

Jan. 20-21, 1824: West Virginia's most famous soldier, Thomas Jonathan Jackson, was born near midnight in Clarksburg. When Virginia left the Union in 1861, Jackson went with his native state. He commanded the strategically important post at Harpers Ferry until being appointed a Confederate brigadier general of infantry. He won the name "Stonewall" in the Battle of First Manassas on July 21, 1861.



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Classes are still forming: Join the Winter/Spring 2024 Master Gardener Training

Do you like to garden? Do you want to give back to the community? Do you want to sharpen your skills and learn more? Become a Master Gardener! Master Gardeners are volunteers who are trained in research-based small-scale food production, horticulture, and gardening through the training course.

The Greenbrier Valley Master Gardener Program announces their 2024 training sessions. A combination of in-person and online classes will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. While the classes started last Tuesday, Jan. 9, it is not too late to "get in on the fun and learning." Classes are held on Tuesdays at the WVU Building at the fairgrounds from 6 to 9 p.m. and on Zoom on Thursdays. There will be a total of 19 horticultural classes and a complete schedule will be available later this month.

The program helps residents better understand horticultural and environmental issues through community engagement in gardening and beautification projects at schools, parks, public institutions, community organizations, and locations throughout Greenbrier County.

For further information and to sign up, call Mary Dameron at the Greenbrier County Extension Office at 304-647-7408.

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Dear Recycle Lady,

Dear Recycle Lady,

What is an ecological footprint? Is it the same as a carbon footprint?

Another New Term

Dear Another New Term,

Good Question. An ecological footprint, according to treehugger.com, is a method of gauging humans' dependence on natural resources by calculating how much of the environment is needed to sustain a particular lifestyle. It is one way of measuring sustainability, or the ability of a population to support itself in the present without compromising that ability for the future. When a population can support a particular lifestyle indefinitely and still meet the demands placed on the environment, then environmental sustainability has occurred. Treehugger says that one example of environmental sustainability is reached when the environment can handle the amount of pollution produced.

Ecological footprints and carbon footprints are not the same thing, although they are two different ways of measuring something's impact on the environment. A carbon footprint measures carbon dioxide units (CO₂), or how the amount of greenhouse gases impacts global warming. For example, what impact does burning fossil fuels, or your consumption of electricity, have on the environment. An ecological footprint has a much more complicated formula. It is a way of measuring how well a population is able to support itself in the present without compromising its ability to support itself for the future. I highly recommend using www.footprintcalculator.org/home/en, or one of the many websites available, to calculate your own ecological footprint. It's a real eye opener! I expected a fairly low ecological footprint, but according to the footprint calculation it would take four and one-half earths to sustain my lifestyle! Find your own ecological foot-

print. You may be surprised!

Dear Recycle Lady,

Today I received a request to open a new credit card with information designed to entice the recipient to do so by using very large numbers and letters in bright, shiny gold letters on the white envelope. Do I recycle this envelope with office paper or magazine/slicks?

Office Paper or Magazines

Dear Office Paper or Magazines,

If the shiny gold letters are slick, then your envelope would recycle with magazines/slicks. If they are not shiny or slick, then your envelope would recycle with office paper. If you are in doubt as to whether an item goes into office paper or magazines, always put it in with magazines. If the shiny gold letters could be foil or perhaps wax-or plastic-coated, put the envelope in the trash. Any thermal or duplicating paper also goes in the trash. To avoid costly contamination, when in doubt, throw it out.

Good News: Loose plastic glitter, products with microbeads, and certain microplastics are now banned in the EU to reduce environmental damage and water pollution. For the glitter fans out there, glitter made from biodegradable, natural, or water-soluble materials is now available.

More Good News: LAX Airport in Los Angeles has banned the sale of single-use plastic water bottles at the airport. However, travelers will be able to purchase water in sustainable containers or fill up their own reusable bottles. Many millions of plastic bottles will be kept out of the waste stream as a result of this ban.

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.

Greenbrier East High School Wrestler of the Week

Name: Robert Fugate

Grade: 9th grade

G.P.A.: 3.75

Current Record: Won his first varsity match this week

Parents: Adam Fugate and Pamela Fielde

Hometown: Lewisburg

Favorite Wrestler: John Smith (2x Olympic Champion - Head Coach at Oklahoma State)

Favorite Quote: "If you believe in God; anything is possible."

Began Wrestling: This year

Past Accomplishments: Wrestled Varsity and won a match as a freshman.

Why he Wrestles: "I want to try something new and challenging."

Coach's Comments: "Every now and then, you get one of those kids. Robert is one of those kids who comes into the



wrestling room every single day and gives maximum effort along with enthusiasm. The Spartan wrestling program is better because of people like Robert."

Miluk Humor: (I'm getting old!) "Age 60 may be the new 40, but 9 p.m. is the new midnight!" Ha!

LEGAL

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE

The undersigned Substitute Trustee, by virtue of the authority vested in him by that certain Deed of Trust, dated December 11, 2020, and duly recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Greenbrier County, West Virginia, in Trust Deed Book 837 at page 246, Christopher S. McQuerry and Araminda McQuerry, husband and wife, did convey unto Jeffrey D. Noble, Trustee, certain real property described in said Deed of Trust; and the beneficiary has elected to appoint Gregory A. Tucker, P.L.L.C. as Substitute Trustee by a Substitution of Trustee dated December 29, 2023, and recorded in the aforesaid clerk's office in Trust Deed Book 889 at page 82; and default having been made under the aforementioned Deed of Trust, and the undersigned Substitute Trustee having been instructed by the secured party to foreclose thereunder, will offer for sale at public auction at the front door of the Greenbrier County Courthouse in Lewisburg, West Virginia, on

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.

.... all those certain tracts or parcels of land, together with any buildings or improvements thereon, rights and rights of way incidental thereto, and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate in Frankford District, Greenbrier County, West Virginia, and as more particularly bounded and described as follows, to-wit:

PARCEL ONE (1):

Beginning at a station in the Germany Road, corner to White (formerly Thomas) and leaving said road and with White (formerly Thomas); N 28 1/2 E 470 feet to a stake on line (formerly Thomas); thence leaving White (formerly Thomas) at right angle through the survey and parallel with said Germany Road in a westerly direction 185.36 feet to a stake; thence S 28 1/2 W 470 feet, parallel with White line, to a stake and station in said road; thence with said road in an easterly direction 185.36 feet to the place of beginning and containing 2 acres, more or less, and being a tract of 185.36 feet by 470 feet.

PARCEL TWO (2):

Beginning at a post in fence line on White, which is 470 feet from State Secondary Route 17/3; thence leaving White and through the survey of Miles, N 46 W 181 feet to a post corner of a wire fence; thence S 62 W 52 feet to a station in wire fence; thence S 61-30 E 200.36 feet to the beginning, said parcel triangular in shape, and containing 4,706 square feet or .108 of an acre.

Being the same real estate conveyed to Christopher S. McQuerry and Araminda McQuerry, husband and wife, by Shauna Elaine Crowe and Charles R. Long by deed dated December 4, 2020, and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Greenbrier County, West Virginia, in Deed Book 623 at page 276.

At the time of the execution of the Deed of Trust, this property was reported to have an address of 462 Germany Road, Renick, WV 24966.

The referenced real estate will be conveyed with no covenants of warranty, and subject to all covenants, restrictions, easements, rights of way and reservations which may be a matter of record in the aforesaid clerk's office or visible upon the ground, all prior liens and encumbrances, including, without limitation, liens for real estate taxes, incinerator, sanitary and sewer charges. The purchasers at the sale shall be responsible for paying the recording costs and also the tax on the privilege of transferring real property (the cost of the tax stamp to be affixed to the deed).

The subject property will be sold in "AS IS" condition. The Substitute Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the subject property to vacate said property.

TERMS: Ten percent (10%) of the purchase price as a cash deposit with the balance due and payable within 30 days of the day of sale.

FEDERAL TAX LIEN: In the event that there are Federal Tax Liens against the property, the United States would have the right to redeem the property within a period of 120 days from the date of such sale or the period allowable for redemption under local law, whichever is longer.

Pursuant to the Deed of Trust, the Trustee may postpone the sale by public announcement at the time and place designated or by posting a notice of the same, and act by agent in the execution of the sale. The parties secured by the Deed of Trust reserve the right to purchase the property at such sale.

Dated the 9th day of January, 2024.

GREGORY A. TUCKER, P.L.L.C.

Substitute Trustee

By: **GREGORY A. TUCKER, Member**

719 Main Street
Summersville, West Virginia 26651
(304) 872-2500

A Look Back



Photo by Dr. Dante Fenolio.

Sources: *Greenbrier Pioneers and Their Homes* by Ruth Woods Dayton, *A History of Greenbrier County* by Otis K. Rice, *The Wheeling Intelligencer*, Hiram George Runnels letters.

By William "Skip" Deegans

Greenbrier County has recently been in the news as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed the West Virginia Spring Salamander for endangered species protection. There are an estimated 300 of the salamanders remaining, and they have been found only in the General Davis Cave near Fort Spring.

The cave is named for General Alfred Ward Grayson Davis, beneath whose farm the cave lies. Davis was born in Kentucky and enrolled in the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY in 1824. At West Point, he may have roomed with his cousin, Jefferson Davis, who became President of the Confederate States of America. Leaving West Point before graduating, Davis was appointed by President Andrew Jackson to become the Attorney General of the Arkansas Territory. He moved to Mississippi in 1831 to plant cotton and was elected Major General of the Mississippi Militia.

While visiting White Sulphur Springs, local historian Ruth Woods Dayton wrote, "... he [Davis] happened to be on the veranda at the time an unusually attractive young lady was arriving in her carriage. Turning to his companion, he said, 'What a beautiful young lady! You are seeing the future Mrs. Davis.'" The young lady was Rachel Stuart, granddaughter of Greenbrier County pioneer Col. John Stuart. According to Dayton, Davis and Stuart were engaged in three weeks and married shortly thereafter.

The Davis couple settled on a farm that

had been part of the Stuart family land holdings. Master mason John Dunn built them a large brick colonial home they named The Cliffs. Davis was elected to the Virginia state legislature and was a delegate to Virginia's secession convention. A slave owner, Davis supported secession and was appointed Quartermaster of the Confederate Army with the rank of major and put in command of Greenville, South Carolina. Suffering ill health, Davis left the army but was captured and mistreated by Union soldiers on his way home. He is reported to have been an invalid the rest of his life.

The cave on the Davis farm was also newsworthy in 1856. While plowing a field, according to a news report, one of Davis' farm hands and his horse fell into the cave when the ground collapsed. The horse perished and the farm hand found himself 150 feet below the surface in a stream. Being alone and a mile from the Davis house, he knew he could not yell for help. He figured the underground stream was Sinking Creek. Unable to climb out of the hole, he followed the stream in total darkness and sometimes had to swim submerged under water. Some 48 hours later, he emerged from the cave at what he recognized as the Greenbrier River.

The Davis farm remained in the Davis family until 1967. Later, it was purchased by George and Helen Aide and John and Mildred Beury who conveyed the cave's entrance and a right-of-way to it to The Nature Conservancy. The cave is gated to protect the salamander's habitat.

Carnegie Hall Calendar of Events

Saturday, Jan. 13: Beethoven, The Great! - The Carnegie Classics Series presents Beethoven, The Great! featuring Barbara Nissman and other special guests on Saturday, Jan. 13, at 7 p.m. Individual performance tickets are \$25/adults and \$5/students.

Thursday, Jan. 25: Ruth Wyand - Second Stage Performance on Thursday, Jan. 25, at 7 p.m. featuring singer-songwriter Ruth Wyand. 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. Second Stage Series takes place in the Old Stone Room and is general admission seating. Tickets are \$20/adult; \$5/child.

Friday, Feb. 16: Club Carnegie - Join Carnegie Hall in the Board Room before the Get Ready! performance from 6 to 6:45 p.m., Friday, Feb. 16. Free admission. Cash bar and snacks available.

Friday, Feb. 16: Get Ready! The Motown Tribute - Mainstage Performance by Motown tribute group Get Ready! on Friday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$32/adults and \$10/students.

Rotating Galleries:

Old Stone Room Gallery - "Color That Sings" by Andrea Brunais. The exhibit runs through the end of February.

Museum Gallery - "Down In A Hole: Coal Mining in Appalachia" by Jim Costa & Builder Levy. The exhibit runs through the end of February.

Lobby Gallery - "Journey Through Nature" by Charles "Butch" Ferguson. The exhibit runs through the end of February.

Board Room Gallery - "40 Years of Carnegie Hall" Exhibit

Permanent Exhibit:

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

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

LEGAL

(Cert. No. 132257 WVTJ LLC)

To: TACY ANN PATTERSON, TERA ANN PATTERSON, TERRY WAYNE PATTERSON JR, CHRISTINA MICHELLE PATTERSON VEAL, JOSHUA DALE BENTON, TERRY INEZ PITTS, TERRY WAYNE PATTERSON JR, TERA PATTERSON, TACY PATTERSON, IRS ATTN ADVISORY CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS, WV STATE TAX DEPARTMENT, or heirs at law, devisees, creditors, representatives, successors, assigns, all known heirs, guardians, conservators, fiduciaries, administrators, lienholders, co-owners, other parties having an undivided interest in the delinquent property, and other parties that may have any interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT MEADOW BLUFF MAP 54C PARCEL 0073 00000000

You will take notice that WVTJ LLC, the purchaser of the following real estate, Certificate No. 132257, located in MEADOW BLUFF District, 1.47 A. MEADOWS (2019) 1.47 AC CROSIER RD FROM PATTERSON/DEP COMM (2021) MEADOWS which was returned delinquent or nonentered in the name of PATTERSON TERRY FACEMIRE JAMES A (2021), and was sold by the deputy commissioner of delinquent and nonentered lands of Greenbrier County at the sale for the delinquent taxes on 12/06/2022. WVTJ LLC requests that you be notified a deed for such real estate will be made on or after 3/15/2024, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount needed to redeem on or before 3/15/2024 will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, 3/15/2024	\$ 788.12
Amount of taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to 3/15/2024	\$ 0.00
Amount paid for Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest to 3/15/2024.	\$ 2852.80
Additional Statutory Fees with interest to 3/15/2024.	\$ 0.00
Total Amount Payable to Sheriff - cashier check, money order, certified or personal check must be made payable to The Honorable Bruce Sloan, Sheriff of Greenbrier County.	\$ 3640.92

You may redeem at any time before 3/15/2024, by paying the above total less any unearned interest. Given under my hand 1/8/2024

G. Russell Rollyson Jr.

G. Russell Rollyson Jr.

Deputy Commissioner of Delinquent and Nonentered Lands of Greenbrier County, State of West Virginia

Please return this letter and payment to the
West Virginia State Auditor's Office, County Collections Division
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Building 1, Room W-118
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
Questions please call 1-888-509-6568

SNHU announces Fall 2023 President's List, Dean's List

It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2023 President's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week

term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Area President's List students include:

- Kylea Wykle of Lewisburg
- Jonathan McMillion of Alderson
- Abby Bedard of Ronceverte
- Joshua Cox of Sinks Grove

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's

List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Area Dean's List students include:

- Savannah Turner of Rainelle

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with a 91-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 225,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers ap-

proximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at www.snhu.edu.

WVDEP accepting applications for 2024 teacher awards

Agency to honor top environmental educators

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's (WVDEP) Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP) is accepting applications for the 2024 Make It Shine Environmental Teacher of the Year awards. The deadline to submit an application is Feb. 14.

Winners will be chosen on the elementary, middle and high school levels, with each winner receiving a \$500 personal award, plus a \$1,000 award to be used in promoting STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) programs at their school.

Educators eligible for nomination must teach either full-time or part-time, or volunteer in a classroom setting in a West Virginia public, private or charter school and have had their program established for at least one year. Teachers can be nominated by themselves, colleagues, principals, students, or anyone familiar with their envi-

ronmental program.

Awards will be presented to educators who have demonstrated exemplary environmental leadership through the creation of lesson plans, implementation of school programs, or participation in activities that promote environmental stewardship.

The 2023 Environmental Teachers of the Year were: Tiffany Pace, Cross Lanes Elementary, Kanawha County; Amelia Mullens, Barrackville Middle School, Marion County; and Renee Haines, Martinsburg High School, Berkeley County.

To nominate yourself or a fellow educator for the 2024 awards, applications are available at: <https://dep.wv.gov>. Type in "Make It Shine" in the search bar. For more information, contact Annette Hoskins at: Annette.L.Hoskins@wv.gov or call 304-926-0499 ext. 49759.

REAP's motto is "Keeping West Virginia Clean and Green." It 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. Make It Shine is a program under REAP that focuses on volunteer cleanup efforts and rewards towns and cities for proactive approaches to keeping their communities clean.

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SCRAMBLERS

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

Mobile
ICEVAT

Rotate
GREATY

Trick
ELUDED

Ben
SCORNE

Mr Davis of the Acme Company is here to see you.

TODAY'S WORD

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

are added. 4. Bricks are lower. 5. Headlight is missing. 6. Shirt is different.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Super Crossword

LEGAL THRILLERS

ACROSS

1 Highest roll of a single die
4 Peak in Thessaly
8 Freaks out
15 Subjective paper piece
19 Never dying
21 Kind of cherry named for its shape
22 — sci. (coll. major)
23 Scaled-down symphony group [1994]
25 Mallorca, por ejemplo
26 "King" primate
27 Writer Ferber
28 Anti-bias job agcy.
29 Gown fabric
30 Program interacting with a remote server [1993]
34 Bygone times
38 Nurtured
39 Kids' song with French lyrics
40 — to go (gung-ho)
41 "It's ch-chilly!"
42 Whimpered like a baby
44 Place to disclose sins [2010]

48 Coinage for something with no name
53 Beginning on
54 "To — much is given ..."
55 Nantes' river
57 Sets of points on graphs
58 Shallowest Great Lake
60 Waltz or tango [1997]
63 Itinerant band member, say
66 State after wedlock
68 Having more seepage
69 Panels that may reverse decisions [2008]
71 Melody
72 Jungle roarer
73 Ouzo flavorer
74 Exact lookalike
76 Brand of rodent killer
80 Horse-man of myth
83 Greeting act conveying confidence [1991]
86 First-rate
88 Flub it up
89 Actress Shire
90 Plant snugly
94 — -cone

95 Junk email sender
97 Samoan peak famous for trapping clouds [1995]
101 Italian port
102 Exactly
103 Money won in a game of dreidel
104 Claudius I's successor
108 Getting the job done
109 What the first word of each of seven answers in this puzzle is, when preceded by "The"
113 Stun with a charge
114 Canceled by crossing off
115 Revising, as text
116 Bishops' jurisdictions
117 Prescription amounts
118 Berlin article
119 Meadow

DOWN

1 Ailing
2 Texter's "If you ask me"
3 Mutant Marvel superhero
4 Celestial ball
5 Like a cold, hard gaze
6 Manhattan eatery since 1927
7 Isolated
8 Ad — committee
9 Hatchet part
10 Ram or ewe
11 "The Fox and the Crow" storyteller
12 Tabby's scratcher
13 Bobby of hockey
14 Venus Williams' org.
15 Sedative drug
16 Sticky little sheet
17 "Mama" Cass
18 Actress Wiest
20 Texter's "Yikes!"
24 Bolted to escape
29 Riyadh native
30 Sugar source
31 Shore flier
32 "Not yet sure what my answer is"
33 Director Joel or Ethan
34 Killer whale
35 Neighbor of Myanmar
36 Early James Bond foe
37 Not similar
41 Dust jacket write-up
42 Demi and Dudley
43 Departs
45 Cupcake flourish
46 That lady
47 Less spicy
49 Honey-coated Easter entree
50 Anderson of "WKRP in Cincinnati"
51 Cicero's "Lo!"
52 Cake layer
56 ICU workers
59 Actor Stephen
60 Iran's former name
61 Ball-shaped
62 Put on, as an outfit
63 After-bath powder
64 Andy Taylor's boy
65 Sitting atop
66 Suffix with ball
67 Innocent types
70 President before Donald
71 Shallow pan
74 Swarms
75 Huge conflict
77 Sedate
78 Steinbeck migrant
79 Close
81 In — (more than sleeping)
82 Arm bone
84 Eatery list
85 Baseballer Musial
87 Is really mad
90 Grain fungi
91 "Watch Me (Whip/—)" (2015 hit)
92 "Apollo 13" actor Gary
93 Bills worth 100 bucks
94 "You got that right!"
95 Meat in a sub
96 Coal-mining guys
98 MMA fighter Rousey
99 Armageddon nation
100 Little laugh
104 Silent "yes"
105 Like villains
106 Russo of film
107 Gymnast Korbut
109 Elly May Clampett's pa
110 Good Grips kitchen brand
111 "— a trap!"
112 Ark.-to-Ill. dir.

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13	14		15	16	17	18			
19			20							21								22					
23									24									25					
26						27				28							29						
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34	35	36	37						38					39									
40									41				42	43									
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						86				87			88					89					
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101																				104	105	106	107
108									109	110										112			
113									114							115							
116									117							118							119

PUZZLE ANSWERS PAGE 9

Byrnside Fort

“The narrative said that supposedly, this old fort was still believed to be part of the house or in the house, and I immediately believed that was the case just by looking at it,” said Bryan. “The walls were thick enough, it had these huge stone chimneys, and with items that had already been found in the yard, it just had to be it.”

His bet paid off, when on the day of closing he returned to the house and started tearing off plaster, revealing

the original timber walls of Brynside’s Fort, and historical artifacts dating back through the Revolutionary War. Over the years, he has undertaken this passion project of restoring and revealing the details of the home as a labor of love, and has been sharing his findings online and with the community.

Bryan documented his restoration and renovation process on X, formerly known as Twitter, earlier this week in

a series of posts with pictures of his findings. Within days it amassed nearly 7 million interactions from users around the globe. Hundreds of commenters from far and wide responded to the wealth of historical information housed in and around the site, and Bryan has continued to add content to the thread to keep up with requests for more information.

He has uploaded several videos to the thread detailing the process and

outlining his findings, including one titled “I Found a Revolutionary War Log Fort Inside a House,” that quickly racked up 45,000 views within 24 hours.

To view the post on X (Twitter), visit his profile at @johnbryanesc, or view the thread “unrolled” at <https://thread-readerapp.com/thread/1744042901280104535?refresh=1704980178>. The videos can be found on his YouTube channel at @thecivilrightslawyer.



John Bryan shows his work to Dr. Ron Ripley for the first time, a historian who predicted the fort would be found inside the walls.



One of many old photos found in the home shows a woman standing outside next to the front porch.



The lower left drawer of the book cabinet contained these patches and war mementos, including a WWI gas mask and a German binocular case full of German infantry buttons.



This bookcase, which is estimated to have been constructed in the 1840’s, is too large to move out of the room it resides in, implying it was assembled inside of the home. The family’s books still sit on the shelves, with one being an 18th century book belonging to a Revolutionary War militia soldier who was garrisoned at the fort.



Rocks were revealed wedged in between the log walls of the home.



Bryan speaks with historian Dr. Ron Ripley in the front of the home.

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Active
2. Gyrate;
3. Delude;
4. Censor

Today’s Word
NOVELTY

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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



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The extensive plaster removal process was arduous, but revealed a stunning history of the home and fort.

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Carnegie Hall now accepting submissions for One Night Only Showcase



Carnegie Hall, working in partnership with Greenbrier County music and theatre educators, is offering a performance opportunity for accomplished music students in grade 6-12 living (or taking lessons) in Greenbrier County. One Night Only will showcase these talented students on Carnegie Hall's Hamilton Auditorium Stage. The event is sponsored by Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC).

Video entries for solo performers and ensembles are now being accepted for a criteria-based judging process, with selected students participating in a live performance at Carnegie Hall on Thursday, Mar. 7. A full list of guidelines can be found at www.carnegiehallwv.org/one-night-only. Deadline to submit a video is Friday, Feb. 9.

Submission judging will take place on Saturday, Feb. 10, and selected performers will be notified by Wednesday, Feb. 14. A required rehearsal (including all performers and stage/tech crew) will take place on Wednesday, Mar. 6, at 6 p.m.

One Night Only will be assisted by student stage crew members, sound engineers, and light technicians, under the guidance of the professional team at Carnegie Hall. A student Emcee will be selected to host the showcase as well.

The One Night Only Showcase will be a ticketed event open to the public. All performers

will be encouraged to bring family and friends to support the performance. Each participating student will receive one complimentary ticket. Ticket price for the event is \$15/adult and \$10/student and will go on sale Feb. 12.

For more information visit www.carnegiehallwv.org, call 304-645-7917, or stop by 611 Church Street, Lewisburg.

Carnegie Hall WV is a nonprofit organization supported by individual contributions, grants, and fundraising efforts such as TOOT and The Carnegie Hall Gala. The Hall is located at 611 Church Street, Lewisburg. For more information, please call 304-645-7917 or visit www.carnegiehallwv.org.



Foster's Marketing Group of Buckhannon, installed a synthetic ice rink at Silver Creek Resort last week. The 5,600 square foot rink will be open seven days a week, 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. The rink is open for ice skating and hockey. To reserve time on the ice, visit www.therinkwv.com (S. Stewart photo)

Silver Creek put a 'rink' on it

Suzanne Stewart,
Staff Writer, Pocahontas Times

Silver Creek Resort is known as a place for lots of wintertime fun - skiing, snowboarding and tubing. Now, it has added ice skating and hockey to the roster with its addition of a synthetic ice rink.

Installed by Foster's Marketing Group of Buckhannon, the 5,600 square foot rink has plenty of room for beginners-to-pros to skate or play hockey while they are visiting in the county.

FMG director Travis Foster said the new rink will expand the recreation at Silver Creek to visitors and locals who are looking for something new to do.

"It's a synthetic rink, but this one is a multi-sport one, so you can ice skate and play hockey," he said. "The kids love playing hockey. They don't get an opportunity to play

hockey anywhere, but now they do and it's a great thing for them."

Foster explained that there are a lot of benefits to having a synthetic rink. The maintenance is much easier - no need for a Zamboni - and the rink is usable year-round.

"You can skate in negative ten-degree weather or you can skate in a hundred-degree weather," he said. "We actually set it up for the World Marching Band Association in Buckhannon in July last year and it was ninety-nine degrees. Kids were sweating, and they were playing hockey."

Since the rink is out in the elements, it will be subject to snow and real ice, but Foster said that just adds to the experience.

Synthetic rinks are becoming more popular because the maintenance is stress free and it's more environmen-

tally safe.

"You don't have to have the additives in the ice and that's what makes our rinks environmentally safe," he said. "Being able to keep the pumps going to be able to support it and to help keep it cold is a hassle. This is maintenance free."

In addition to the rink, there are skate huts that families can rent to get out of the elements while they watch their kids skate or need to take a break from hitting the rink themselves.

"They're styrofoam with roofs on them and are kind of a square igloo," Foster said.

The rink offers skate rentals and tickets online at www.therinkwv.com where those interested in trying out the rink can select a time slot, purchase tickets and get the paperwork out of the way so they can enjoy the ice.

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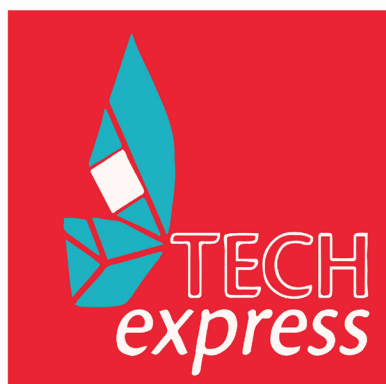
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