



**Therapy dog  
at LES**  
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**\$1.00**

# Mountain messenger

March 3, 2024

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

## Greenbrier Sporting Club case reassigned over personal connection to judge, hearing date set

By Stephen Baldwin  
RealWV, www.therealwv.com

The case involving the potential sale of the Greenbrier Sporting Club by Carter Bank & Trust to recoup some \$300 million in debt owed by Justice Companies took another turn this week.

Originally assigned to Circuit Court Judge Jennifer Dent, the case was reassigned to Circuit Court Judge Robert Richardson. According to an order on file with the Circuit Clerk, Judge Dent's office sought the reassignment as her husband is employed at the Sporting Club.

The order states, "The spouse of the Honorable Jennifer P. Dent is employed... to oversee assignment of caddies on the golf courses of The Greenbrier Resort and The Greenbrier Sporting Club. Given the employment of the Judge's spouse, and pursuant to Rule 1.2 of the West Virginia Code of Judicial Conduct which requires judges avoid the appearance of impropriety, it is hereby ORDERED and ADJUDGED that this matter be reassigned to The Honorable Robert E. Richardson, Chief Circuit

See "Case Reassigned" \_\_\_\_\_ Page 3

## This Week in the House of Delegates

For the week ending Feb. 23, 2024

Members of the West Virginia House of Delegates are continuing to move bills through committees and votes on the House floor as legislative deadlines loom.

House Bill 5540, also known as "Laken's Law," passed the full House by a unanimous vote Feb. 20. The measure would require annual education about the health dangers of substance abuse, available resources to reduce youth substance use, the specific dangers of fentanyl, heroin and opioids as well as the use of opioid reversal drugs.

The bill's lead sponsor, Delegate Jeff Stephens, R-Marshall, is a public school teacher who said he sees the effects of opioids and other drugs every day.

"Being proactive instead of reactive in battling this drug epidemic is how we can help turn the tide," Stephens said. "This crisis did not overtake our communities overnight. It's going to take more than just targeting dollars and doctors to change the culture these opioids created."

The bill is already moving through the Senate and on track for a vote early next week.

Members voted unanimously Friday to double the criminal penalty for anyone found guilty of sexual assault on a minor. The measure, House Bill 5235, also would clarify that failure to report sexual assault, sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of a child is a felony. It now goes to the Senate for consideration.

The House Finance Committee has advanced several bills that would put more money in West Virginians' pockets. House Bill 4883 would increase the annual salaries for West Virginia State

See "House of Delegates" \_\_\_\_\_ Page 3

## Lion days coming to Alderson this March



**Sculpture by Michael Loop in memory of the Alderson lion, French.**

(Photo by e-WV, The West Virginia Encyclopedia)

The Town of Alderson and Alderson Main Street have announced a new celebration: Lion Days, running from Mar. 18 through Mar. 30 in honor of French, the Alderson lion, and the month of March, the month that comes in like a lion. Visit Alderson and see how businesses and residents decorate in French's honor, add-

ing to the lion theme of statues and sculptures scattered throughout the town.

Lion Days will begin on Mar. 18 and culminate on Saturday, Mar. 30, with a gathering at the Alderson Train Depot at 2 p.m. where the lion's story will be told and the lion paintings created by the young artists will be displayed for all to see.

During spring break on Tuesday, Mar. 26, school-aged children will be invited to come to Johnson Memorial United Methodist Church in Alderson to paint mural-sized lion paintings. Each child will be able to create their own painting. Parents whose children would like to participate in this free art activity may contact Cheryl Mansley at cherylmansley@gmail.com or 304-702-0554 to sign their children up and get more information.

Also, everyone is invited to share a photo of their pet dressed up as a lion. Just post it as a comment on Alderson Main Street's Facebook page under the Pet Costume post. A winner will be announced on Mar. 30.

For more information visit Alderson Main Street on Facebook.

## County Commission approves payment for broadband project, green lights Andrew Lewis Park restoration

By Matthew Young  
RealWV  
www.therealwv.com

The Greenbrier County Commission, on Tuesday, approved a payment request in the amount of \$290,500 to Thompson & Litton, for "planning and technical services" associated with the Greenbrier County GigReady Broadband project.

As explained by Commission President Tammy Tincher, "This is for engineering, pole permits, easements, and encroachment acquisitions."

"The considerable amount is [for] a percentage of the engineering for the project, which is moving along very well," Tincher added.

Upon its completion, the GigReady Broadband project is expected to provide broadband access throughout the entirety of Greenbrier County.

The next item on the commission's agenda was consideration of a \$1,531.25 payment to Greenbrier County Public Service District (PSD) #2, for legal services associated with the county's western-end water line extension project.

"As with the broadband project, it (water line extension project) is moving forward very well," Tincher said. "We've gotten engineering completed, we've just received funding approval for a request that was put in for \$3.5 million from the Drinking Water Authority, and we will begin getting everything permitted and the project moving forward here in the coming months."

Prior to approving the payment, Commissioner Lowell Rose noted that, "I've heard a few rumors going



Andrew Lewis Park Spring House

around, and I want to let everybody know that the project is still alive."

"They're (PSD #2) still taking sign ups if anybody lives from the top of Muddy Creek Mountain, out to Asbury, and back to the interstate at Sam Black," Rose added, "As well as Charmco to Rainelle. If you haven't signed up and you do want to sign up, you can go to the PSD #2 in Rainelle and still do that."

PSD #2 is located at 405 S. Sewell Street in Rainelle. They can be reached at 304-438-8943.

The final item before the commission was a proposal from the Greenbrier County Historical Society for the restoration of the Andrew Lewis Park and the Lewis Spring House, both of which are located in downtown Lewisburg.

See "Spring House" \_\_\_\_\_ Page 3

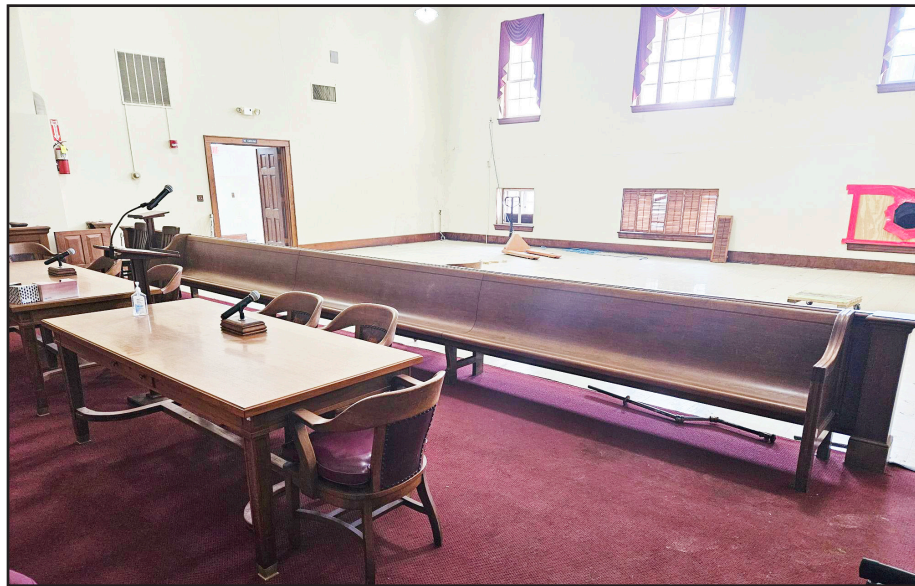
## Greenbrier County Circuit Court jury trials postponed due to courthouse renovation

Renovation work at the Greenbrier County Courthouse is now reaching a point that both of its courtrooms will be unavailable for use, necessitating the postponement of scheduled jury trials. To address the situation, Chief Judge Robert E. Richardson has entered an administrative order, staying all civil and criminal jury trials before the Circuit Court of Greenbrier County for the next several months.

"This situation is somewhat similar to what we faced in the spring of 2020, when the Supreme Court of Appeals declared a judicial emergency statewide due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and we were forced to adapt to the circumstances," explained Judge Richardson. "We simply do not have a suitable place where it is now safe to assemble jurors for a trial, due to ongoing construction."

According to Judge Richardson, all other circuit court operations will continue during this period, using either remote technology or locations outside of the historic courthouse building.

See "Courthouse Renovation" \_\_\_\_\_ Page 2



The main courtroom, located on the second floor of the Greenbrier County Courthouse, is currently undergoing renovations.

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# Visitation increases in 2023 for all three national park sites in southern WV

Visitation increased across the board at all three national park sites in southern West Virginia in 2023. At New River Gorge National Park and Preserve, 1,709,623 visitors entered the park reflecting an increase of 7.12% over 2022 at 1,595,923. This was the highest year on record for the park since its establishment in 1978. The park also had the highest months on record for April, May, June, August, and September.

Gauley River National Recreation Area increased 14.5% with 187,223 visitors in 2023 and 163,510 in 2022. Bluestone National Scenic River increased 53% from 14,113 visitors in 2022 to 21,592 visitors in 2023. The significant jump was due, in part, to the addition of new trail counters at the Bluestone State Park and Lilly entrances to the park.



View from Grandview area of New River Gorge National Park and Preserve

Visitation at all three park sites has increased significantly since the re-designation of New River Gorge National Park and Preserve from national river to national park and preserve. In 2019, visitation at all three park sites totaled 1,352,666 while 2023 visitation totals 1,918,438 reflecting a 41.8% increase.

“While our annual increase has slowed since the initial 30% jump in the year immediately following the re-designation,” said Deputy Superintendent Eric Laprice, “the fact that it continues to rise speaks to the value of these three national park sites to the national and international communities who have discovered us.”

Nationwide, national parks received a total of 325.5 million visits in 2023, an increase of 13 million or 4% over 2022.

“While our annual increase has slowed since the initial 30% jump in the year immediately following the re-designation,” said Deputy Superintendent Eric Laprice, “the fact that it continues to rise speaks to the value of these three national park sites to the national and international communities who have discovered us.”

## Lewisburg Elementary School to get therapy dog

Gov. Justice and First Lady Cathy Justice have announced the next six therapy dogs to be placed in Communities In Schools sites across West Virginia as part of the First Lady’s Friends With Paws initiative.

Adding these six dogs to Friends With Paws will bring the total number of therapy dogs placed in West Virginia through the program to 25. One of the six new therapy dogs is Pixie, a female Labradoodle who will be coming to Lewisburg Elementary School in mid-March.

“These therapy dogs will bring friendship, love, and support to their schools,” First Lady Justice said. “It’s incredible what benefits these dogs bring, not just for the students but for the whole faculty. I look forward to welcoming each one and seeing the amazing work that they do



Pixie

for our students.”

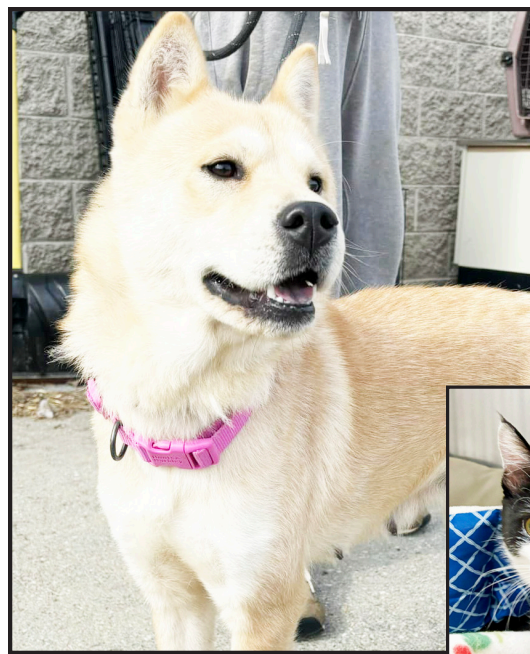
First announced in March 2022, the Friends With Paws program places certified therapy dogs in various CIS schools across the state, providing companionship and comfort for students in need of a boost.

“Having witnessed the incredible impact of the Friends With Paws initiative throughout our state, I’m thrilled to announce its continued growth,” Gov. Justice said. “This

initiative is more than just a program; it’s become a reason for our students to look forward to coming to school. These dogs are the true heroes and joy-bringers in our schools. These new additions will absolutely enhance the lives of the schools they become a part of.”

Therapy dogs are placed in schools within CIS counties where students are disproportionately affected by poverty, substance misuse, or other at-risk situations, and are in greatest need of a support animal. The dogs serve as a healthy and friendly outlet for these students to address trauma and other social-emotional issues. Friends With Paws dogs have also helped increase school attendance, as well as helping students to practice their reading skills with only the therapy dog and teacher present.

## PICK OF THE LITTER



JASMINE

Jasmine is a seven-month-old female domestic shorthair



CODA

Coda is a two-year-old female Chow mix and weighs 38 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!**

## New funding window to open in March for USDA Broadband Program

*Program webinar will take place on March 6 for interested applicants*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development is inviting loan and grant applications from organizations to provide funds for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service in eligible rural areas in West Virginia.

Rural Development will begin accepting applications on Mar. 22, for its fifth round of funding for the ReConnect Program to connect millions of people in rural America to affordable high-speed internet.

To continue connecting rural families, business owners and agricultural producers to reliable, affordable high-speed internet, Rural Development is making several program improvements under Round 5. This will further increase the availability of funding in rural areas where residents and businesses lack access to affordable, high-speed internet.

Rural Development’s Rural Utilities Service will hold a webinar on Mar. 6 at 1 p.m. to provide information about the ReConnect Program, cover the recently published Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), and answer any questions. Register for the free webinar here: [tinyurl.com/ReConnectRd5](https://tinyurl.com/ReConnectRd5).

For a full list of program improvements, and program and application requirements, visit [www.usda.gov/reconnect](https://www.usda.gov/reconnect) or see page 13036 of the Feb. 21, 2024, Federal Register.

## Courthouse Renovation

Continued from Front Page

“As a response to COVID-19, we have developed the capacity to conduct many hearings by video-conference, and we’ll use that capability in cases where it’s appropriate. For situations where in-person hearings are more appropriate, the County Commission has graciously made available to the circuit court its meeting room in the newly constructed annex, for use as a temporary courtroom. We’ll also be using space in the magistrate court facilities on Green Lane in Lewisburg, for both office and courtroom purposes.”

One of the courtrooms at the courthouse has been offline for renovation since last fall, but the circuit court has continued operations in the main courtroom, located on the second floor, despite the ongoing construction

work. Now, the need for work in the courtroom itself and in areas immediate adjacent to it require the temporary relocation of court staff and operations.

“We appreciate the efforts of County Commissioners Tammy Tincer, Lowell Rose, and Blaine Phillips to minimize the disruption to court operations throughout this project, and to make their meeting room available for our use on a temporary basis,” Judge Richardson said. He also thanked Richard Wood, the project consultant hired by the County Commission last fall, whom he said was instrumental in responding to the lack of adequate heat after the building’s furnace was disconnected in early October and in trying to limit construction noise while court was

in session.

“Magistrates Kim Johnson, Tim Stover, and Kirby Hanson have also been very generous in making their limited space available for circuit court staff and operations,” he added. “This project has presented challenges to all of us involved in the court system, and I am grateful for how everyone has responded to those challenges, with patience and understanding.”

When the renovation is completed, all court operations - including those of the circuit court, magistrate court, and family court - will be located entirely in the courthouse building. The Greenbrier County Courthouse was constructed in 1837, with wings added in 1937, 1963, and the mid-1980s. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

# 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](https://wvlegislature.gov)



# Briefly

## Williamsburg Shooting Match

Join us for the Williamsburg Shooting Match that will be held Mar. 2. The Shooting Match will begin at 7 p.m. Come early! Come Hungry! 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! The 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 @ \$.75 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! The match will be held at the Community Building, 6571 Shoestring, Trail, Williamsburg. 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 at 304-645-3690.

## Jeopardy/Trivia Night

### set at Ronceverte Public Library

On Friday, Mar. 8, at 6 p.m., the Ronceverte Public Library will host their first Jeopardy/Trivia Night in the Hollowell Room of the library. Individuals or teams are encouraged to come and show your skills and knowledge. For more information, please call 304-647-7400.

## Williamsburg Flying Falcons

### 4-H Club Soup Fundraiser

Come share with the Flying Falcons 4-H a variety of soups and sandwich lunch. There will be homemade soups including chili, white chicken chili, chicken noodle, vegetable, potato, and broccoli cheese, along with peanut butter or grilled cheese sandwiches and many homemade desserts. This event will be held on Sunday, Mar. 10, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Williamsburg Community Building. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. Dine-in and takeout options are available. The proceeds will help send club members to camp and on their annual club trip. Call 304-645-6867 with any questions.

## Spring Craft and Vendor Show

The American Heritage Music Hall presents their third annual Spring Craft and Vendor Show at the State Fair of West Virginia Cecil H. Underwood Youth Center. The show runs Friday, Mar. 15, from 12 noon to 7 p.m., and Saturday, Mar. 16, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be over 40 vendors and crafters, pictures with the Easter bunny, Easter eggs for children, and a concession stand. The Easter bunny will be there on Friday from 5 to 7 p.m., and Saturday from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

## Prescribed burn planned for Sandstone Visitor Center

New River Gorge National Park and Preserve Fire Managers plan to burn approximately five acres sometime between Feb. 19 and Mar. 31, at the Sandstone Visitor Center near Hinton. Wind speed and direction, humidity, and other factors will be considered to determine the exact date of the burn. The prescribed burn area is located just north of I-64, and Route 20 interchange (Exit 139). The burn is expected to take several hours to complete. The Sandstone Visitor Center and parking lot will be closed during the burn but will reopen after completion and safety clearance.

The purpose of this prescribed burn is to maintain native grassland habitat that provides food and nesting space for birds as well as other grassland wildlife and to discourage the spread of invasive species.

A prescribed burn is a planned fire. This planned fire has a set of parameters that define the desired weather and fuel conditions under which a prescribed burn can be initiated. Before implementing this burn, the fire manager will evaluate current conditions and will only begin ignition if the prescribed conditions are within those parameters.

Travelers on Summers County Rt. 7, Meadow Creek Road, may experience temporary delays during firing operations. Smoke will be visible for a short duration. For more information, please contact New River Gorge National Park and Preserve Fire Management staff at 304-465-6529.

## Case Reassigned Continued from Front Page

Judge, for further proceedings herein."

Consequently, the first hearing date was established by Judge Richardson for Apr. 12 at 9 a.m. Lawyers for the Justice Companies are seeking a temporary injunction to stop the sale of the Sporting Club and its "shared properties" which include the golf course, lodges, and restaurants.

As previously reported, Carter contends those assets were pledged as collateral when Justice Companies secured loans. Justice's filings do not appear to dispute that, but members of the Sporting Club argue that as equity owners they alone hold the rights to the "shared properties," not Justice Companies. Carter originally filed notice of a sale for early March, but that date has been delayed due to a flurry of legal maneuvers occurring since.

Justice Companies contend in their previous filing that, "The effect would not be limited to the Sporting Club. The Greenbrier itself would be seriously damaged...Local jobs will be lost. And the foundation of Greenbrier County's economy will suffer damage that will be difficult or impossible to repair."

They are seeking a jury trial in Greenbrier County. But as the reassignment of the judge shows, many residents in the small community have direct ties to the resort or club.

Stay tuned to RealWV for further updates.

## 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.

### Ronceverte Finance Committee

will meet Monday, Mar. 4, at 5 p.m. in Council Chambers. On the agenda:

- Approval of Minutes
- Budget Revision
  - Revision #2 FY 2023-2024
- Budget
  - Working session FY 2024-2025
  - Review Department Requests
  - Review Fire Department Request
- Other Business

### Ronceverte City Council

will meet Monday, Mar. 4, at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers. On the agenda:

- Approval of Minutes - Feb. 5, 2024
- Citizens' and other comments
- Water-related business
  - Water Upgrade Phase 4 Resolution #3 approval of invoice #1221007 from CSX Council approval of Environmental Report CSX 1011162 Facility Encroachment Agreement
- Stormwater Business
  - Update on project
  - Correspondence
- Budget
  - Budget Review 2023-2024 #2
  - Budget 2024-2025
- New Business
  - Vacant position on Parks & Recreation Committee
  - Vacant position on Planning/Zoning Committee
  - Recommendation from other committees
- Reports
  - Street Dept.
  - Wastewater Dept.
  - Water Dept.
  - Police Dept.
  - Fire Dept.
- Council members' comments
- Administrator's comments

## Marriages

Mackenzie Grace Copenhaver to Caleb Austin

Hundley

Shannon Watkins Ackerman to Chad Thomas Braley

Emily Renee Collins to David Wayne Hall, Jr.

Jaclyn Michelle Rhodes to Chada Austin Ruble

Anne Desterre Fisher II to Mark Stephen Starr

Raven Danielle Morton to Travis Erbey Duran

## Spring House

Continued from Front Page

On-hand to discuss the proposal was Al Emch, president of the Historical Society.

According to Emch, the Lewis Spring is "lonely" and "alone."

"We want to change that," Emch said. "The Lewis Spring, in our estimation, is the crown jewel of Lewisburg. It's the crown jewel in the State of West Virginia. It really is a crown jewel in the founding history of this nation."

The spring, Emch explained, was discovered by the Lewis family in 1751.

"Andrew Lewis is a big deal, and most people don't know that," Emch said. "The spring is a big deal, and most people don't know that. We want to change that too."

Through a partnership between the Greenbrier County Commission and the Greenbrier County Historical Society, the Andrew Lewis Park was created in 1974, which, according to Emch, "Saved the spring."

"We want you to join with us to save it again in 2024," Emch said.

In January, Emch explained, the Historical Society became aware of a grant opportunity available through the National Parks Service. If approved, the grant could potentially fund the restoration project up to \$750,000.

"The Greenbrier Historical Society cannot do this without the help and the consent of the owner of the land and the structure, and that of course is [...] the County Commission," Emch said. "So I'm here to ask you to please join with us in this effort."

To apply for the funding, as Emch stated, the commission's consent is required.

"As the owner, we ask your consent," Emch said. "We're not asking for money - right now. You can expect to see us, if you approve this, when the Arts and Recreation grants process begins for this year, we will probably ask for money to fund the Historic Structures Report that we'll want to do first (before beginning the restoration project)."

"That would be a relatively small amount of money," Emch added. "\$20,000 or so. [...] Just warning you. No commitments are necessary at this point."

A concern raised by Tinchler was in regards to parking.

"As all of you know, we're maxed out on any type of parking in our town," Tinchler said, adding that any designs would need to be conscious of that restriction.

Commissioners showed preliminary support for the project by granting their consent for the grant application to be submitted.

The next Regular Meeting of the Greenbrier County Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, Mar. 12, at 10 a.m.

## For the Record

### Deeds

Hazel M. Massie to Mark E. Massie and Matthew R. Massie: 10.47 acres, Irish Corner District, Map 25 Parcel 0016-0003. Filed Feb. 21, 2024.

Bluegrass Market Inc. to WEI Holdings LLC: 21.53 acres right of way, 0.49 acres, Lewisburg District, Map 27, 27 Parcel 27, 26.1. Filed Feb. 22, 2024.

Northridge Properties to Harvia US Inc.: 21.506 acres, Lewisburg District, Map 2 Parcel 1.1. Filed Feb. 22, 2024.

Charles R. Higginbotham and Heather Higginbotham to Chet A. Harless and Rebecca J. Harless: 3.281 acres, Frankford District, Map 8 Parcel 0019. Filed Feb. 23, 2024.

Daniel B. Niccum to D&A Realty Holdings LLC: 30 acres & 179.5 acres, White Sulphur District, Map 23 Parcel 21, 20. Filed Feb. 23, 2024.

Dexter McCoy to Dexter McCoy and Patsy McCoy: 5.5 acres more or less, Williamsburg District, Map 34 Parcel 52.2. Filed Feb. 26, 2024.

Rickie W. Good to Patricia A. Good: 200 acres, 200 acres, 2.01 acres, lots 2, 4, & 5, Frankford District, Map 15 Parcel 153, 155, 156. Filed Feb. 26, 2024.

Verlon W. Hamrick and Carolyn A. Hamrick to Michael W. Hamrick and Sara A. Hamrick: 5.70 acres, Frankford District, Map 19 Parcel 27. Filed Feb. 26, 2024.

Bernard W. Messer to Bernard W. Messer and Kristy Messer: lot 8 section 5, part of lot 7 section 5, Lewisburg District, Map 24 Parcel 242. Filed Feb. 26, 2024.

Bernard W. Messer and Messer Family Trust to Bernard W. Messer and Kristy Messer: 3.54 acres, Lewisburg District, Map 25 Parcel 27. Filed Feb. 26, 2024.

Kenneth G. Johnson and Juanita J. Johnson to Kee D. Johnson, Kimberly D. Crookshanks, and Elissa J. McGuire: 2 tracts, Lewisburg District, Map 23F Parcel 0010, 0012. Filed Feb. 26, 2024.

Jerry D. Roberts and Bernaleiz G. Roberts to Elizabeth R. Bree Revocable Trust: 0.42 acres, Falling Spring District, Map 2 Parcel 0090. Filed Feb. 26, 2024.

Jerry D. Roberts to Elizabeth R. Bree Revocable Trust: 0.427 acres, Falling Spring District, Map 2 Parcel 0056, 0043. Filed Feb. 26, 2024.

FT Zellers LLC to Sturts Properties LLC: 139.5 acres, Bennett Mountain, Blue Sulphur District, Map 15 Parcel 0011.0000. Filed Feb. 26, 2024.

Arica Anderson and Crystal Holliday to Harold Anderson and Marvin R. Anderson: 2 tracts, Ronceverte District, Map 10 Parcel 0075. Filed Feb. 26, 2024.

Arica Anderson and Crystal Holliday to Harold Anderson and Marvin R. Anderson: 0.23 acres, Ronceverte District, Map 10 Parcel 0324. Filed Feb. 26, 2024.

Arica Anderson and Crystal Holliday to Harold Anderson and Marvin R. Anderson: lots 15 & 16, Ronceverte District, Map 9 Parcel 208. Filed Feb. 26, 2024.

Stephen D. Spencer, Robin Obst, Gabriel R. Vidrios, and Spirit A. Olivier-Stoner-Holk to Angela Boone: lot 39, Quinwood Heights, Quinwood District, Map 4 Parcel 0111. Filed Feb. 26, 2024.

Brian S. Dolin and Zachary C. Dolin to Max Massey and Joan Poole: ½ tract, 86 acres, Anthony Creek District, Map 23 Parcel 0008. Filed Feb. 26, 2024.

Max Massey and Joan Poole to Brian S. Dolin and Zachary C. Dolin: half of 86 acres, Anthony Creek District, Map 23 Parcel 0008. Filed Feb. 26, 2024.

John B. McCuskey State Auditor (by appointee G. Russell Rollyson Jr.) to WV Co. Tax Cert Purchase 2021 LLC: 261 acres & 58 poles, minerals only, Blue Sulphur District, Map 9999 Parcel 0000-0002. Filed Feb. 27, 2024.

John B. McCuskey State Auditor (by appointee G. Russell Rollyson Jr.) to WV Co. Tax Cert Purchase 2021 LLC: 0.12 acres, Irish Corner District, Map 4 Parcel 0030. Filed Feb. 27, 2024.

John B. McCuskey State Auditor (by appointee G. Russell Rollyson Jr.) to WV Co. Tax Cert Purchase 2021 LLC: 0.75 acres, Irish Corner District, Map 7 Parcel 0011. Filed Feb. 27, 2024.

John B. McCuskey State Auditor (by appointee G. Russell Rollyson Jr.) to WV Co. Tax Cert Purchase 2021 LLC: 0.56 acres and two tracts, Lewisburg District, Map 13 Parcel 0038. Filed Feb. 27, 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*

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**Mountain Messenger**

• CORRECTIONS: We want to correct errors we have published. Please contact us to request corrections.

# Beckley to become Nation's first Inclusive Recovery City

The City of Beckley will soon become the first Inclusive Recovery City (IRC) in the United States.

On Mar. 19, city, state, national and international leaders in recovery support will come together to sign a charter declaring Beckley as an IRC - the first in the nation, joining 26 other cities across Europe, the Balkans, South Africa, New Zealand, and Australia as IRCs.

The community is invited to attend the public remarks and the signing of the IRC charter, although all guests must register to gain entrance at the West Virginia University of Technology auditorium, 410 Neville Street in Beckley. Refreshments will be available at 9 a.m. and lunch will be catered by the Fruits of Labor Pizzeria & Café across the street. The program will get under way at 9:30 a.m., and the charter signing will take place at approximately 10 a.m.

A recovery city is a community that promotes visible recovery, addresses stigmatizing and discriminatory attitudes, and champions multiple pathways to addiction recovery. The underlying concept is that by embracing these principles, the entire city can experience growth and collective benefits through the generation of new networks, linkages and community resources.

Jay Phillips, Executive Director of Seed Sower, Inc., is leading this initiative with a number of local community and government entities. Mar. 19 events will

## House of Delegates Cont. from Front Page

Police personnel, teachers and school service personnel by \$2,900, \$2,460 and \$140, respectively. House Bill 4734 would adjust the salaries of all non-uniformed, full-time Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation staff. That would be in addition to the pay raise in the governor's proposed budget.

Another unanimous vote this week would continue bringing down West Virginians' taxes. House Bill 4880 passed the House Thursday. It would eliminate the state income tax on Social Security benefits through a three-year phase-out. Under this proposal, like the one enacted in 2019, all the taxable Social Security benefits received in 2026 and beyond would be exempt from tax.

"This would provide an immediate tax reduction of 35 percent, then 65 percent the next year until the elimination in the third year and phasing it in is a softer way to be sure the budget remains stable, and the state can maintain its obligations," said House Majority Leader Eric Householder, R-Berkeley. "West Virginia has 50,000 retirees and any time we can give tax relief to our citizens it's a great day for West Virginia."

A total of 168 House bills have passed the full House and 36 bills have completed the legislative process. The session ends at midnight Saturday, Mar. 9.

## This Week in West Virginia History

The following events happened on these dates in West Virginia history. To read more, go to e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia at [www.wvencyclopedia.org](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org).

**March 3, 1843:** Barbour County was created from parts of Lewis, Harrison and Randolph counties and named for the distinguished Virginia jurist Philip Pendleton Barbour.

**March 3, 1890:** Teacher and civic activist Memphis Tennessee Garrison was born in Virginia. She helped develop NAACP chapters in southern West Virginia and created the Christmas Seal Project.

**March 4, 1849:** Earl Williams Oglebay was born in Bridgeport, Ohio. He became one of Wheeling's most successful industrialists and generous benefactors.

**March 4, 1893:** Governor William MacCorkle gave his inaugural address in which he warned that West Virginia was "passing under the control of foreign and non-resident landowners."

**March 4, 1924:** Blues musician Nathaniel H. "Nat" Reese was born in Salem, Virginia. Growing up in Princeton, Reese learned and played blues, jazz, country and dance music throughout the southern coalfields. He is a member of the West Virginia Music Hall of Fame.

**March 5, 1856:** Calhoun County was created from neighboring Gilmer County and named for John C. Calhoun, who served as vice president under John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson.

**March 5, 1963:** Country musician Hawkshaw Hawkins was killed in a plane crash in Tennessee, along with Patsy Cline, Cowboy Copas, and Randy Hughes. Hawkins was born in Huntington.

**March 6, 1820:** Joseph H. Diss Debar was born in France. Diss Debar was the designer of the Great Seal of West Virginia and the state's first commissioner of immigration.

**March 6, 1828:** Johnson Camden was born in Lewis County. In 1861, he opened one of the state's first oil wells, in Wirt County, and a refinery in Parkersburg in 1869. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1881.

**March 6, 1900:** A mine explosion at the Red Ash Mine in Fayette County killed 46 men. It was the state's first major mine disaster of the 20th century. Five years later, another 24 men were killed at the same mine.

**March 7, 1856:** Tucker County was formed from Randolph County and named for Henry St. George Tucker Sr., a Virginia soldier, statesman and jurist.

**March 7, 1929:** The legislature adopted the official state flag. The state's coat of arms is emblazoned in color in the center. Above the seal is a red ribbon lettered "State of West Virginia," and a wreath of rhododendron surrounds the lower part of the seal. The white field of the flag is bordered on four sides by a strip of blue.

**March 7, 1990:** West Virginia teachers went on strike after negotiations with the governor's office and legislature failed to produce an agreement on a pay package. Teachers in 47 of the 55 counties were involved in the 11-day strike.

**March 8, 1926:** An explosion killed 19 miners at Eccles in Raleigh County. Ten men were saved by barricading themselves in the mine.

kick off with the Beckley IRC charter signing, including remarks from city, state and international leaders, followed by a luncheon and afternoon working groups.

Phillips became a part of the Seed Sower journey in 2019 and began bringing in advisors and building partnerships to make the recovery support services vision a reality. "The region has embraced our effort and, thanks to six federal and state funding awards, we are offering safe, stable housing - which was our original number one priority - and expanded that far beyond to include transportation, workforce training and peer recovery support services focusing on southern West Virginia," said Phillips.

In May 2023, The Well, which is a Seed Sower-affiliated organization, received funding support from the West Virginia Department Health and Human Resources as the only Recovery Community Organization (RCO) in southern West Virginia. The Well is one of six RCOs statewide.

Dr. David Best, who will be the keynote speaker at the event, conceived the model that evolved into the IRC program. He is a professor of Addiction Recovery at Leeds Trinity University and President of the Recovery Outcomes Institute based in Florida. His wife, Jessica, is director of operations and acting executive director of the Recovery Outcomes Institute.

Phillips' continual quest for information and innovation in recovery services led him to cutting-edge research and the Inclusive Recovery City model developed by Dr. Best. "This model offered a strategic way to best help the people and employers of this region, leveraging the area's considerable community strengths and organizational assets," he said.

The fundamental aims of the IRC model are:

- Reductions in stigma surrounding addiction and recovery
- Create pathways to community resources for people in recovery
- Contribute to civic society and the active engagement of multiple vulnerable populations
- Generate a model of "reciprocal altruism" where there is a recognition of the talents, gifts and skills of people in recovery and their contribution to community life.

The primary mechanism for this is through hosting at least four public events each year that have inclusive goals and contribute to the overall well-being of the community.

Phillips said Beckley will also establish an Inclusive Recovery Cities board, involving grassroots recovery and community organizations, certain specialized addiction treatment services, and representatives from the city. City leaders will also engage in the Inclusive Recovery Cities movement, fostering the exchange of ideas and innovation at both national and international levels.

Beckley Mayor Rob Rappold said, "We are honored to



**Dr. David Best, keynote speaker at the event** (Photo courtesy of Seed Sower)



**Jay Phillips, Executive Director of Seed Sower** (Photo courtesy of Seed Sower)

be the first city in the country to be named an IRC. From the successful Communities of Healing initiative to The Well, and now with this designation, our city leaders and our citizens have steadfastly stood with those in recovery seeking a path forward."

Entities joining Seed Sower in supporting the Beckley IRC include: City of Beckley, Fruits of Labor Inc., WorkForce West Virginia Region 1, Jobs and Hope WV, New River Gorge Regional Development Authority / The WV Hive, Raleigh County Drug Court, Raleigh County Adult Probation, Raleigh County Family Treatment Court, Raleigh County Day Report Center, West Virginia University Institute of Technology, Southern WV Fellowship Home, and the Crab Orchard Baptist Church.

Those wishing to register to attend can do so at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/inclusive-recovery-city-beckley-kickoff-and-charter-signing-tickets-841485625157?aff=oddtcreator>.

About Seed Sower, Inc.: Our first priority is safe, supervised housing and our growth has allowed Seed Sower to also focus on meeting the practical needs of our residents, such as transportation, recovery support, mental and behavioral healthcare coordination, 12-step and other recovery programming, life-skills development, and community reintegration.

Seed Sower offers a comprehensive recovery and residential plan that networks multiple community, state and federal resources to provide evidence-based support services to our adult, women residents. These supports are built around the four major dimensions of recovery support as identified by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): Home, Health, Purpose and Community. Our work is grounded in creating a larger, holistic Recovery Ecosystem to sustain long-term recovery. More details are at <https://seed-sowerinc.org/>

## OBITUARIES

### Robert Lee James

Robert James, 80, of Lewisburg passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024 at Springs Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Hot Springs, VA. Born June 6, 1943 in Baltimore, MD, he was the son of the late LeRoy James and Doris (Bucklew) James.

He is survived by one sister, Cheryl Cain of Martinsburg. Also by one nephew, Jason Cain of Oxford, PA.

Graveside services will be held Tuesday, Mar. 5, at Rosedale Cemetery in Martinsburg.

Arrangements made by Brown Funeral Home. Online condolences may be offered at [www.Brown-FuneralHomesWV.com](http://www.Brown-FuneralHomesWV.com).

### Jack Dale Hayes



Jack Dale Hayes, 77, of Lewisburg passed away on Feb. 21, 2024. He was born on Oct. 6, 1946, in Ronceverte. He was the son of the late Gordon Rutherford Hayes and Ethel Mae King Hayes.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by a brother, Tommy Hayes, Sr.; nieces and nephews, Alice Hayes, Tammy Hayes, Debbie Shuler and Stevie Hayes; brothers-in-law, Dale Flanagan, Ken Dickson and a cherished friend, Walter Neely.

Jack was of the Baptist faith and a US Army Veteran with the rank of Sergeant in the Vietnam War. He enjoyed fishing, hunting and golf. He will be missed by all his family and friends.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Sherry; sons, Joel Hayes and Justin Hayes both of Ronceverte; sisters, Dolores Flanagan of Smithers, Wanda Dickson of Temple Hills, MD; brothers, Earl (Jeanie) Hayes of Summersville and Ben (Libby) Hayes of Bumpass, VA; grandchild, Kiah Hill; several nieces and nephews; and feline companion, Kat Man Du.

Memorial service will be at 2 p.m., Monday, Feb. 26, 2024 at Wallace Memorial Mausoleum Chapel, Clintonville, with Friend and Pastor Clifford "Bubby" Kuhn officiating. Friends may visit with the family from 1 p.m. until time of service at the Mausoleum Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, Memorial Contributions may be made to Greenbrier County Humane Society, 151 Holliday Lane, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting [www.wallaceandwallacefh.com](http://www.wallaceandwallacefh.com).

Wallace & Wallace, Inc. of Rainelle, WV, is in charge of arrangements.

### Marlene Kay Martin



On Feb. 20, 2024, the world lost a most beloved wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister and friend. Heaven gained another Angel, but far from an ordinary one, Marlene Kay (White) Martin. Her soul is an extraordinary one.

Born and raised in Baltimore, MD, but spending many summers making memories in West Virginia with many cousins and family members, she moved to West Virginia where she met the love of her life and lived the majority of her adult life. Kay, as everyone knows her, went above and beyond in her devotion to her husband, 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren.


She devoted her life to provide a safe, loving home to her family and many times, friends. Creating a home filled with the smells of home-cooked meals and goodies. She provided endless joy, laughter and unconditional love, all the

things that makes a home and what bonds individuals together making a true family. Her love language was food, feeding and caring for others and their needs. If you were lucky enough to have the chance to eat Kay's pepperoni rolls or any of her cooking and baked goods, you knew with the first bite, her secret ingredient was her love. Kay was the heart and moral compass of her family.

Kay was preceded in death by her father, Roy William White, Jr. She was a member of the Church of Christ. She is survived by her husband, Brian J. Martin; daughters, Heather K. Smith and Mallory M. Smith; grandsons, Gavin B. Smith, Raiden B. Smith, and Marcos M. Martinez; granddaughter, Seraphine M. Fowler; her mother, Janet M. White; 3 brothers, 5 nephews, and 3 nieces Kay adored and took joy in spoiling and caring for; as well as her mother-in-law, Susan Martin; sisters-in-law, many beloved cousins and grand nieces and nephews.

As per her wishes, Kay will be cremated and there will be no services.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Ronceverte is in charge of arrangements. Please send online condolences by visiting [www.WallaceandWallace-FH.com](http://www.WallaceandWallace-FH.com).



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## Club & Church

# Greenbrier Valley Community Foundation releases overview of grants, scholarships, and programs in 2023

2023 Overview (unaudited): \$18.6 million in invested assets; \$1.35 million received in fund contributions; \$1 million funded in grant awards, scholarships, and fund distributions; \$115,000 in scholarships held by GVCF; and seven new funds: Blue Sulphur Springs Pavilion Fund, Charles and Carolyn Sheets Scholarship Fund, Grace United Methodist Church Scholarship Fund, Our Future Fund, PEO Sisterhood Chapter V- WV Scholarship Fund, The Alderson Presbyterian Church Charitable Fund, The Noel P. and the Nathan B. Dehaven Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Greenbrier Valley Women's Fund:

On Nov. 29, GVCF hosted the annual Women's Fund Lunch at the Sportsman Tavern in Ronceverte. It was a privilege to host Amy Jo Hutchison, fierce economic

justice advocate for working women and mothers in West Virginia. The 2023 grant recipient was WV Healing Home, a nonprofit, family-centered community recovery program dedicated to providing respectful services to individuals and families affected by substance use, especially during childbearing years. Incorporated in 2021, but delayed by the Covid pandemic, WVHH began providing services to families in January 2023.

We are thankful for those who attended and contributed to this special fund. All funds raised through this campaign are used to provide grants annually to organizations serving women and girls in Greenbrier, Monroe, and Pocahontas counties. In the past 11 years, the Greenbrier Valley Women's Fund has provided \$25,000 in grants to 29 organizations in our three-county region.

Children's Savings Account Program:

Established in 2023, Our Future Fund was created with a mission to provide every public-school student in Greenbrier, Monroe, and Pocahontas counties with a college/trade school savings account. With help from the James F. B. Peyton Fund and the H. B. Werhle Foundation, the program was piloted at Frankford Elementary and is expanding to Peterstown Elementary and Hillsboro Elementary in 2024.

Our Future Fund's goal is to provide every child entering kindergarten with a savings account in their name; and with the support of civic, businesses, and faith groups, grow those savings for their use for further education after high school graduation. The research has demonstrated that children with a savings account are six times more likely to go to college or trade school than children who don't have a savings account. Investment in this program is an investment into our future workforce.

## Greenbrier PSD #2 awarded grant to extend water service

Gov. Justice announced earlier this month that the West Virginia Water Development Authority (WDA) has approved 10 new Economic Enhancement Grant Fund (EEGF) projects worth \$19,872,189.

Locally, Greenbrier PSD #2 was awarded a \$3,527,000 WDA EEGF grant to extend water service between Rainelle and Charmco and between Sam Black Church and Asbury, to serve approximately 360 new customers. The total project cost is \$20,300,000.

In April 2022, Gov. Justice called a special session to fund the Economic Enhancement Grant Fund, at the time securing an initial amount of \$250 million. Since then, the program has seen exceptional success, and the WDA has approved EEGF projects worth \$400 million, impacting over 582,440 West Virginians. All in all, these projects will affect residents statewide.

The WDA manages the EEGF, which provides matching grants to municipalities for upgrading infrastructure such as water, sewer, economic development, commerce, and tourism projects.



The Greenbrier Valley Community Foundation has provided their 2023 overview of activities, grants, scholarships, and programs throughout the year.

Food Program Support:

In 2023, GVCF focused attention on food service support in Monroe County. To support various community partners, GVCF purchased two pigs from the Greenbrier Monroe Youth Livestock Association Youth Auction at the State Fair of West Virginia. We had the meat processed locally and donated to Monroe County Coalition to distribute among Monroe County food pantries and assistance programs.

Additionally, GVCF provided grants to Monroe County Outreach and Lindsie United Methodist Church Food Pantry to increase their capacity for service to those in Monroe County. Monroe County Outreach has been active since 1980 to provide basic needs assistance to residents in Monroe County in need of help with food, utilities, shelter, clothing, etc. They work in partnership with other local organizations to identify additional resources in emergency situations.

Scholarships:

In 2023, over \$250,000 in scholarship funds were distributed from the application system we administer in partnership with our regional high schools. Of that amount, over \$115,000 were funded by scholarships managed by GVCF. As always, it was a joy to attend our area high schools to present certificates to these hardworking students. Scholarships are a wonderful way to remember loved ones into perpetuity and we welcome the opportunity to discuss starting scholarship funds with individuals or organizations.

The 2024 application is open to all students in our region and available at [gvfoundation.org/scholarships](http://gvfoundation.org/scholarships) and due on Mar. 15.

We look forward to continuing this positive momentum into 2024, marking our 25th anniversary! What a privilege it is to have served the Greenbrier Valley all this time.

For questions, visit [gvfoundation.org](http://gvfoundation.org), or call or email Anne at 304-645-5620 or [info@gvfoundation.org](mailto:info@gvfoundation.org).

## Healthy Grandfamilies meeting set

The first meeting of the Healthy Grandfamilies Program of Renick will be Friday, Mar. 8, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Renick Community Center on Huff Street in Renick. The goal of this group is to provide emotional and financial support and educational opportunities to grandparents who are raising their grandchildren and others who are in kinship care arrangements. Our speaker for this meeting will be Etta Thornburgh, with the TANF (Temporary Assistance Program for Needy Families) program for Greenbrier County. Come out and learn what benefits may be available to assist you. Childcare will be available, and lunch will be provided. RSVP to 304-920-0601 to secure your space.

## Church Bulletin

### Lenten Tilapia Dinners continue in White Sulphur Springs

The traditional Lenten Tilapia Fish dinners, sponsored by the Greenbrier Valley Council 8689 Knights of Columbus, will be served Friday, Mar. 1 in the White Sulphur Springs Center behind the Emmanuel United Methodist Church in downtown White Sulphur Springs.

"The culinary staff will be the same as in the past," noted Grand Knight Andrew Wrzosek of Waitesville, who added it includes Chef Sue Moats of The Greenbrier Sweet Shop, Chef Paul Cicora of the West Virginia School of Osteopathic School, formerly of The Greenbrier; Deborah Fabry, retired Chef from The Greenbrier; and Bill Strange who started working the dinners from the first one, providing the desserts for the first year of the dinners back in the early 1990s.

The menu is tilapia, scalloped potatoes, cole slaw, hard rolls, dessert, and drinks, all for only \$15 a plate with an extra piece of fish \$5. Children under 5 years old are served free and those aged between 5 to 12 may get the tilapia for \$5 or the complete meal for \$15.

"We are again offering eat in or to go between the hours of 4:30 and 7 p.m.," reports Mike Williams, financial secretary for Council 8689 and noted that the dinners are being held to raise funds for community, youth, church and council projects serving the Pocahontas, Monroe, Greenbrier and eastern Fayette Counties area.

For further information, contact the office of the Catholic Churches of the Greenbrier Valley 304-536-1813 or the Knights of Columbus 304-645-1373. The dinners will be offered also on Mar. 8, 15, and 22.

### Registration open for Greenbrier Christian Retreat

Greenbrier Christian Retreat announces early bird registration for its 2024 Summer Camp is now available through Mar. 1. Summer Camp dates are June 10 through 14 for Junior Week (grade 4-6) and June 17 through 21 for Teen Week (grade 7-12). Greenbrier Christian Retreat specializes in Summer Camps and also offers retreats and special event spaces throughout the year. Greenbrier Christian Retreat is located at 1234 Victory Valley Drive on a 400-acre retreat in Crawley, WV, among the beautiful Appalachian mountains. Further background and camp information are available at [www.greenbrierchristian.com](http://www.greenbrierchristian.com) or please contact Chad Harris at 304-646-4710.

### Lewisburg Baptist Church service hours

Please join us for services and events at Lewisburg Baptist Church - a Bible believing and preaching Church nestled in the heart of Greenbrier County. Worship services are offered on Sundays at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., and on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Sunday School for children and for adults are on Sundays at 10 a.m. Van pick up is also available on Sundays and Wednesdays. On Wednesdays, other events include Awana Clubs (age 3 to Grade 6) at 6:45 p.m. and Youth Teen Ministry at 7 p.m. Lewisburg Baptist Church is located at 246 Grand Avenue in Lewisburg. Further information is available at [www.lbcwv.com](http://www.lbcwv.com), on Facebook, or by calling 304-645-3797.

## Historic Preservation Development Grants now available

Applications are now available for matching historic preservation Development Grants through the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History (WVDACH). Eligible projects include the restoration, rehabilitation or archaeological development of historic sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The deadline for receipt of applications submitted through our on-line portal (GoApply) is Apr. 1.

It is anticipated that approximately \$400,000 will be available for these grant awards, which are contingent upon an appropriation of funds from the West Virginia Legislature or United States Congress.

Privately owned properties are only eligible in instances where there is evidence of public support or public benefit. Governmental properties that are not accessible to the public are not eligible for funding. Applicants may be a state or local government agency, not-for-profit organization, private citizen, for-profit firm or organization, religious organizations, education institution or Certified Local Governments.

A complete program description, including funding priorities and selection criteria, and access to the GoApply on-line grant application portal is available at <https://wvculture.org/agencies/state-historic-preservation-office-shpo/grants/> or contact Christy Moore, grants coordinator for the SHPO, at 304-558-0240 or [Christina.J.Moore@wv.gov](mailto:Christina.J.Moore@wv.gov).

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## HELP WANTED

The Central WV WIC Program has a full-time position open for a Health and Human Service Aide to serve as a Lab Tech/Office Manager, who will be based in the Greenbrier County office and travel weekly to the Pocahontas office with County vehicle. Breastfeeding experience is preferred but not required. This individual will be responsible for performing anthropometric and hematological testing on WIC clients and serve as office manager for the site. Duties for this include, but are not limited to: running reports/data entry, managing site scheduling, monthly paperwork, general office upkeep, and sorting/distributing mail. Travel is required. Qualifications: Position requires positive knowledge of basic computer software and a person with excellent organizational skills and a valid drivers license. apply online at <http://www.personnel.wv.gov> for the Health and Human Service Aide position. You may email applications to [Candace.R.Fowler@wv.gov](mailto:Candace.R.Fowler@wv.gov) Please include posting # CLAY2401 on application. If you have questions about the position, or trouble with the application, you may email the same address. EOE

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# Dear Recycle Lady,

**Dear Recycle Lady,**  
Are the boxes that contain frozen meals, frozen pizzas, and frozen vegetables recyclable, even if they are slick to the touch? Thank you.

*Trying to do better*  
**Dear Trying to do better,**

Good question. The boxes that contain frozen food can be recycled if they are clean, dry, and made of single-material packaging. Whether they are slick or not, these boxes are recycled with cardboard. Some frozen food boxes have plastic windows but that does not prevent them from being recycled and it does not need to be removed. However, there are two types of frozen food boxes that are not recyclable. 1) Those with a waxy coating: Run your fingernail down the surface of the box and there will be wax under the fingernail and 2) Those that have a thin layer of plastic. These boxes are not recyclable as they will not break apart during the recycling process. Recycled frozen food boxes are made into new paper products, such as paper towels and tissues.

**Dear Recycle Lady,**  
I have a lot of paperback books that I don't know what to do with. Any suggestions?

*Avid Reader*

**Dear Avid Reader,**

Yes, paperback books can definitely be recycled. Doing so reduces clutter, saves landfill space, and conserves trees, oil, energy, and water. Paperback books

are recycled with magazines/slicks, regardless of how thick they are. However, if the paperback book is old, or has wet pages, it is not recyclable as the material in the cell walls of wood has oxidized. Or, if its pages have turned yellow, they are not recyclable as the yellow color contaminates the whiter, newer paper, thus reducing the value of the recycled paper. Have you considered passing the books on to other readers? Reduce and Reuse are both part of the Recycle symbol! Used books can be placed in "little free libraries" in the area that accept books, making them available to other readers in exchange. Books can also be donated to schools, libraries, prisons, and veteran's hospitals. Any thrift store or location that sells used items, such as Goodwill, accepts used or new paperback books. All the libraries in Greenbrier County: Alderson, Lewisburg, Rainelle, Roncverte, and Rupert have annual used book sales and accept new or used books. Be sure to check as with them as to times and dates.

**Dear Recycle Lady,**  
I think you previously mentioned in your column that aerosol cans could be recycled with steel cans, but I wasn't sure if I remembered correctly. Do all aerosol cans recycle with steel cans?

*Recycler*  
**Dear Recycler,**  
No, all aerosol cans

are not recycled with steel cans. Some are recycled with steel cans, but others are recycled with aluminum cans. Thus, before recycling an aerosol can, you must check to see if it is made of steel or aluminum. Do this by using a magnet. If the magnet sticks to the can, it recycles with steel cans. If the magnet does not stick to the can, it recycles with aluminum cans. Also, before recycling an aerosol can, be sure to remove the plastic cap, which is not recyclable, and push the aerosol button until the contents of the can are no longer under pressure. Now the can is ready to be recycled!

Great news: The Boy Scout/Montwell plastic film recycling project is going more than great. In less than a month they have collected 472 pounds of plastic film! Kudos to everyone who is helping with this project. One word of caution about translucent plastic film. If you are not sure it is the right kind plastic, test it by putting the film over your thumbnail, holding it with your index finger on the same hand, then pull back with your other hand. If the film stretches, it goes in the recycle box. If you must pull really hard to make it look like it stretches, put it in the trash. When in doubt, throw it out. This holds for all kinds of plastic.

Have questions about recycling, or interesting information about recycling? Send questions or requests to [gre-cycle450@gmail.com](mailto:gre-cycle450@gmail.com). Dear Recycle Lady is sponsored jointly by the Greenbrier Recycling Center and Greenworks Recycling.



# A Look Back



**Photo: Courtesy Greenbrier Historical Society. Sources: Beckley Post-Herald, The Greenbrier Independent, Hinton Daily News.**

**By William "Skip" Deegans**  
Shown above is a photo of Rainelle's first school building that was constructed by the Meadow River Lumber Company in 1913. This first school met for a six-month term in one room of one of the company's boarding houses. As the number of students increased, a second room was added. When the frame school building was completed in 1913, it was steam-heated with eleven rooms plus a principal's office. The Meadow River Lumber Company and parents paid the teachers' salaries. Utilities were furnished by the company for a modest charge, but the parents paid for them. By 1916, the building accommodated the first high school students, and Miss Lilah Krieder became the first high school teacher. The

community continued to maintain the school without county assistance.

A new brick elementary school building was completed in 1920. The Rainelle schools were accredited in 1922 and donated to the Greenbrier County Board of Education. Rainelle's high school served a large area from Corliss to Nallen to Bingham to Quinwood to Clintonville to Dawson to Meadow Bridge. Corliss students had to walk two miles each morning to catch the Sewell Valley passenger train. Once the railroad was extended north to Quinwood, students commuted to school from the newly settled coal camps on a train. By 1925, the population of Rainelle had grown to 1,200, not counting East Rainelle that was commonly called "Slabtown."

## Greenbrier East High School Wrestler of the Week

Name: Harrison Smith  
Grade: 9th Grade  
GPA: 3.0  
Current Record: 21 Wins - (9 Pins)  
Parents / Guardians: Christin Richmond

Hometown: Lewisburg  
Favorite Wrestler: Peyton Hall (Wrestles for West Virginia University - 4x West Virginia State Champion - NCAA All-American)

Favorite Quote: "Hard work beats talent, when talent doesn't work hard!"

Began Wrestling: At the age of 3 years old.

Past Accomplishments: Played football for the Spartans. Placed at the Coalfield Conference. Qualified for the Wrestling State Championships being held this weekend.

Why he Wrestles: "BECAUSE I LOVE IT!"

Coach's Comments: "Harrison is a great young wrestler. He is growing to be more dominant every day. Harrison had a Big Regional Tournament, where he was seeded 5th and lost his first match. With



the chips stacked against him, Harrison stood strong and beat a returning State Qualifier. That punched his ticket to the State Championships. His victory helped Greenbrier East finish as Regional Runner-up. When Harrison wrestles with confidence and consistency, he is a hard wrestler to beat."

Miluk Humor: I installed a skylight in my apartment.....The people who live above me are furious! HAHA!

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## Full-Time Nutrition Associate/LPN:

The Central WV WIC Program is hiring a Nutrition Associate/LPN who will be based in the Greenbrier County office with weekly travel required. This individual will be responsible for certifying and counseling WIC clients along with providing individual and group nutrition education to caregivers and other community organizations. Travel is required. Qualifications: Graduation from a four-year college or university with a health-related degree including 12 hours of nutrition courses OR Associate degree from a regionally accredited college or university with a major in a health, nutrition, child development, or behavioral sciences field. Individual can also be a LPN. Qualifications: Position requires positive knowledge of basic computer software and a person with excellent organizational skills and a valid drivers license. apply online at <http://www.personnel.wv.gov> for the Health and Human Service Aide position and indicate Greenbrier County on your application. You may email questions to [Candace.R.Fowler@wv.gov](mailto:Candace.R.Fowler@wv.gov) EOE



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# Legends of Bluegrass special performance at Carnegie Hall

Carnegie Hall presents a special performance of bluegrass on Friday, Mar. 15 at 7 p.m. Guests are invited to come early to Club Carnegie from 6 to 6:45 p.m. in the Board Room located adjacent to the Hamilton Auditorium. A cash bar and snacks will be available.

The Legends of WV Bluegrass is a collection of the best Bluegrass musicians from West Virginia. Each of these musicians have performed with the elite in the Bluegrass industry. The group includes Buddy Griffin, David O'Dell, Jackie Kincaid, and Roger Hoard, and each member has over 50 years of experience.

The Carnegie Hall performance will feature a bass built by local resident and luthier John Preston being played for the first time in public by David O'Dell.

Buddy Griffin was born into a musical family in Richwood, WV, and was influenced by the songs of the original Carter Family. His talented family part-time band were regulars on several radio and TV shows in West Virginia and Virginia. They played on the Red Smiley Show in Oak Hill, the Buddy Starcher Show in Charleston, and the Top O' The Morning Show in Roanoke, VA.

Buddy was a multi-instrumentalist, first taking up the 5-string banjo, but eventually became best known for his talent on the fiddle. His fiddle got him a full-time job with the Wheeling Jamboree and performing with the regulars on WWVA such as the Heckels.

During his professional career Buddy has played, recorded, and traveled with the biggest stars in bluegrass music such as Johnny Russell, the Goins Brothers, Josh Graves, Mac Wiseman, Dave Evans, Jim and Jesse McReynolds and the Virginia Boys, Bobby Osborne, Christy Lane and Albert Brumley, Jr., Doug Dillard Band as well as many others.

Buddy has played at the Grand Ole Opry numerous times, Wheeling Jamboree, Ozark Mountain Hoedown, Mountain Stage, Gold Coast Casino, in Las Vegas plus many other venues and bluegrass festivals nationwide.

In addition to his music, Buddy was an educator who graduated from Glenville State College and taught school in Braxton and Nicholas Counties. His most notable achievement in music and education was creating and leading the Bluegrass Four Year Degree program at Glenville State College. The first person to complete the program was Lizzy Long of Little Roy and Lizzy.

During his professional career Buddy has received many awards. Most notable was his induction into the WV Music Hall of Fame in 2023, the Vandalia Award, an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts from Glenville State Col-

lege and the winner of the WV State banjo and fiddle contest.

Joining Buddy on stage is bassist David O'Dell. He was born and raised in Spencer, WV, and began playing banjo at age 14, learning clawhammer style banjo for traditional music under the influence of Frank George. He soon became a familiar face at West Virginia's music festivals such as the Vandalia Gathering and the West Virginia State Folk Festival, where he won the old-time banjo contests numerous times. After high school he continued to focus on traditional music, but also began branching out into other instruments such as fiddle, dulcimer, guitar, and bass, as well as other musical styles such as bluegrass.

After several years in Kentucky and Tennessee, David moved back to West Virginia in 1996 and became involved in the music scene more than ever. He was invited to be on the Board of Directors of the West Virginia State Folk Festival, and he also became more involved in recording and producing recordings of West Virginia musicians.

David's versatility as a musician landed him several gigs as a substitute band member when regular members weren't available for certain gigs. He often sat in with The Samples Brothers playing fiddle, banjo, or bass depending upon what was needed at the time. He also filled in as a bass player for Retro and Smiling, a Reno and Smiley tribute band featuring Buddy Griffin and Ashley Messenger. He now regularly plays banjo in the Mack Samples Band, as well as in the duo The MacAbre Brothers with Pete Kosky.

In addition to playing music, David has also taught several workshops on banjo, fiddle, and mountain dulcimer at places such as the Augusta Heritage Center, Allegheny Echoes, and the Cedar Lakes Craft Center. He has hosted a weekly radio show on WOTR in Weston, West Virginia, and played venues as far away as Ireland and Australia.

He now plays music mostly whenever it's convenient, leaving time for his day job as Professor of Chemistry and Chair of the Science and Mathematics Department at Glenville State University as well as for spending time with his family.

On the mandolin will be Jackie Kincaid who was born into a musical family in Meadow Bridge, WV. His father had a bluegrass band and Jackie learned to play the Mandolin at an early age. His talent soon became recognized, and he was offered jobs playing for other bluegrass bands. His skill on the mandolin and clear tenor voice has led him to perform professionally at the Wheeling Jamboree,



Legends of WV Bluegrass (clockwise from upper left), Jackie Kincaid, Buddy Griffin, David O'Dell, Roger Hoard

The Grand Ole Opry, Bill Gaither's Videos, RFD-TV, the World's Fair and many other venues across the United States.

Jackie has been a sought-after vocalist and musician and has performed with the Larry Sparks band for many years. He has also performed with Bobby Osborne, Jesse McReynolds, Curley Seckler, Alison Krauss, Judy Marshall, Dave Evans, Uncle Josh Graves, and many of the top bluegrass artists. He continues to write songs and perform in and around the Nashville area.

Jackie states "I have accomplished more than I could ever thought possible in Bluegrass music, and it all began in the mountains of WV. While I live in Nashville now, WV will always be my home.

Rounding out the group on guitar is Roger Hoard from Sutton, WV. At a young age he moved to the Wheeling area. Currently, he resides in St. Clairsville, OH where he manages a music store along with performing regularly. He was instrumental in helping many talented musicians in WV get their start professionally.

Roger is one of the most recognizable and respected talents on guitar anywhere, was one of Dan Jones' early mentors in music. In addition, he has helped train some of the Ohio Valley's greatest musicians including the one and only Brad Paisley. Hoard has been associated with Jamboree USA, Jamboree in the Hills, and directed some of the Ohio Valley's greatest bands such as Country Roads, The Other Brothers, 11/70, and The Fabulous Bender Boys.

Tickets are \$25/adults and \$10/students. Discounts are available for Carnegie Hall members, senior citizens, and military. To purchase tickets, call Carnegie Hall Box Office at 304-645-7917, visit [www.carnegiehallwv.org](http://www.carnegiehallwv.org), or stop by at 611 Church Street, Lewisburg. Carnegie Hall Box Office is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

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4	9	8	6	2	7	3	1	5
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# WV Living celebrates 15 years with New River/ Greenbrier Valley Best of West Virginia winners

To celebrate its 15th anniversary and to honor the New River/Greenbrier Valley region's 2023 Best of West Virginia winners, WV Living magazine hosted a pop-up party at Tamarack Marketplace in Beckley on Feb. 23. The following is a list of the winners that were chosen in a statewide ballot chosen by the readers of WV Living magazine.

- Best Town in the New River-Greenbrier Valley Region: Lewisburg
- Best Disc Golf Course: Pipestem Resort State Park
- Best Art Gallery: Tamarack
- Best Fair / Festival / Event: State Fair of West Virginia
- Best Small Local Newspaper: The Register-Herald
- Best Cidery: Swilled Dog
- Best Coffeehouse: Manic Espresso
- Best Drive-In Restaurant: Jim's Drive-In
- Best Pizza: Pies & Pints
- Best Downtown Shopping: Lewisburg

- Best Local Floral Shop: Gillespie's Flowers & Productions
- Best Local Place to Buy West Virginia-made Products: Tamarack Marketplace
- Best Outdoor / Gear Shop: Serenity Now Outfitters
- Best Real Estate Agency: Greenbrier Real Estate Service
- Best Bed & Breakfast/Inn: General Lewis Inn
- Best Golf Course: The Greenbrier
- Best Place for a Scenic View: New River Gorge National Park
- Best Spa: POMONA Salt Cave and Spa
- Best Vacation Rental: Country Road Cabins
- Also honored were the magazine editorial staff's picks for regional Best of West Virginia 2023 winners:
  - Best Bakery: Honeycomb Cafe
  - Best Casual Dining: Pies & Pints
  - Best Fair / Festival / Event: State Fair of West Virginia

- Best Fine Dining: Food & Friends
  - Best Recreation Venue: Arrowhead Bike Farm & Campground
  - Best Place to Shop: Otter & Oak
  - Best Place to Stay: Country Road Cabins
  - Best Unique Attraction: The Greenbrier
  - Best Watering Hole: The Asylum
  - Best Community Champion: Sharon Rowe
- "Our publications are community builders, and we are so proud of the many hard-working merchants, artisans, restaurateurs, and others who make our state the wild and wonderful place that it is," WV Living Publisher and Editor-in-chief Nikki Bowman Mills. "We're grateful for 15 years of success. It's a pleasure to celebrate with the WV Living community."
- WV Living is a publication of New South Media, a multimedia company headquartered in Morgantown. For more information, contact Nikki Bowman Mills, [nikki@newsouthmediainc.com](mailto:nikki@newsouthmediainc.com), or call 304-413-0104.

## Carnegie Hall participates in life saving training

Carnegie Hall staff and key volunteers are now up to date on CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), AED (Automated External Defibrillators), and First Aid after attending a Heartsaver First Aid CPR AED training and certification on Jan. 30.

Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC) Greenbrier Valley Medical Center donated an AED unit and provided training by instructors Diana Russell, Clinical Education Manager, and Melissa Johnson, Nursing Education Specialist.

"We at Carnegie are grateful for the donation of the AED unit as an additional opportunity it ensures the best for our patrons," states Carnegie Hall CEO/President Cathy Rennard. "It was important to us to invest the time in CPR training, use of the AED unit, and certifying the entire staff in First Aid."

Rebecca J Harless, MBA, Vice President of CAMC Greenbrier Valley Medical Center, adds that "This contribution underscores our hospital's unwavering commitment to connecting with and serving the community since CAMC acquired Greenbrier Valley Med-



Heartsaver First Aid CPR AED training was provided to Carnegie Hall staff and volunteers.

ical Center. We believe that access to life-saving equipment like AEDs is essential for ensuring the well-being and safety of everyone in our community. This donation is just one example of how we strive to make a positive impact and foster a healthier, safer environment for all."

cluded Becky Mahlburg, Sally Bray, Cathy Rennard, Philip McLaughlin, Teri Hartford, Barbara Walker, Butch Hickman, Harmony Flora, Sheila Hutchinson, Jill McClung, Kit Lindsey, Michael Kincaid, and John Arnold.

Participants receiving certification in- For more information, please visit [carnegiehall-wv.org](http://carnegiehall-wv.org), call 304-645-7917, or stop by the Hall at 611 Church Street, Lewisburg.

### LEGAL

#### NOTICE

Any individual or entity believing that may have ownership of funds deposited in the Trust Account of Attorney William D. Goodwin, who died on August 18, 2022, should contact Robert B. Allen, Esq., counsel for the William Goodwin Estate, prior to July 1, 2024. Mr. Allen may be contacted at P.O. Box 2031, Charleston, WV 25327, or by phone (304) 342-7592. If no one asserts a claim or there are funds remaining in the Trust Account after July 1, 2024, the West Virginia Supreme Court will be asked to have the remaining funds transferred to the West Virginia State Bar.

### LEGAL

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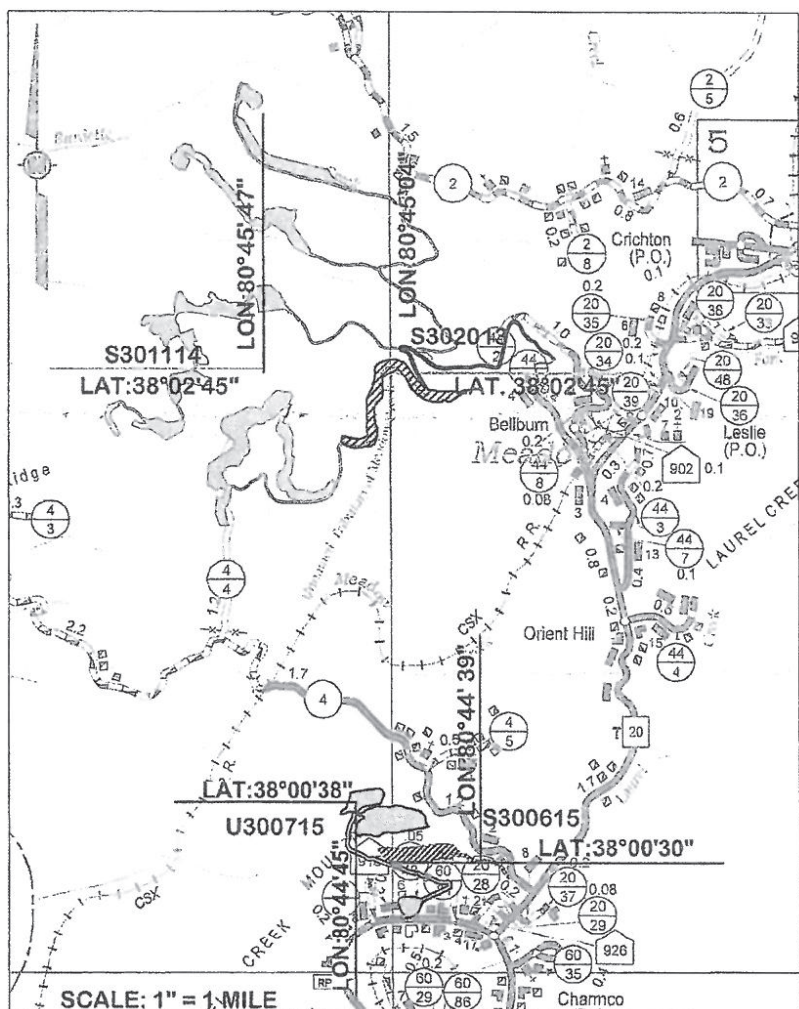
Notice is hereby given that WARRIOR ENERGY RESOURCES, LLC, 13905 McCorkle Avenue, Suite 200, Chesapeake, WV 25315 has submitted an application to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), 1159 Nick Rahall Greenway, Fayetteville, WV 25840.

This application has been submitted for: 50% or more ownership change in permittee or its owner on Permit No(s). S300615, S301114, S302013, U300715 from WARRIOR ENERGY RESOURCES, LLC, 111 FREEPORT RD, PITTSBURGH, PA 15215.

Comments on the application shall be in writing and shall identify the applicant and the application number and be sent to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) at the address above. Comments received by 4/1/24, or thirty (30) days from date of publication, will be considered.

A copy of the application will be available until 4/1/24, or thirty (30) days from 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/ePermittingApplicationSearchPage.cfm](http://apps.dep.wv.gov/WebApp/_dep/Search/ePermittingApplicationSearchPage.cfm).

The above link can be accessed from a computer at all West Virginia public libraries. DEP Telephone No. 304-574-4465



#### LOCATION MAP

TAKEN FROM WEST VIRGINIA DEPT. OF HIGHWAYS GREENBRIER COUNTY MAP  
 NEAREST POST OFFICES: LESLIE, CRICHTON AND CHARMCO WV  
 MEADOW BLUFF DISTRICT OF GREENBRIER COUNTY  
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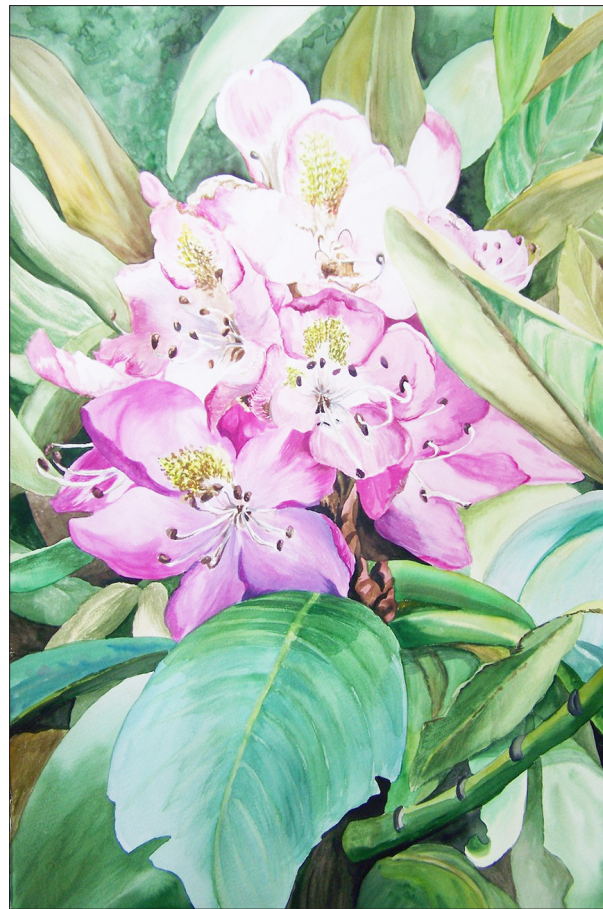
# Art exhibit to open at General Lewis Inn



Debbie Kalt Sisson



Stephen Sisson



Delicate Flora by Debbie Sisson



Durbin Train by Stephen Sisson

Debbie Kalt Sisson and Stephen Sisson from Ripley, WV, present a duo art exhibit at the General Lewis Inn Thistle Lounge titled "Scenes from Home." Both artists are juried members of Best of West Virginia Tamarack and Allied Artists of West Virginia. The Sissons specialize in painting local attractions, flora and fauna, and landscapes.

A meet and greet with the artists is set for First Friday on Mar. 1 from 4 to 6 p.m. The exhibit will run through Apr. 30.

Curated by Karen Cohen and hosted by the General Lewis Inn. All artwork will be for immediate sale, checks preferred.

The General Lewis Inn is open for art viewing daily. The Thistle Lounge is open seven days a week for beverages and hand crafted cocktails from 5 to 11 p.m. For room accommodations, restaurant hours and reservations, please call 304-645-2600. [www.generallewisinn.com](http://www.generallewisinn.com).



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**SLURRY PAVERS** is now hiring CDL Drivers, Road Mechanics, Equipment Operators and General Laborers for the upcoming construction season. All positions offer great starting pay with weekly overtime likely, full benefit package, 401(k), etc.

Travel is required – transportation and lodging **IS** provided. Home on the weekends / very occasional weekend work.

Apply in-person at the Chief Logan Lodge in Logan at 1000 Conference Center Drive on Saturday, March 9th from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM or call 1-800-449-3662 for more information.

**Slurry Pavers, Inc.** is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer EEO/M/F/ Disabled/Vet Employer & a Drug-Free Workplace.



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Travel is required – transportation and lodging **IS** provided. Home on the weekends / very occasional weekend work.

Apply in-person at the Hampton Inn at 238 Coleman Drive in Lewisburg on Saturday, March 9th from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM or call 1-800-449-3662 for more information.

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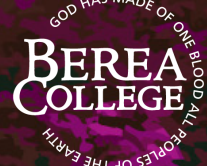
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# HASHTAG

# WEST VIRGINIA



*The Mountain Messenger presents:*

# Bridal 2024



## Did you know?

A number of variables affect how much engaged couples will spend on their weddings. Personal preferences, location and the season in which couples get married are just some of the factors that can affect the final cost of a wedding. However, one aspect couples can count on regarding wedding spending is the reception will likely

require the most significant financial investment. The Knot 2022 Real Weddings Study found that the average cost of a wedding in 2022 was \$30,000. The study also found that the biggest investment couples make is the venue. Couples indicated they spent about 37 percent of their overall budget on a wedding venue. Though

some couples may spend more than that and others may spend less, engaged couples currently planning their weddings should know that the cost of the venue where they will tie the knot will likely end up requiring the most significant investment of any component related to their wedding.

## Simple tips to plan a fun and relaxing cocktail hour

With so much on their docket in relation to wedding planning, engaged couples can be forgiven if certain components garner less attention than others. The ceremony and reception are bound to stay on couples' radar, but what about the time in between saying "I do" and cutting a rug on the reception room dance floor?



Cocktail hours are a great way to keep guests entertained between the ceremony and the reception. Many couples use this period to take their bridal party wedding photos, so offering guests a little food and some drinks during a cocktail hour can benefit everyone. Planning a cocktail hour is not a significant undertaking, but couples can keep a few pointers in mind as they plan this interim period between the ceremony and reception.

reception.

Opt for an outdoor cocktail hour when possible. Couples tying the knot in spring, summer or fall at a venue with ample outdoor entertaining space can choose to host the cocktail hour outside. This reduces the likelihood that guests will feel cramped and it also sets a positive tone for the remainder of the evening. A balcony, patio or rooftop entertaining area can be great spaces for guests to mingle prior to the

Offer seating. Cocktail hours tend to be stand-up affairs where guests mingle with long-lost friends or relatives while enjoying some light hors d'oeuvres. However, older guests or guests with small children will appreciate some seating. Couples need not ensure there's a seat for each guest, but some strategically located high-tops and more traditional tables for guests with mobility issues can ensure anyone who needs to sit down can do so.

Give guests something to do. If the cocktail hour will be a full hour or more, couples can consider ways to help guests pass the time. Some may be content to relax and chat with friends and family over a drink, but others may grow a little bored as the hour drags on. A photobooth or selfie station so couples can have a ready-made wedding

album before the reception begins can be fun for guests. For less formal affairs, consider providing some popular outdoor games, like cornhole and bocce.

Set a tone with music. Music can help set the tone for a cocktail hour, which is not meant to get the ball rolling on the dancing-heavy revelry to come during the reception. Some simple instrumental music, whether it's provided by a live string quartet or pre-recorded, can establish the cocktail hour as a peaceful period to relax, chat, eat a little, and enjoy a drink before the reception begins. Reserve the dance music for when the reception hits full swing.

It's easy to overlook the cocktail hour when planning a wedding. However, some simple tips can ensure guests enjoy the time between the ceremony and reception.

## Dig into these wedding cake options

Something sweet comes near the end of a wedding reception and that is the joy the couple experiences knowing they have their entire lives ahead of them to enjoy together. However, there is another sweet treat that is shared near the conclusion of the wedding and it is typically served with tea and coffee: the wedding cake.

Wedding cake traditions can be traced back to the ancient Greeks and Romans. Cakes represented good luck and fertility for the couples tying the knot. The first wedding cakes were rather bland and breadlike, representing purity and virginity. Some were quite like the fruitcake now enjoyed during the holiday season. Eventually wedding cakes transformed into the sweet confections that are known today. The modern wedding cake as most know it debuted at the 1882 wedding of Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany. His wedding cake was actually the first to be completely edible. Previously, some cakes featured wooden broomstick pillars covered in icing, but the Duke's cake used a hardened type of icing, according to Edible Art Bakery and Dessert Café.

Couples today have many options when picking their wedding cakes. The following are some wedding cake tidbits to chew on.

Couples can choose among various cake styles. Many opt for a classic style, which is typically a white or ivory tiered cake with simple, elegant decorations. Rustic cakes may be much less ornate, while modern cakes may be rectangular or square and feature clean lines and minimalist decoration. The cake should fit the overall theme and scope of the wedding as it is another complementary component of the larger celebration.

Wedding cakes can be quite costly. Wedding Wire estimates the average wedding cake costs around \$500. One way for couples to save on their cake is to have a faux cake on display, with one tier that is made from cake and can be cut. Guests will then be served slices of a sheet cake that is much less expensive.



Couples have many flavors to choose from. Vanilla is classic and quite popular because it appeals to a vast number of people. Lemon, chocolate, and carrot are some other popular cake flavors.

When it comes to frosting a cake, there are various outer coatings that will encapsulate the cake to make it both beautiful and durable. Buttercream, Swiss meringue, fondant, cream cheese, and ganache all can be used in various applications. Some bakers attest that Swiss meringue, due to the addition of egg whites, makes it a more stable option over traditional buttercreams, particularly during

warm weather. Of course, couples can opt for a "naked cake," which usually has a scant amount of frosting so that the cake underneath peeks through.

A groom's cake used to be tradition, but largely fell out of favor, although it is still alive and well in the American South. The groom's cake typically is less ornate than the wedding cake, and favors the groom's choices in style, interests and flavors.

Couples and their guests look forward to indulging in wedding cake near the end of the reception. The looks and flavors of a wedding cake can be as unique as the couple saying, "I do."

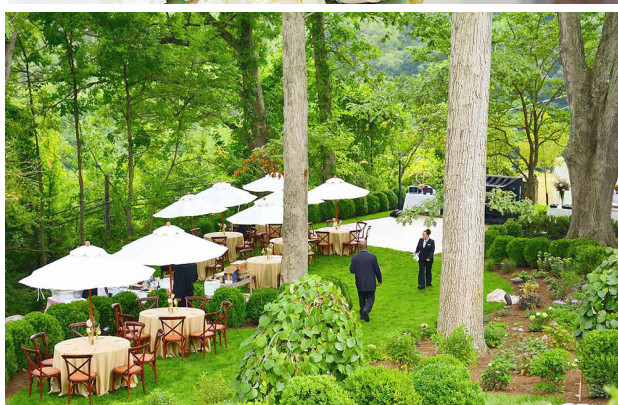
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