



Mountain messenger

Vol. XLI, No. 5

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

February 3, 2024

2024 Candidate listings by office

The candidate filing period has closed for the 2024 election cycle. The primary election is May 14, and Election Day is Nov. 5.

The West Virginia Secretary of State's Office lists the following candidates:

National:

U.S. President:

- Joseph R. Biden Jr., Democrat
- Donald J. Trump, Republican
- Ryan L. Binkley, Republican
- Nikki R. Haley, Republican
- Stephen P. Lyons, Democrat
- Jason Michael Palmer, Democrat
- Armando "Mando" Perez-Serrato, Democrat
- Dean Phillips, Democrat
- Jill Stein, Mountain
- David Stuckenberg, Republican
- Rachel Hanna MoHawk Swift, Republican

U.S. Senate:

- Bryan Bird, Republican
- Don Blankenship, Democrat
- Glenn Elliott, Democrat
- Jim Justice, Republican
- Zane Lawhorn, Republican
- Don Lindsay, Republican
- Bryan McKinney, Republican
- Janet McNulty, Republican
- Alexander X. Mooney, Republican
- Zachary Shrewsbury, Democrat

State:

U.S. House of Representatives, Congressional District 1:

- Derrick Evans, Republican
- Carol Miller, Republican
- Chris Bob Reed, Democrat
- Jim Umberger, Democrat

Governor:

- Moore Capito, Republican
- Kevin "KC" Christian, Republican
- Chase Linko-Looper, Mountain
- Chris Miller, Republican
- Patrick Morrissey, Republican
- Mitch Roberts, Republican
- Mac Warner, Republican
- Steve Williams, Democrat

Secretary of State:

- Thornton Cooper, Democrat
- Ken Reed, Republican
- Doug Skaff Jr., Republican
- Kris Warner, Republican
- Brian Wood, Republican

Auditor:

- Caleb L. Hanna, Republican
- Eric L. Householder, Republican
- Mark Hunt, Republican
- Tricia Jackson, Republican

See "2024 Candidates" Page 3

Area farms awarded by Greenbrier Valley Conservation District

Courtesy of TheRealWV

Several local farms have been recognized by the Greenbrier Valley Conservation District as part of their annual awards, including Shawlin Hills Farms of Organ Cave, Hilltop Acres of Smoot, and the Smith Family Farm of Sinks Grove.

Shawlin Hills Farm: Greenbrier Valley Farm of the Year

Jack and Georgeanne Morgan and Shawlin Hills Farm of Organ Cave are the Greenbrier Valley Conservation District District Farm of the Year winners for 2023. The Morgan farm consists of a diverse and mutually supportive mix of conservation and production agriculture. In the next 10 years, they would like to have approximately 50 colonies of bees selling bees and honey while maintaining 25 cow/calf pairs. Jack and Georgeanne would like to have 20-25 goats for clearing brush and 25-30 chickens to sell eggs. Within 10 years, they would like to establish a herd of approximately 40-50 whitetail deer to sell bucks to hunting preserves and does to other breeders

Hilltop Acres: Greenbrier County Outstanding Grassland Farm

Hilltop Acres, owned by Bob and Kathy Martin of Smoot, has been named the 2023 Greenbrier County Outstanding Grassland Farm. The farm is approximately 150 acres, with 80 acres of open grassland. It is located on Hundley Road, which splits the

See "Area Farms Awarded" Page 2

Area cicada information Provided by the WVU Greenbrier County Extension

Yes, cicadas are coming! But not to our backyard.

We have been seeing lots of media circulating about the upcoming cicada year. This year will be special for some in the United States with the emergence of two broods simultaneously. But it won't be happening in Greenbrier County, or West Virginia for that matter.

This year's broods are 19 (aka great southern brood) and 13. Brood 19 is a 13 year cicada which will emerge in many of the states to the south and south west of West Virginia. Brood 13 is a 17 year cicada which will emerge in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan. So if

See "Cicada Information" Page 2



The Shawlin Hills Farm was awarded the Greenbrier Valley Farm of the Year.



Hilltop Acres in Smoot was named the 2023 Greenbrier County Outstanding Grassland Farm.



Lefty and Robert Smith were named the 2023 Monroe County Outstanding Grassland Farmers.

WSS man arrested for child abuse causing death

On Sunday, Sept. 3, 2023, at approximately 11 a.m., EMS personnel were dispatched to a residence near White Sulphur Springs for an unresponsive two-month-old infant. The child was subsequently flown to an out of state medical facility. On Tuesday, Sept. 5, the child died.

See "WSS Man Arrested" Page 4

This week in the House of Delegates

For the week ending Jan. 26, 2024

Members of the West Virginia House of Delegates voted to complete two bills this week.

The first, House Bill 4274, was a utilitarian measure signed into law by the governor Jan. 26. It will update the language throughout state code to reflect the newly divided Department of Health, Department of Human Services and Department of Health Facilities.

The second, Senate Bill 269, would expand a 2022 law that decriminalized testing strips for the drug fentanyl. All other testing strips used to identify controlled substances are still classified as "drug paraphernalia," subject to a misdemeanor charge. This bill, now with the Governor for action, would exempt any drug test strips from that definition.

Deputy Speaker Matt Rohrbach, R-Cabell, serves as Chairman of the Committee on Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse. He explained the bill just before the vote, saying it would permit all test strips for

See "House of Delegates" Page 3



Jan. 26 in the House of Delegates

(WV Legislative Photography, photo by Perry Bennett)

Thank you Governor Jim Justice, for the tree cutting along I-64.

The citizens appreciate the added safety.

Visit us at —
www.mountainmessenger.com
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Area Farms Awarded

Continued from Front Page

farm and was built before US 60. The farm was divided into two farms in the early 20th century, but Bob's parents bought 35 acres after World War II and an additional five acres in 1960, putting the original farm back together. Bob is focused on retaining grass on the steeper hillside pastures and balancing conservation with production. The farm is used to produce grass and raise beef cattle. Assistance from Greenbrier Valley Conservation District programs and NRCS has been instrumental in the development of water resources on the farm. Two wells have been drilled for livestock, five springs have been developed, and a pond was built in 2017. The farm also has nine troughs fed by various water sources. Bob aims to stock cow/calf pairs at a ratio of one pair per three to four acres, prioritizing having enough grass for the cattle.

Smith Family Farm: Monroe County Grassland Farm of the Year

Lefty and Robbie Smith of Sinks Grove have been named the 2023 Monroe County Outstanding Grassland Farmers. Lefty, a retired Army veteran, has been involved in the farm's operations since 2005. Robbie, a nurse, currently works at Stonerise Rehab and Retirement. The farm has been in operation since 1915 and has four generations living on or near the property. Lefty focuses on grazing and has expanded the farm's capacity for cows and sheep. The Smith family has also implemented conservation practices on the farm. Congratulations to the Smith family on their achievement.

Solar Holler could bring more than \$6.5M in REAP grant funds to Appalachian businesses and farms

In 2023, the Company Applied for REAP Support for 64 Solar Projects

Solar Holler, one of Appalachia's largest and most innovative solar installers, has announced the company could bring a total of \$6.5 million in federal Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grant funds to the region as a result of applications submitted in 2023.

Solar Holler's expert team has been submitting REAP grants on behalf of farms and organizations from throughout the region for several years, but increased capacity to prepare REAP applications when the Inflation Reduction Act dramatically grew the pool of available funds and increased the grant cycle frequency from bi-annually to quarterly.

"The Inflation Reduction Act continues to deliver great investments for West Virginia, from reducing the cost of prescription drugs for our seniors to bringing new good-paying jobs to the Mountain State." Said West Virginia Senator Manchin. "I was also proud to have championed an expansion of REAP grants in the IRA that are helping our farmers and West Virginia small businesses become more energy efficient, helping to save money and lower emissions while supporting jobs for local communities — something all West Virginians can be proud of.

Nationwide, the IRA has made up to \$1.3 billion available in REAP funding. Solar Holler is taking full advantage of the temporary program expansion by helping eligible organizations from across West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, and Ohio secure a staggering amount of the competitive funds. Historically, the company's approval rating for REAP grant applications is 100% for qualifying organizations. According to Founder and CEO, Dan Conant, the company has no plans of slowing down in the first two quarters of 2024 while the funding pool remains inflated.

"Solar Holler has played a pivotal role in bringing federal REAP dollars to the

See "Solar Holler" Page 4

Celanese Foundation to be Premier Sponsor of New River Symposium 2024

New River Conservancy is proud to announce the Celanese Foundation, part of Celanese Corporation, will serve as the Premier Sponsor of the New River Symposium 2024, which will be held at Radford University in Radford, VA. With a manufacturing facility located along the New River in Giles County, VA, the Celanese Foundation is proud to support the New River Conservancy to "protect the waters, woodlands and wildlife of the New River Watershed." The Celanese Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization committed to working with local partners to create meaningful, sustained change.

"The Celanese Foundation is proud to help our more than 50 global sites and offices help make a difference in their local communities," said Brian Bianco, Celanese Foundation President. "Our Narrows facility teams have long been involved with the great work done by the New River Conservancy and this sponsorship allows us to more formally support their mission and help us achieve our goal of improving the world and quality of life through chemistry for our neighboring communities."

New River Symposium 2024 will connect people from within and without the New River Watershed to celebrate the social,

Cicada Information

Cont. from Front Page

you are a cicada hater you have a few more years to wait. If you love these amazing summer serenaders the best chance of getting to hear both broods at once will be in Springfield, Illinois.

Make your plans now, because it won't happen again for another 200 years.

economic, and scientific value of the New River, bringing together the river's diverse constituents and providing a forum for partnership, research, and policy development. This year's theme is "Rivers Cubed - Reconnect, Restore, and Recreate."

"We are thrilled and honored to be the recipient of this donation from the Celanese Foundation. A major presence on the New River, Celanese is both an employer of the region and also a partner with the New River Conservancy. The company has previously funded streambank restorations, and many employees volunteer their time and energy to plant vegetation along the streambank. This recent contribution enables our organization to host an educational symposium in the New River Valley, and we are excited about the opportunity to convene thought-partners throughout the watershed to learn from one another

and make an impact on the health of America's oldest river," says Elizabeth Underwood, New River Conservancy Executive Director.

Organized and presented by the New River Conservancy and a diverse array of partners, the biennial New River Symposium celebrates the ecological, economic, and cultural values of the New River, brings together the region's diverse constituents, and provides a forum for partnership, research, and policy development. Previous presenters have included teachers, researchers, community leaders, government officials, stewards, river keepers, planners, boaters, birders, and anglers.

For more information, or questions on sponsorship and other opportunities, please contact Lisa Stansell-Galitz at lisa@newriverconservancy.org. New River Conservancy is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

Greenbrier Valley Solid Waste adds paperless e-billing option

All Greenbrier Valley Solid Waste customers will now have the option to make payments online via bank ACH or credit card transactions. All customer payment info is encrypted and secure.

GVSW reports, "On your latest bill, you will see a new customer ID number. This is your ID or username to sign into Trashbilling.com to access your e-billing account. Your account number has not changed, and is contained within the customer ID number. Within your account, you may set up autopay and by doing so you may go paperless."

Trashbilling.com provides trash haulers with an easy option for processing electronic payments. Trash Billing is an independent contractor. Please continue to reach out to Greenbrier Valley Solid Waste directly with any billing or service questions. You can make your payment by using a checking or savings account, or a debit or credit card. We accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover, and American Express. Your trash hauler will not see any account information and will only be notified when you have made a payment.

Information about Magistrate Court cases now available online for free

Docket information about public cases filed in West Virginia magistrate courts is now available online to the public for free.

"The Magistrate Case Record Search system greatly improves access to court records. The Supreme Court continues to fulfill its commitment to make the court system more open to the public," said Chief Justice Tim Armstead during a media conference on Thursday, Jan. 25, in the West Virginia Law Library.

The link to access the records is <https://MCRSearch.courts.wv.gov>.

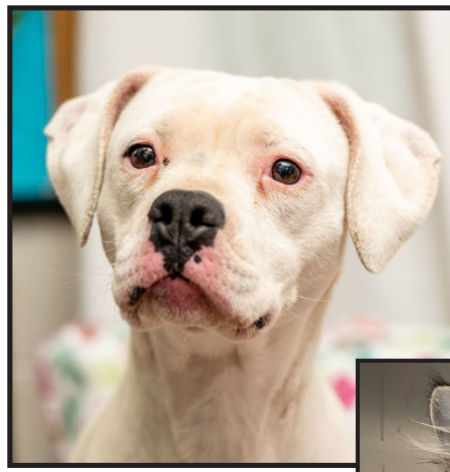
"The search system is free to use and does not require registration." Chief Justice Armstead said. Anyone with a computer or mobile device can enter a first or last name or a case number and the system will generate search results. A typical list contains names and birthdates, as well as general details of each case, such as the date each case was filed, charge, disposition, and a list of documents in the court file.

Users should call or visit the magistrate

court clerk in the county where a case is filed to obtain copies of specific court records. Clerks charge a nominal fee required by law for copies. The search system helps callers and visitors to know what to ask for and which county they need to contact. The public can continue to use existing public access terminals located in each magistrate court clerk's office, which will be enhanced to include search results from all counties statewide.

"We are making this announcement in the West Virginia Law Library to emphasize that users can now search magistrate court records from anywhere at any time, including from their own computers, mobile devices, or computers located in public libraries," Chief Justice Armstead said. "Our Court recognizes that our court system is here to serve our citizens. This represents the latest step in our Court's ongoing efforts to make our legal proceedings more open and accessible."

PICK OF THE LITTER



JORDAN

Jordan is a two-year-old male domestic shorthair

CHARITY

Charity is a one-year-old terrier mix and weighs 41 pounds



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!

Lawmakers are putting your right to know in danger.

A bill going through the Legislature could spell the end of your community newspaper — and your access to public notices.

Call your legislator and tell them to vote against Senate Bill 264. Tell them you want to keep your community newspaper healthy.



Find your legislator at wvlegislature.gov

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. 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.

Williamsburg Shooting Match

Hope you are staying warm. Come join us for the Jack Goodman Scholarship Williamsburg Shooting Match and lots of good food that will be held Feb. 3. The Shooting Match will begin at 7 p.m. The concessions will open for dinner at 5 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 @ \$2.50 per shot, eighth round 50/50 @\$7.50 per shot. Shooters must compete in the first 7 rounds in order to compete in the 8th round. 50/50 splatter match is \$1 per chance between rounds - Cash prizes will be awarded. You do not need to be a shooter to win! Come early! Come Hungry! Delicious hot food and refreshments will be available starting at 5 p.m. Families welcomed; you don't have to shoot to come get a meal! The match will be held at the Community Building 6571 Shoestring, Trail, Williamsburg, WV. 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.

Baked Steak Dinner at Williamsburg

Williamsburg Community invites you to enjoy a home cooked steak and gravy meal. The dinner will be held on Feb. 10, from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Williamsburg Community Building. The menu features baked steak/gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, coleslaw, bread/rolls, desserts and tea/coffee. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children under 12. Call 304-645-0964 with questions or for more information. This event is sponsored by Williamsburg Community Action and is at the Williamsburg Community Building, 6571 Shoestring Trail. Directions to Williamsburg from the east: Exit 161 (Alta), right on Rt. 12, right on Rt. 60 East, left on Sinking Creek Road (first road on left from Rt. 60), about nine miles to Williamsburg staying on the two lane road, the Community Building will be on your left.

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.

Renick Town Council

will meet Monday, Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. at Renick Town Hall. Agenda items are as follows:

- Community comments
- Approval of Minutes
- Approval of financial reports
- Old Business
- New Business
- Committee reports
 - Building committee
 - Maintenance committee
- Park
- Streets
- Finance
- 1st reading of water ordinance
- Other Business

Ronceverte Parks & Recreation

will meet Monday, Feb. 5 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. On the agenda:

- Approval of Minutes
- Update on Mini Golf and Disc Golf Course
- Review Comprehensive Plan
 - Prioritize projects
 - Schedule meeting with all parties involved in park
- Other Business

Ronceverte City Council

will meet Monday, Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers. On the agenda:

- Approval of Minutes
 - Minutes from Dec. 11, 2023 meeting
 - Review and approval of Minutes from previous city council meeting
- Citizens and Other Comments
- Old Business
 - Railfan Proposal
 - update
- Wastewater Related Business
- Water Related Business
 - Resolution #2 - Region 4
 - Review and approve for payment invoices related to Phase 4 of Water Project
- Stormwater Related Business
 - Resolution #4 Region 4
 - Review and approve for payment invoices related to project
- New Business
 - Island Park Rentals
 - Approval of new amphitheater and shelter rental rates
- Reports
 - Police Department
 - Street Department
 - Wastewater Department
 - Water Department
 - Fire Department
- Council Member Comments
- Administrator Comments

Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Convictions

Ashley Stapp, Maxwelton, fraudulent schemes, NCP, jail 7 days - served, restitution \$1.98
Emily Rose Smith, Richmond, WV, speeding, GP, fine \$30

House of Delegates

Continued from Front Page

deadly drugs without the Legislature revisiting the issue each time a new drug is developed.

"As we've seen, as time has gone, unfortunately, we've got fentanyl, now we've got carfentanil, now we've got xylazine," he said.

The bill came from the Joint Committee on Health studying the issue during the interim committee process. It passed the full House by unanimous vote.

The West Virginia Senate has already introduced House Bill 4595, which also passed the House by unanimous vote this week. The bill would update the authority already given to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability, which was created in 1995.

The measure would allow members of that committee to privately meet in executive session to confidentially investigate child abuse, nursing home abuse, IDD waiver, adult protective service matter, child protective services and hospital abuse.

Delegate Mike Pushkin, D-Kanawha, who serves as Minority Chairman of the House Health and Human Resources Committee, spoke in favor of the bill before the vote, saying it was "incredibly unfortunate that a bill like this is necessary."

A total of 1,242 bills have been introduced in the House. The deadline for House bills to be introduced is Feb. 13. The 60-day, regular legislative session ends at midnight Saturday, Mar. 9.

For the Record

Deeds

Douglas L. Hassinger and Amy E. Hassinger to David F. Fernandez and Mary G. Fernandez: 1.778 acres, White Sulphur District, Map 30 Parcel 0019.0000. Filed Jan. 25, 2024.

Greenbrier River Campground LLC to Greenbrier River Campground RV Park LLC: 6.28 acres and 1.10 acres, Fort Spring District, Map 14, 14 Parcel 10.3, 10.4. Filed Jan. 25, 2024.

Ellen F. Andrews to Alicia D. Glover: lot 16 block 2, White Sulphur District, Map 22 Parcel 0055. Filed Jan. 25, 2024.

Tia Bouman to Tia Bouman and Andrew Must: 2 tracts, Lewisburg District, Map 19 Parcel 0052. Filed Jan. 25, 2024.

Harvey J. Whanger Family Irrevocable Living Trust to Shawn H. Seman and Sandra M. Seman: 92.5 acres, less 45.91, 2.347, and 3.235 acres, White Sulphur District, Map 46 Parcel 51. Filed Jan. 26, 2024.

Michael D. Griffith and Kathleen M. Griffith to Gwenn Harrington: unit # 25, White Sulphur District, Map 6 Parcel 3525. Filed Jan. 26, 2024.

Darlene Fif, Robert Head, David Head, and Stephen Head to West Virginia Land Trust Inc.: 3.06 acres, Blue Sulphur District, Map 21 Parcel 59. Filed Jan. 26, 2024.

Benny J. Ryder to Keith Daniels: 27.908 acres more or less, Anthony Creek District, Map 2 Parcel 0008. Filed Jan. 26, 2024.

Sue Ann Johnson and Pamela Butcher to Jeff Bean: 4 acres more or less, Falling Spring District, Map 79 Parcel 7. Filed Jan. 29, 2024.

Sheila I. Mendocino (by attorney-in-fact) to Scott M. Mendocino and Timothy J. Frashure: lots 31 & 32, block 21, subdivision 1, Rupert District, Map 5 Parcel 0409. Filed Jan. 29, 2024.

Heritage Mountain Farm LLC to Major Hillard IV and Bonnie Hillard: lot 26 Valley Ridge Estates, Frankford District, Map 14 Parcel 153. Filed Jan. 29, 2024.

Sue Ann Johnson to Aaron Moore and Teresa Moore: 71 acres, Falling Spring District, Map 79 Parcel 7. Filed Jan. 30, 2024.

Dale Patterson, Melissa Patterson, Michael Patterson, and Kimberly K. Behrens to Kimberly Wood: 13.39 acres, Irish Corner District, Map 10 Parcel 18. Filed Jan. 30, 2024.

Garland E. Meadows and Clara Jeanette Meadows to Michael Boccio and Tifanee Boccio: lot 2, Meadow Bluff District, Map 54C Parcel 22. Filed Jan. 30, 2024.

Garland E. Meadows and Clara Jeanette Meadows to Michael Boccio and Tifanee Boccio: lot 1, Meadow Bluff District, Map 55 Parcel 19. Filed Jan. 30, 2024.

Rovena M. Nicely to Wendy L. Anderson: 3.01 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 81 Parcel 0035.0000. Filed Jan. 31, 2024.

Alma J. Fernandez to Norma G. Camp: 82.89 acres, White Sulphur District, Map 37 Parcel 6. Filed Jan. 31, 2024.

Alma J. Fernandez to Norma G. Camp: lots 6 & 7 block 5, White Sulphur District, Map 8 Parcel 10. Filed Jan. 31, 2024.

James C. Williams to Robert J. Hanna III and Lauren T. Hanna: 6.95 acres, 11.547 acres, 15.023 acres, Irish Corner District, Map 16 Parcel 7.3, 7.4, 7.5. Filed Jan. 31, 2024.

Lisa A. Svedberg to Court B. Wright and Yaumara V. Wright: 5.58 acres, Lewisburg District, Map 24 Parcel 0004 0006. Filed Jan. 31, 2024.

Russell Abbott (legal owner via non-trust custodian Ira with AET) to Russell Abbott: 0.07 acres, part of lot 3 & 0.22 acres lot 4, Lewisburg District, Map 26, 26 Parcel 0004, 0005. Filed Jan. 31, 2024.

Myron C. Vaughan to James F. Van Gorden and Kathleen K. Von Forden: 15.06 acres, White Sulphur District, Map 6 Parcel 25, 25.1. Filed Jan. 31, 2024.

Country Springs Properties Inc. to Gary W. Robinson: lot 6, Fort Spring District, Map 9H Parcel 182. Filed Jan. 31, 2024.

Mountain Messenger

The Weekend Newspaper for the Greenbrier Valley

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1985

Strengthening Community and Promoting Diversity in the Greenbrier Valley

Mountain Messenger's Properties & Lifestyles

Our high-gloss, magazine style featuring area real estate

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THANK YOU FOR READING
THE MOUNTAIN MESSENGER

OPINION

Commentary

Miller, colleagues introduce the Death Tax Repeal Act

Last week, Congresswoman Carol Miller (R-WV) joined Congressman Randy Feenstra (R-IA) and 161 of their colleagues in introducing the Death Tax Repeal Act. This bill will repeal the death tax that is imposed on families and small businesses as regards to the transfer of property, land, and assets of a deceased family member.

Over 95% of our nation's small businesses are owned and operated by individuals and families, and this legislation would enable these multi-generational businesses to continue to support their families without having to pay a devastating tax upon the death of a family member.

"The death tax is another unnecessary burden that West Virginians and small business owners have to worry about while mourning the death of a loved one and making sure their business remains operational," said Congresswoman Miller. "The Death Tax Repeal Act will stop the unnecessary and cruel double taxation so small businesses across the country can succeed and carry on the legacy of their family. Small business owners are the bedrock of the United States and Congress must show them our support with the passage of this bill."

"The death tax represents double taxation at its worst. Iowa families grieving the loss of a loved one should not face an enormous tax bill from the federal government just to continue the family tradition of farming or keep their small business open and operational," said Congressman Feenstra. "I'm proud to lead 162 of my colleagues to permanently repeal the death tax, ensure that hardworking families, farmers, and small businesses keep more of their hard-earned money, and strengthen family-owned-and-operated enterprises in Iowa. By fully eliminating the death tax, we can keep China away from our farmland, allow family farms and small businesses to succeed, and encourage the next generation of Iowa farmers and business owners to plant their roots in rural Iowa, support our main streets, and contribute to our economy."

Commentary

Country Roads, Take Me Home

By PSC Chair Charlotte Lane

I turned on my car radio this morning and had to smile. John Denver's song, "Country Roads" was playing, which always makes me happy. I am not an exception in loving this song; and hearing it lifts my spirit, which is true for all West Virginians.

As I listened to the lyrics, my mind drifted to the many who use our highways every day as they travel through our mountains. We are a friendly bunch, not only offering hospitality, but caring about the safety of others. I have often watched a Mountaineer stop to change a flat or check on a stranded motorist. We care about people.

At the Public Service Commission of West Virginia, we also are diligent about safety inspections. Our transportation officers perform inspections routinely on the large trucks and buses that travel our highways to make sure they meet strict safety regulations. They also man the weigh stations throughout the state that help keep commercial motor vehicles in compliance with state and federal regulations.

As Denver traveled through our state, I am sure he found great pleasure. He clearly defined our people and our state's majesty in his lyrics. He portrayed us well.

"Country Roads" is one of West Virginia's four official state songs. It captures the core of our natural wonders and the spirit of our people. Denver's tune is catchy, but his lyrics pay tribute to a remarkable place to raise families.

The well-known chorus, "...take me home, to the place I belong," invigorates me. We are proud of our state and truly feel that sense of belonging. Our people make this land unique, but the beauty and our culture add to the magical nature of the state we call home.

When he sings, "Life is old there, older than the trees," I am reminded of the deep-rooted history that breathes life into every corner of our great state. Our heritage and culture are woven into our very fabric through stories of resilience during troubled times, through our hardworking nature, and the strong spirit of our people.

As you journey through our rolling hills to explore our hidden treasures, let John Denver's song guide you along those country roads, reminding you of what makes West Virginia so special. Think about the great people who made the Mountain State what it is today; and whisper a thank you to our great transportation officers. And remember, this is "Almost Heaven."

WSS Man Arrested

Continued from Front Page

A lengthy investigation conducted by West Virginia Child Protective Services and the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Department ensued. That investigation would ultimately culminate in an arrest.

On Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2024, Shane Lee Dolin, 25, of White Sulphur Springs, was arrested and charged with Child Abuse Causing Death. Dolin was arraigned before a Greenbrier County Magistrate and incarcerated in the Southern Regional Jail.

Sergeant Brandon McCormick of the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Department is the investigating officer.



PSC Chair Charlotte Lane

West Virginia named top global travel destination yet again

National Geographic selects West Virginia's whitewater for prestigious 2024 "Best of the World" list

Gov. Jim Justice and the West Virginia Department of Tourism have announced that West Virginia has been selected as one of National Geographic's "Best of the World" Top 20 Travel Experiences for 2024. The internationally acclaimed publication has selected whitewater rafting in the New River Gorge National Park & Preserve as one of the world's top wonders to experience this year.

"If the world didn't know before about the beautiful state we get to call home, they surely do now," Gov. Justice said. "I've been saying for years that West Virginia is a diamond in the rough. Well, now we're shining for all to see, and it's much deserved. We've worked hard to change our image and it's made all of the difference for tourism in the state. I'm so proud and I can't wait for new visitors to experience Almost Heaven because of honors like this one."

Each year, National Geographic releases its "Best of the World" list, celebrating travel experiences that illuminate the world and the diversity of communities and people within it. The list is selected and written by National Geographic global editors from around the world, in collaboration with National Geographic experts and expedition leaders. Rafting in West Virginia made this year's list along with highly acclaimed experiences such as an eclipse in Niagara Falls and glacier treks in Chile.

"Putting together our annual BEST OF THE WORLD list with our global editorial team each year is one of my favorite projects!" said Sr. Editor of Travel at National Geographic Amy Alipio. "West Virginia in particular was a fun addition for us, as we tend to look for places that combine both interesting culture - like Appalachia - and natural wonder. Not many people know that New River in West Virginia is actually one of the world's old-

est rivers - or that it's one of the best places in the world to go white water rafting! So we hope readers of Nat Geo's Top 20 Travel Experiences will discover that as well," National Geographic's Senior Editor of Travel Amy Alipio.

This designation follows a series of recent major announcements by Forbes Advisor, Thrillist, Condé Nast Traveler, Outside Magazine, Lonely Planet, TIME, USA Today and Frommer's among others, that together rank West Virginia as a leading global destination for travel.

"In my very first meeting with Gov. Justice 7 years ago, he told me that we were going to show the world just how great West Virginia truly is, and that's exactly what we've done," said West Virginia Tourism Secretary Chelsea Ruby. "Since then, our goal has been to highlight the unbelievable wonders of the Mountain State each and every day, and we are thrilled to see major publications continue to recognize how incredible West Virginia really is."

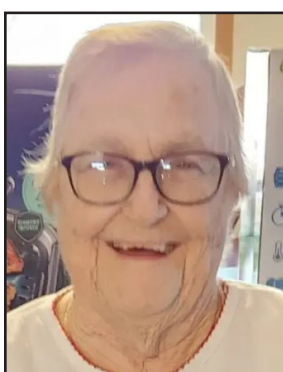
The New River Gorge National River was redesignated as the nation's newest national park, the New River Gorge National Park & Preserve, in December of 2020. The nation's newest national park offers travelers more than 70,000 acres of undiscovered beauty and unmatched outdoor recreation, including whitewater rafting. Rafters from around the world have been flocking to West Virginia for years, but the new national park designation has brought even greater attention to the world-class recreation in the southern part of the state. Whether travelers are looking for heart-pounding, high-adrenaline rafting or a family-friendly float, the New River Gorge National Park provides one of the world's best experiences.



National Geographic included whitewater rafting at the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve as a "Best of the World" Top 20 Travel Experience for 2024.

OBITUARIES

Marie Anne McCullough Shifflett Carter



Alderson-Marie Anne McCullough Shifflett Carter, 81, passed away peacefully at the Peyton Hospice house on Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2024. Marie was born Sept. 8, 1942, in Roanoke, VA.

Marie was preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, Troy Carter, her mother Madeline Montgomery, her stepfather Harold Montgomery, Sr., and brother Harold "Eddie" Montgomery, Jr.

She is survived by her children; Frank Carter (Cindy) of Lawrenceburg, KY, James Carter (Rhonda) of Alderson, Vickie Terry (Tim) of Alderson, Billy Carter (Pam) of Ronceverte, Bernard Carter (Stacey) of Clarksville, TN; 11 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be at Lantz Funeral Home, 101 Davis Street, Alderson, WV 24910, Friday, Feb. 2, from 6 to 8 p.m. Funeral service will be held at the funeral home, Saturday, Feb. 3, at 2 p.m. with Pastor Tim Spencer officiating. Interment will follow

in the Adkins Cemetery, Flat Mountain, with family members serving as pallbearers.

Lantz Funeral Home Alderson is honored to assist the Carter family during their great time of need. Online condolences at www.lantzfuneralhome.com.

Mollie Jean Messimer



Mollie Jean Messimer passed away peacefully on Jan. 25, 2024. She was a youthful 71 and is survived by her partner, Chris Ide, his son Ben and Ben's wife Liz, brother Pete Messimer, niece Katie Anderson, and nephew Michael Messimer, countless friends, colleagues, and acquaintances, as well as a house full of her beloved Icelandic Sheepdogs.

She was a vibrant, young-at-heart, creative, and loving friend, active in her community, known for nurturing connections with her friends, her authenticity, and quirky hu-

mor. She was tenacious, a producer, and was an inspiration to many.

Mollie retired from a 40-year career in education. She taught at all levels, from kindergarten through Ph.D., and served as a Licensed Professional Counselor at colleges in Virginia and at the WV School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg. Her passion for education and her commitment to the environment led her to the Boxerwood Foundation, where she served as the first educational director to inspire future stewards of Earth. Her connection with her students was her joy; she helped countless to excel in their careers, many of whom became life-long friends.

Her love of travel and adventure brought her to places far and wide, including time in the Peace Corps in Kuwait and trips to Antarctica, Australia, Belize, Ecuador, Egypt, Greece, Japan, Peru, South Africa, Thailand, Zimbabwe, and many more. Mollie filled more than 6 passports with her travels to every continent. It was on her last overseas trip to Iceland where she fell in love with the national dog of Iceland.

Mollie became an advocate and ambassador for Icelandic Sheepdogs, entering the show ring with many of her dear pups as an owner-handler. Her dogs won many titles and championships at numerous shows, including at the AKC National Championship and Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. Mollie herself was titled a Breeder of Merit for her conscientiousness and commitment. Her pups have found loving homes across the country.

Mollie's love of vintage treasure hunting and environmental consciousness inspired her to begin a hobby secondhand business in antique mall booths. She became the owner of Patina in 2018 and a staple figure of Lewisburg.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Greenbrier County Humane Society, 151 Holiday Lane, Lewisburg, WV, 24901.

A celebration of life is to come at a later date.

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

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Club & Church

Master Gardeners Report: Winter potato onion - lowly no more!

Released in January, WVU Agricultural Extension Calendar "Back to Our Roots," celebrates the unique heritage of gardening in Appalachia. February is the month to sing the praises of the Winter Potato Onion. Traditionally, onions are a staple crop in southeastern West Virginia. Before the popular green bunching scallions and bulb onions were available in stores, multiplier onions were widely grown in gardens throughout West Virginia. Often called potato onions or shallots, these multiplier onions produce clusters around a central bulb. As a result, the yield from multiplier onions is much greater than tradi-

tional bulb onions.

Although onions are biennial, meaning that they produce seed the second year, multiplier onions do not produce seeds. Instead one saves the small bulbs in the cluster to plant the following year.

Potato onions are typically white or yellow bulbs and have a mild flavor therefore they are excellent for cooking. Each potato onion will typically produce six to 11 bulbs.

Potato onions can be planted in the fall or early spring but are traditionally overwintered as a "winter onion" in Appalachia. The potato onion can tolerate sub-freezing temperatures. The bulbs are

planted in fall (early November) in West Virginia.

Potato onions are excellent plants for containers or raised beds. The onion bulbs or "sets" are planted approximately 6 inches apart within the row and 18-24 inches between the rows.

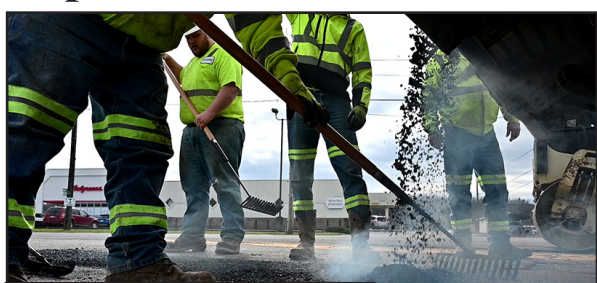
In some regions of West Virginia, the onions will produce green bunching onions for harvest in early winter. Otherwise, the onion can be harvested as green bunching onions in spring or allowed to mature to full sized bulbs for harvest in early summer.

After harvest, the potato onions can be cured in a warm, dry place for about a month and stored in a

cool, dry environment for the remainder of the year. Be sure to save the bulbs from vigorous clusters for planting later in the season. The Winter Potato Onion... their planting and care will pay dividends year after year!

The Greenbrier Valley Master Gardeners meet on the second Thursday of each month. The business meeting starts at 5:30 p.m. and an educational program follows. If you have a keen interest in gardening, a desire to help others and would like more information on becoming a Master Gardener, call Mary Dameron the Greenbrier County Extension Office at 304-647-7408.

Gov. Justice and WVDOH announce Operation R.I.P. Potholes



Operation R.I.P. Potholes will take place during the next spurt of warm weather.

Gov. Jim Justice and the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) are taking advantage of a recent streak of warmer weather to announce Operation R.I.P. Potholes.

With current warmer weather and temperatures expected to climb into the 50's and 60's over the next couple of weeks, the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) has made arrangements with asphalt plants in Princeton, and Morgantown to open on Monday, Feb. 5, to build on the momentum from the opening of a plant in Poca the week of Jan. 29.

The early opening will allow the WVDOH and its contractors to make hot mix pothole repairs in southern and north central West Virginia.

"Our partners in the asphalt industry are cooperating with us to open during the off-season to provide us with hot asphalt to make needed repairs," said Joe Pack, P.E., WVDOH Chief Engineer of Operations.

A recent freeze/thaw cycle of snow and very cold temperatures, followed by warm temperatures and rain, has wreaked havoc on West Virginia Roads. WVDOH road crews have been patching potholes with cold asphalt throughout the winter, but these repairs are only temporary. What the WVDOH and contractors need to make permanent pothole repairs is hot asphalt.

The WVDOH and its contractors depend on asphalt plants throughout the state to provide asphalt for paving and patching. Those plants shut down during the winter for maintenance and usually don't reopen until spring.

However, with a recent stretch of warmer weather, the WVDOH has negotiated with several asphalt plants to open temporarily to make needed pothole repairs now rather than in a few months.

An asphalt plant in Poca opened on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, allowing the WVDOH and contractors to make permanent, hot asphalt patches on interstates, roads, and work zones in Kanawha, Boone, Clay, Putnam, Mason, Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, Mingo, and Wayne counties.

The opening of the Princeton plant will allow patching in McDowell, Mercer, Raleigh, Wyoming, Monroe, Summers, and Fayette counties in southern West Virginia. Opening the plant in Morgantown will allow patching in Doddridge, Harrison, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, and Taylor counties in upper north central West Virginia. In areas where hot mix is still not available, such as areas where the asphalt plants themselves are down for winter maintenance, crews will be out in full force patching with temporary methods to allow a smooth ride for motorists.

As Operation R.I.P. Potholes continues, the DOT will keep the public informed through regular press announcements.

With work continuing in all 55 counties across the state, the West Virginia Division of Highways and the West Virginia Department of Transportation remind the public of the importance of keeping everyone safe in work zones by keeping "Heads up; phones down!"

Solar Holler

Continued from Page 2

coalfields and beyond" said Conant. "I'm incredibly proud of that achievement and grateful for the opportunity REAP is bringing to rural Appalachian economies. We're ready to make the most of the next two grant cycles so we can continue to unlock the benefits of solar in rural America."

The impact of REAP extends far beyond the actual grant amounts. According to Conant, the transition to solar can make good economic sense with or without the added benefit of REAP for many organizations. In other cases however, the grant offsets just enough cost to push the project into a scenario where it produces tangible and often significant savings. If REAP is awarded to all 64 eligible Solar Holler projects, the lifetime savings produced by those solar arrays will reach nearly \$20 million. That's \$20 million in utility savings plus the possible \$6.5 million in REAP grants that could be redirected into Appalachian economies through the program.

"Rural small businesses and communities are the backbone of our economy and investing in them is an investment in our future." Said Ryan Thorn State Director for West Virginia Rural Development "When we power our rural West Virginia communities with modern, re-

newable energy infrastructure it creates good-paying jobs and supports opportunities for people to drive economic prosperity and security. In the last year, we have invested more than \$5 million in 43 renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements that will help rural business owners' lower energy costs and bolster their bottom line, allowing them to then invest back into their businesses and communities."

John Brunetti, owner of Brunetti's Italian Bakery in Wayne County, West Virginia, represents one of the many organizations that stands to benefit from REAP. He appreciates how the program benefits his business from both an economical and a sustainability perspective, saying it's allowing him to "Invest in renewable energy systems, energy efficiency upgrades, and other sustainable practices that not only benefit the bottom line, but also contribute to environmental stewardship and long-term viability."

While the majority of Solar Holler's REAP grant applications have been submitted on behalf of West Virginia based farms and small businesses, organizations in parts of Ohio, Virginia, and Kentucky also meet the qualifying criteria. The next deadline for REAP grant submissions is Mar. 31.

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 E

Feb. 4, 1845: Doddridge County was formed from parts of Harrison, Lewis, Ritchie, and Tyler counties. It was named for Philip Doddridge, a Western Virginia congressman, state legislator and member of the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1829-30.

Feb. 4, 1945: The hotel at Minnehaha Springs was destroyed by fire. Built in 1914, it was the first facility in Pocahontas County built strictly for the tourist business and was a forerunner of today's local tourism economy.

Feb. 5, 1889: Fiddler and self-taught physician James Franklin "Doc" White was born near Ivydale, Clay County. White served the community as doctor, dentist and midwife, delivering more than 1,800 babies.

Feb. 5, 1890: Coach Eli Camden "Cam" Henderson was born in Joetown, Marion County. He is a revered figure in Marshall University sports history.

Feb. 5, 1941: Actor David Lynn Selby was born in Morgantown. His stage and screen credits include the outdoor drama Honey in the Rock, and the television shows Falcon Crest and Dark Shadows.

Feb. 6, 2007: Selva Lewis "Lew" Burdette, a native of Nitro, died in Florida. Burdette was an outstanding major league baseball player who spent most of his career with the Milwaukee Braves. In 18 major league seasons, he won 203 games and lost 144.

Feb. 7, 1867: West Virginia University was established by an act of the West Virginia legislature. The college, originally called the Agricultural College of West Virginia, opened its doors in September 1867.

Feb. 7, 1889: Nell Elizabeth "Pistol Nell" Walker was born at Sewell Mountain. Known as the "First Lady" of Fayette County, she served 12 terms as a member of the House of Delegates.

Feb. 8, 1892: Cartoonist Irvin Dugan was born in Huntington. For many years, his "Adam" cartoon character was a feature on the editorial pages of the Herald-Dispatch.

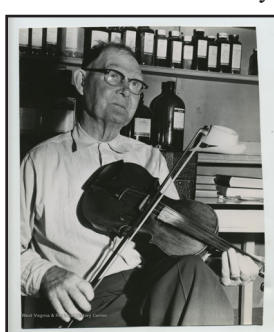
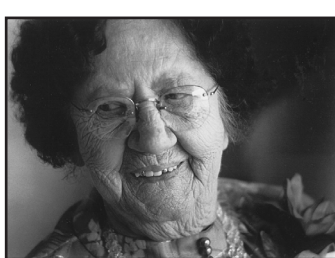
Feb. 8, 1915: Photographer Volkmar Kurt Wentzel was born in Dresden, Germany. He emigrated with his family to the United States at age 11. As a teenager in West Virginia, Wentzel took up with an eclectic group of people who had retreated to Youghiogheny Forest, a Preston County artists colony.

Feb. 8, 1918: Medal of Honor recipient Herbert Joseph Thomas Jr. was born. He excelled as a football

halfback at South Charleston High School, and Herbert J. Thomas Memorial Hospital in South Charleston is named for him.

Feb. 9, 1843: Republican leader Nathan Goff Jr. was born in Clarksburg. In 1888, Goff lost West Virginia's most controversial gubernatorial election to A. B. Fleming. Goff's initial 106-vote majority was challenged by Fleming, and both men were sworn in on inauguration day. The case dragged on until 1890, when Fleming was determined to be the rightful winner.

Feb. 9, 1900: "Aunt Jennie" Wilson was born near Henlawson. Wilson was a Logan County traditional musician, considered a master of clawhammer-style banjo playing.



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Dear Recycle Lady,

Dear Recycle Lady,

My New Year's resolution was to increase my recycling, so I am going to begin recycling can labels. Which recycle bin do I put the labels in? Also, I would like to know why labels must be removed from aluminum cans, but not steel cans.

Resolute Recycler

Dear Resolute Recycler,

Congratulations on increasing your recycling profile. Recycling more items is a great New Year's resolution. Whether your labels are removed from steel or aluminum cans, they all are to be recycled with magazines/slicks. Be sure they are clean and dry before you put them in the bin. The reason labels must be removed from aluminum cans, but not steel cans, is that steel processes at a much higher degree of heat than aluminum does and the heat burns up the labels. According to Earth911.com, steel has the highest recycling rate of any material. Their research shows that more than 88 percent of scrap metal is recycled. Metal has a limited supply and steel can be recycled infinitely with no loss of quality, so recycling steel is very important.

Dear Recycle Lady,

During Christmas you made several excellent suggestions for repurposing used holiday greeting cards. I have another suggestion for you. The Veterans Hospital in Beckley accepts unused greeting cards of all kinds to give to their patients. The Veterans love having cards to send to families and friends.

Lots of Cards

Dear Lots of Cards,

Great idea. I called the Veterans hospital, and they also thought it was a great idea. Everyone has a few cards left over, such as note cards, birthday, congratulations, thinking of you, and sympathy cards. Plus, all those cards that charitable organizations send out hoping you will send a contribution can also be sent. If you have space left over in the mailer, why not add a new pair of socks as packing. Socks of any kind are always appreciated, as are gently used books. Send cards, books and/or socks to: Beckley VA Medical Center, Voluntary Services Office, 200 Veterans Ave., Beckley,

WV 25801. They greatly appreciate the donation of the items. Cards and books can be mailed by media mail, which is less expensive.

Dear Recycle Lady,

What kinds of plastics are acceptable for the Scout/Montwell project?

Love the Project

Dear Love the Project,

All #2 and #4 polyethylene (PE) film plastics are acceptable. Commonly used items made with polyethylene film plastic, with and without a #2 or #4 on them, such as grocery and ice bags, produce, bread, and Ziploc bags are all recyclable. Newspaper sleeves, dry cleaning bags, colored plastics, bubble wrap, and overwraps don't have a recycle symbol on them, but they are still recyclable. (Overwrap is a method of packaging several like items together. For example, six rolls of paper towels come wrapped in a plastic overwrap package.) However, there are some plastics films that are less identifiable. According to Trex information, if you pull a piece of plastic film over your thumbnail, or pull it with both hands, and it stretches, the plastic is acceptable. If it tears like paper, put it in the trash. Likewise, if the plastic package is shiny or makes a crinkly/crunchy sound when you handle it, add it to the trash also. Before recycling any plastic film item, be sure it is clean and dry. Paper labels, tape, and adhesive strips should be removed, if possible. Simply cut off these items and add the plastic to the recycling bin. For a list of frequently asked questions about plastic film, see <https://trex.com/view/educate#materials1>.

Good News: Chile has banned animal testing for cosmetics, and they are prohibiting the marketing or importation of any cosmetics tested on animals. More Good News: Eight states in the U.S. have put bans on animal testing: California, Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, and Virginia.

Have questions about recycling, or interesting information about recycling? Send questions or requests to grecycle450@gmail.com. Dear Recycle Lady is sponsored jointly by the Greenbrier Recycling Center and Greenworks Recycling.

A Look Back



Photo: Briar Patch (1935).

Sources: Green-Briars, Briar Patch, The West Virginia News, Covington Virginian.

By William "Skip" Deegans

In 1935, Greenbrier Military School (GMS) sported the top rifle team in the United States. Coached by Sgt. C.C. Conyers and led by co-captains Cadet William Preston of Lewisburg and Cadet Olin Jennings of Williamson, West Virginia, the team won the William Randolph Hearst national rifle contest. Hearst, a wealthy owner of a large network of newspapers, inaugurated the William Randolph Hearst Trophy National R.O.T.C. (Reserve Officer Training Corps) rifle matches to promote interest in rifle shooting between R.O.T.C. units in high schools, military schools and colleges in 1922. In 1934, the U.S. War Department took over the matches.

To take national honors in the military schools division, GMS defeated Syracuse's The Manlius School by four points, scoring 961 out of a possible 1,000. Preston and Jennings tied for the national individual marksmanship award

- each scoring 194 out of a possible 200. The cadets brought back to Lewisburg the gold Hearst trophy, and Preston and Jennings received gold watches. In addition, GMS received a letter of commendation from General Douglas MacArthur, Chief of Staff of the War Department. GMS's second team finished higher than any other team. Over a seven-year period, GMS was ranked number one in the nation.

After graduating from GMS, Preston graduated from the United States Military Academy. He had a career in the U. S. Army, served in Korea, and retired as a Colonel.

He died in 1995 and is buried with his wife, Lydia Alderson Preston, in the Stuart family cemetery near Lewisburg.

Jennings became a highly decorated navigator in the U. S. Air Force and was wounded during World War II. He died tragically in 1954 leaving behind a wife and three young children. He is buried in the Arlington National Cemetery.

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is hereby given that R B S, INC., BOX 490, DRAWER S, WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, WV 24986-0000 has submitted an application for Permit Number Q301687 to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 1159 Nick Rahall Greenway, Fayetteville, WV, 25840, in order to conduct quarry operations. The operation is discharging into Greenbrier River and is located near Frankford in Lewisburg District of Greenbrier County, Longitude 80 26 45 and Latitude 37 53 00 (Coordinates from USGS Topographic Map). Surface of the area within 500 feet of the permit area is owned by:

NAME	ADDRESS
RBS, INC	PO Box 490 White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986
Ronald B. Snyder et al.	PO Box 490 White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986
William Sarver III	31141 Midland Trail Lewisburg, WV 24901
Forrest Lilly	5849 Fairview Road Lewisburg, WV 24901
Nellie Bums	751 Azalea Drive Newland, NC 28657
Stone Hill, LLC	171 T Drive Lewisburg, WV 24901
Paul Lilly	4863 Vago Road Frankford, WV 24938

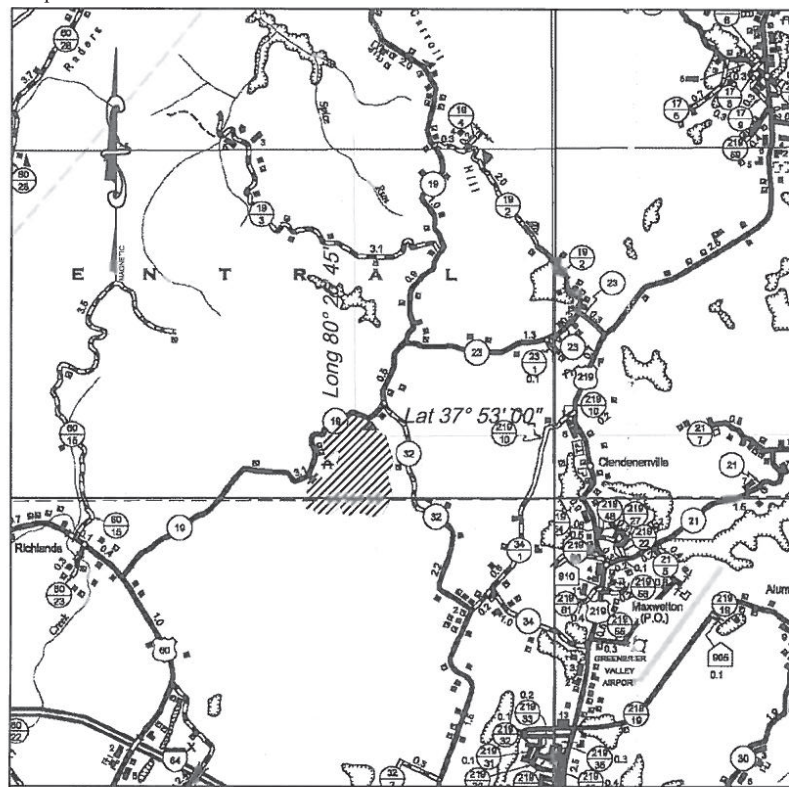
Comments on the application shall be in writing and shall identify the applicant and application number and be sent to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) at the address above. Comments received by March 3, 2024, or thirty (30) days from the date of initial date of publication, will be considered.

A copy of the application will be available until March 3, 2024, or thirty (30) days from initial date of publication in the DEP Regional Office located at the address above and is available at:

<http://apps.dep.wv.gov/WebApp/dep/Search/ePermitting/ePermittingApplicationSearchPage.cfm>.

The above link can be accessed from a computer at all West Virginia public libraries.

DEP Telephone Number: 304-574-4465.



LOCATION MAP
GREYSTONE/BELL FARM QUARRY Q-3016-87

NPDES WV1024604
LEWISBURG DISTRICT GREENBRIER COUNTY
SCALE 1" = 1 MILE

LEGAL

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF GREENBRIER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

In Re: The Matter of,
MARTA LIDIA HERNANDEZ NUNEZ,
Petitioner, Civil Action No. 23-D-219
LUIS EUCEDA UMANA, Judge
Respondent.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

This day the Court considered Paul Saluja, Counsel for Petitioner, Martha Lidia Hernandez Nunez's Motion to Publish Order of Publication for the Hearing.

For reasons set forth in Motion and for good-cause shown, the Court hereby ORDERS that Counsel, Paul Saluja, shall be permitted to submit an Order of Publication to the local newspapers to serve as notice in this matter.

The Clerk is directed to forward copies of this order to counsel of record whose addresses appear below.

Paul Saluja Esq., Saluja Law Offices, PLLC., PO Box 3856, Charleston, WV 25338

ENTERED: January 18, 2024

PREPARED BY:

David M. Sanders
Family Court Judge David M. Sanders

Paul S. Saluja, Esq.
WV Bar No. 6373
SALUJA LAW OFFICES, PLLC.
P.O. Box 3856
Charleston, WV 25338
304.755.1101

LEGAL

(2021-S-00000049 - Greenbrier County - WV CO TAX CERT PURCH 2021 LLC)

To: WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TAX & REVENUE, PATRICIA IZORA, PATRICIA VICKERS BOGGESS, THE ESTATE OF PATRICIA I BOGGESS, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, 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 an interest in the subject property.

DISTRICT BLUE SULPHUR MAP 36M PARCEL 0057 0000

You will take notice that WV CO TAX CERT PURCH 2021 LLC, the purchaser of the tax lien(s) on the following real estate, Certificate of Sale: 2020-S-00000049, .53 AC CONS 3 TRACTS LOT 76-78 RT 12 N. OF ALDERSON, located in BLUE SULPHUR, which was returned delinquent in the name of BOGGESS PATRICIA I ESTATE, and for which the tax lien(s) thereon was sold by the sheriff of Harrison County at the sale for the delinquent taxes made on the 17th day of November, 2021, has requested that you be notified that a deed for such real estate will be made to him or her on or after March 25, 2024, as provided by law, unless before that day you redeem such real estate. The amount you will have to pay on the last day, March 24, 2024, will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to March 24, 2024.	\$ 589.82
Amount of subsequent year's taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to March 24, 2024	\$ 456.23
Amount paid for the Title Examination and preparation of the list to be served and for preparation and service of notice with interest from January 1, 2022, following the sheriff's sale to March 24, 2024.	\$ 1,191.61
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to March 24, 2024.	\$ 317.25
Total Amount Payable to Sheriff - cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable Robert Matheny, Sheriff and Treasurer of Harrison County.	\$ 2,554.91
Cost of Certification of Redemption - cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable John B. McCuskey, State Auditor.	\$ 35.00

You may redeem any time before March 24, 2024, by paying the above total less any unearned interest.

Return this letter and both certified funds to the
WV State Auditor's Office,
County Collection Division
1900 Kanawha Blvd East, Building 1, Room W-114
Charleston, West Virginia 25305.

Questions please call 1-888-509-6568 option 2

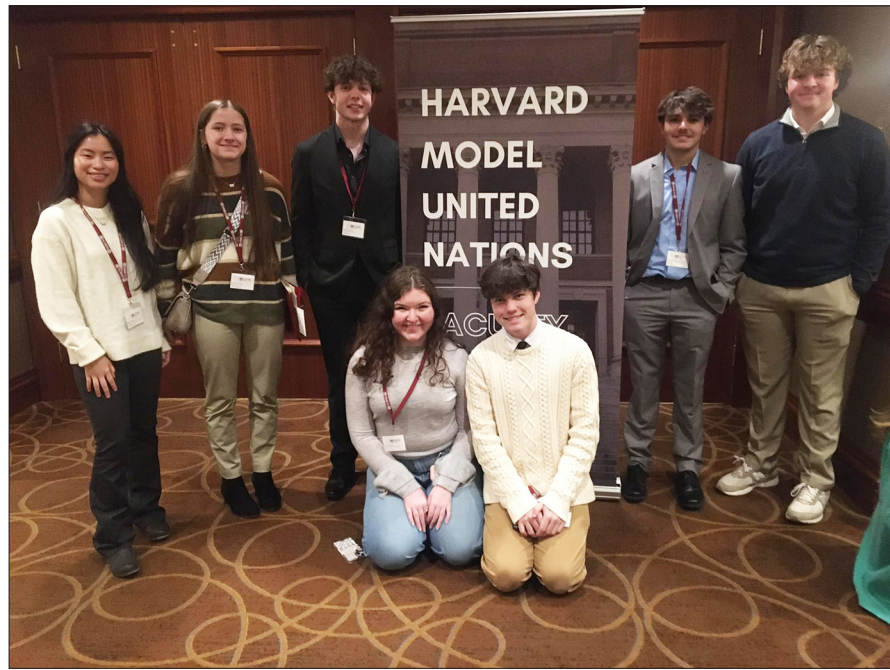
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Maverick Model UN excels at Harvard University



The 2024 Maverick HMUN Team: Hannah Jewell (left), Rileigh Jackson, Shane Arthur, Katherine Viars, Bryceson Whitt, Thomas Sibold, and Gavin French.



Rileigh Jackson (center) caucusing with other delegates to find common ground on child labor.



The Maverick HMUN Team at the USS Constitution: Shane Arthur (left), Thomas Sibold, Gavin French, Katherine Viars, Rileigh Jackson, Hannah Jewell, and Bryceson Whitt.



The Maverick HMUN Team at Harvard University: Dr. Scott Womack (left), Katherine Viars, Bryceson Whitt, Gavin French, Thomas Sibold, Shane Arthur, Rileigh Jackson, and Hannah Jewell.

Seven James Monroe High School (JMHS) Youth Leadership Alliance (YLA) students traveled to Boston, Massachusetts from January 24 through 29 for the Harvard University Model United Nations (HMUN) Conference. In the face of travel-related challenges the Mavericks performed admirably in the 71st anniversary version of the conference, which attracted approximately 4,000 students from around the world. Those completing the requirements to compete were Shane Arthur, Gavin French, Rileigh Jackson, Hannah Jewell, Thomas Sibold,

Katherine Viars, and Bryceson Whitt. In Model UN debate student delegates represent a country assigned to them and work with other delegates to develop solutions to problems as diverse as public health disparities, cybercrime and cyberwarfare, globalization, impact of economic sanctions, genetic modification, weaponization of space, artificial intelligence, child labor, and persecution of ethnic minorities. Assigned the challenging country of Syria, the Mavericks researched its culture and politics and expressed the country's position on the problem assigned to their committees. Next, they sought like-minded allies and began the process of developing and debating solutions to the problem via a draft UN Resolution.

school from West Virginia that has been selected to participate in this conference in recent history, and possibly ever for the annual event that began in 1953. The students joined over 4,000 other high school students from across the United States and overseas, including elite private schools and those that offer Model UN as a course of study rather than a club. Acceptance into this highly competitive debate competition is an acknowledgement of the excellence of our students in the YLA Model United Nations program.

Although Model United Nations is not a class at JMHS as it is in some other high schools, the students gain valuable academic experience in research, critical thinking, logic, written and verbal communication, and empathy by participating in it. The debate competition is not funded by Harvard and would not have been possible without the generosity of the Monroe County Board of Education, which approved funds from the school levy to assist with the trip, and that of the parents who allowed their children to travel and paid for a portion of the trip. Future plans for the Maverick Model UN program include hosting a local conference, participating in a revived YLA Model UN program in Charleston, and a return to Model UN Conferences in Atlanta and Boston next year.

The trip was not without challenges, however, as the Mavericks experienced the usual issues of urban travel such as closed "T" stations, delayed flights, and inclement weather. As in the case of previous conferences, however, the team adapted to the situation with great grace and poise, and successfully overcame the obstacles.

This was the fourth time JMHS has been selected for this prestigious event, having also participated in 2020, 2022, and 2023. JMHS is the only high

If you wish to contribute time, expertise, or funds to this endeavor please contact the Maverick Debate Coach, Dr. Scott Womack, at 304-753-5182, on Facebook Messenger, or via email at swomack@k12.wv.us.

SCRAMBLERS
solution
 1. Prized 2. Sweet;
 3. Simple; 4. Kidnap
Today's Word
SNEEZED

Weekly SUDOKU
 Answer

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

Super Crossword
Answers

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

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THANK YOU FOR READING THE MOUNTAIN MESSENGER

WV Nursery and Landscape Association Winter Symposium February 21 in Charleston

Registration Open for Annual Gathering at Embassy Suites Hotel

The West Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association (WVNLA) is holding its Winter Symposium from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 21 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in downtown Charleston. The two tracks of programming which feature national expert speakers will allow attendees to focus on both landscape design as well as green industry business development best practices.

At the annual WVNLA Members Breakfast before the education courses, five college students studying horticulture and landscape design will be recognized and presented scholarships from its Marcus W. Rennix Memorial Scholarship program.

Landscape business guru and motivational speaker Jeff McManus will provide powerful insights on how to grow great workforce teams. Author of the bestselling *Growing Weeders into Leaders*, McManus will present three topics:

- G.R.O.W. – Exploring Ways to Invest in and Grow Employees and Leaders in Any Organization
- Crew Leaders Aren't Created – They're Cultivated.
- How Creating Your Company Core Values Will Attract and Retain Top Talent.

For the day's final business session, attendees will hear from Brian Branthoover of Halian Landscapes in McHenry, Maryland about how he motivates his employees and encourages green industry careers.

Design speakers will address landscaping for climate change, tropical plants, pruning techniques and West Virginia's own Little Missy boxwood and its introduction into the European market and famed gardens there.



Kim Eirman, founder of EcoBeneficial, will discuss "Taking Landscapes to the Next Level: From Leveraging Ecosystem Services to Changing Cultural Norms." Kim teaches at the New York Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, The Native Plant Center and Massachusetts Horticultural Society. She is the author of *The Pollinator Victory Garden: Win the War on Pollinator Decline with Ecological Gardening*.

Marianne Wilburn, opinion columnist and author of *Tropical Plants and How to Love Them and Big Dreams, Small Garden*, will discuss "Tropical Fusion: Incorporating Tropical Textures in Temperate Gardens." Wilburn is a contributing editor at *GardenRant.com*.

Former WVNLA president and board member Norman Cole is the third-generation owner of Cole Nurseries in Pipestem, WV. During his career, he has nurtured many boxwood cultivars, but the success of his patented *Buxus microphylla* "Little Missy" has exceeded all expectations. Hear about the plant's development and meteoric climb in popularity, despite the worldwide threat of boxwood blight. Cole and his wife, Missy (the cultivar's namesake), have taken the West Virginia native plant to Europe, where Little Missys thrive in Paris, most notably at the Luxembourg Gardens, home of the French Senate.

Audra Egan, a regional project manager for Davey Resource Group in Ohio, will close out the day with a comprehensive program on pruning. Egan is an ISA Arborist, Certified Pesticide Licensed Applicator in Ohio, and OCNT Master Status with the Ohio Green Industry Association each for more than 20 years. She is an active ISA Ohio Chapter member.

Cost to attend is \$50 for WVNLA members and \$100 for non-members and includes lunch. Visit <https://wvnla.org/category/wvnla-events/> to register for this event. Contact Julie Robinson at wvnlasoc@gmail.com or 304-553-1234. Vendors may rent a display table at the event for \$25.

HELP WANTED

Bookkeeper/Receptionist

We are seeking an experienced and detail-oriented Bookkeeper/Receptionist to monitor the finances of our busy, energetic company located in Fairlea, WV. Three plus years of bookkeeping required. Proficient with QuickBooks, Microsoft Office with knowledge of payroll and bookkeeping principles. Must be able to maintain financial records, tax forms, process payroll, pay vendors and make bank deposits. Day to day office duties include answering phone, directing repair reports, and replying to emails. To schedule an interview, please email to garyaide@suddenlinkmail.com or call 304-645-2415.



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LEWISBURG, WV

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Paid internships and college scholarships of up to \$4,000 available for 2024

Interested in being a journalist or working in the media industry?

The West Virginia Press Association Foundation is accepting student applications for 2024 Summer Internships and 2024 Scholarships

If awarded, the WVPF provides paid and unpaid internships at West Virginia newspapers and college scholarships up to \$4,000. Programs are open to journalism majors and students in related fields such as business management, human resources, advertising, social media and marketing, with preference given to students in at least their sophomore year of college.

Application deadline is Feb. 16, 2024.

Applications available on wvpress.org

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

Newspapers with a candidate for an internship or interested in having an intern should contact Betsy Miles.

Greenbrier East High School Wrestler of the Week

Name: Keshawn Bland
 Grade: 9th Grade
 G.P.A.: 4.0
 Current Record: 25-11 (18 Pins)
 Parents: Joe Bland and Aurianna Taylor
 Hometown: White Sulphur Springs



Favorite Wrestler: Jordan Burroughs (Olympic Champion/World Champion/11 x World/Olympic Team Member)

Favorite Quote: "To be the man, you got to beat the man!"

Began Wrestling: 8th Grade
 Past Accomplishments: Bronze Medalist at the Coalfield Conference

Why he Wrestles: "It's fun!"

Coach's Comments: "Keshawn has been on a tear since getting back in the line-up. He was a big reason we qualified for the State Dual Team Championships. Furthermore, he has been undefeated since the start of the new year. The coaches are excited for big things from Keshawn this year and

throughout his high school career. He is a great athlete and a great student, a proven formula for success!"

Miluk Humor: (I'm getting old!) "I'm at a time in my life where errands are starting to count as going out!" Ha!



Curvaceous Juggernauts by Andrea Burnaise

Andrea Burnaise featured in Carnegie Hall's Old Stone Room Gallery

Carnegie Hall's January/February Exhibits continue with three galleries featuring the works of regional artists. The Old Stone Room Gallery (located on the ground floor) showcases the work of Andrea Burnaise with her exhibit "Color That Sings."

A veteran journalist, author, poet and photographer, Andrea Burnaise earned a B.A. in Mass Communications from the University of South Florida. She retired from Outreach and International Affairs at Virginia Tech as director of communications in 2020 and took up soft pastels. Now she is a juried artist at Tamarack, West Virginia's premier cultural and arts exhibition center.

She studied with online instructors and pastel artists Alain Picard (Painterly Landscape Course), Marla Baggetta (Trees in Pastel Workshop and Abstract in Pastel), and impressionist Susan Jenkins of Café Monet. Her work has been exhibited widely in southwest Virginia and southern West Virginia.

Bluefield University in Virginia hosted a solo exhibition of her work in late 2022, and her work was shown in a solo exhibition at the Paine Gallery in Bluefield, WV in spring 2023, sponsored by the Bluefield Arts Revitalization Corporation. In 2022 her painting "Curvaceous Juggernauts" won Bronze in Scottsdale-based Camelback Gallery's international still life competition and "Alone Yet One With Everything" was awarded Silver in the Shades of Purple competition. In 2023 the painting "Where the Waterfall Ends" took Best of Show in the annual exhibit of the Appalachian Artist Association.

Two other paintings - "Alone Yet One with Everything" and "In My

World" - won honors in the same exhibit. Also in 2023, the painting "Turning Point" took Best of Show voted by Glade Church, host of the annual theme show of the Blacksburg Regional Art Association. She is a member of the Appalachian Artist Association and the Blacksburg Regional Art Association.

A resident of the Mountain State, she lives in Bluefield and spends as much time as possible meditating on West Virginia's rivers, waterfalls, mountains, bluffs, and wild skies.

The exhibits are free and open to the public, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and run through the end of February. For more information, please visit carnegiehallwv.org, call 304-645-7917, or stop by the Hall at 611 Church Street, Lewisburg.

Carnegie Hall programs are presented with financial assistance through a grant from the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History and the National Endowment for the Arts, with approval from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts.

South Eastern Beekeepers Association
 Offering A Six Week Beginner Beekeeping Course
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 Rick Forren 304-539-1303

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- Top Tax Deduction.

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#Checkout this month's **HASHTAG** WEST VIRGINIA



VALENTINE'S

• DAY •

Say 'I love you' with Valentine's Day gifts

February 14th, better known as Valentine's Day, provides a beacon of light in the middle of winter. Each February, stores and homes are decked out in red and pink hearts, and florists wait in the wings to prepare sweet-smelling bouquets for the bevy of buyers eager to bring bountiful blooms into their living spaces.

Gift-giving is an integral component of Valentine's Day. That means the search may be on to find items that will give voice to feelings of love and affection in tangible ways. These gifts are perfect for anyone on your list.

· Fragrance: Although purchasing fragrances can be tricky, if your special someone provides hints of a scent or brand they prefer, it can make buying perfume or cologne easier. However, there's also the option of going with trends. Market experts believe vanilla is set to be a stand-out aroma in 2024, and aromatherapy and feel-good fragrances are trending this year.

· Cozy clothes: Snuggling together in front of the fire may be an appealing prospect for lovebirds. Cozy gifts can include matching loungewear or pajama sets, or ultra-soft sweatpants and hoodies for chasing away the chill.

· Personalized prints: Companies offer custom song lyric posters or



framed artwork so that a special song, whether it was heard during a first date or danced to during a couple's wedding, can be memorialized. Other personalized prints can include images of the sky on a key date to commemorate a special moment in time.

· Jewelry offerings: Jewelry is a go-to Valentine's Day gift. Vogue says that there's a strong likelihood that boho jewelry trends are making a comeback this year. Pendants, beads and multi-strand necklaces are sure to be a must-have look.

· Travel treats: Couples who love to travel can gift travel-related

items to their special someone. A high-end brand of luggage, tickets to a cruise or another destination, or an excursion upgrade on a planned getaway may fit the bill.

· Gourmet eats: Foodies often find enjoyment sampling the fare at top-notch restaurants. While Valentine's Day tends to be quite busy at most restaurants, a gift of a night out for dinner at another time may be the way to tug on the heartstrings while nurturing the palate.

Valentine's Day is here before people know it, so it is key to have gift ideas at the ready.



Wine and dessert pairings

Love is in the air come February, when plenty of sweethearts enjoy romantic evenings together. When the Valentine's Day meal is through, it is prime time for something sweet. Often individuals feel they have to put away the wine from dinner and switch over to coffee or tea at this point in the meal. However, with a little knowledge of how to pair wine with dessert, Valentine's revelers can continue the celebration through this final course.

According to Wine Folly, when pairing wine with dessert or other foods, the secret is to think of wine as an ingredient that will add a new flavor profile. Generally speaking, when it comes to choosing the best wines for desserts, a sweet wine is preferable as the sweetness in the wine will match the sugar in the dessert, suggests the wine resource Vin Yang. Here are some additional pairing pointers.

· A darker dessert usually requires a darker wine, as the wine should have a similar intensity to the dessert.

· The wine should be sweeter than the food in most cases.

· The flavors in the wine should match the flavors in the food.

· Chocolate and caramel are best paired with a sweet or fruity red wine, as dry wines may taste too bitter

against chocolate due to the tannins found in both the wine and chocolate. Port, Sherry, Marsala, and Zinfandel are good options.

· Mild, buttery or sweet vanilla desserts work best with white wines, including sparkling wines. Muscat, off-dry Rieslings, and Prosecco are some ideas.

· Keep in mind that very sweet desserts or those

with fruits, like cobblers or shortcakes, may benefit from a burst of acidity. A drier Riesling may work or a Vouvray Brut.

Those who may be unsure of how to pair their desserts with wine can always speak with a wine retailer or a trusted restaurant sommelier for suggestions on wines for an extra-special Valentine's Day.

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