

Mountain messenger

April 6, 2024

Vol. XLI, No. 14

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

RealWV to host Greenbrier County Primary Debates at Lewis Theatre

By RealWV Staff

RealWV is pleased to announce that our 2024 Greenbrier County Primary Candidates Debates will take place on Monday, Apr. 8 and Thursday, Apr. 11 at the Lewis Theatre in downtown Lewisburg.

Monday evening will feature candidates from non-partisan races, including Board of Education, Family Court Judge, and Circuit Court Judge. Unopposed candidates will also be on-hand to address the audience, and answer questions.

Thursday evening will feature candidates from partisan races, including Greenbrier County Commission, County Sheriff, and both District 46 and 47 of the West Virginia House of Delegates. The program will begin at 6 p.m. on both nights. Admission is free.

Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Scott Womack, Ed. D, will serve as moderator. Col. Womack is a French, German, and Spanish instructor, as well as a Model UN, Student Government, and Youth Leadership Alliance advisor at James Monroe High School.

All Greenbrier County Primary Candidates have been invited to participate. RealWV has also offered all candidates the option of being interviewed for a published article. Suggestions from the public regarding potential questions for the candidates should be emailed to news@therealwv.com.

Both the Greenbrier County Democratic and Republican parties will have information booths in the lobby of the Lewis Theatre on both nights. Voter registration will be available to those who need it.

Primary election Day in West Virginia is Tuesday, May 14.

Annual Lewisburg in Bloom Begonia sale underway

The popular Lewisburg in Bloom Red Dragonwing Begonia Fundraiser is returning for 2024, and orders are open as of this week. Grow your very own official Lewisburg Begonias as seen in the beautiful hanging baskets in downtown Lewisburg.

Each 5.5 inch pot of Red Dragonwing Begonias is \$6.50. Pre-order plants and pickup at Dorie Miller Park at Shelter #2 on Friday, May 10, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. To order plants, email Shannon at sbeatty@lewisburg-wv.org or calling 304-645-2080. Please leave your contact phone number and email address when placing your order. All orders must be placed via this email address or telephone number.

Bridge to be named in honor of Frank Mosley

By Sarah Richardson

Earlier this week it was announced that the WV Division of Highways will be renaming the Hart's Run Bridge over Howard's Creek the "U.S. Army PFC Frank Walker Mosley Memorial Bridge" in honor of long-time Greenbrier Resort employee and U.S. Army Veteran Frank Mosley, who passed away last year.

On Apr. 2, what would have been Mosley's 91st birthday, Greenbrier County Delegate Jeffrey Campbell announced the bridge's renaming, and added, "I was the lead sponsor on HCR 44 - US Army PFC Frank Walker Mosley Memorial Bridge - that crosses Howard's Creek near the I-64 interchange at Harts Run. Growing up in White Sulphur, I knew Frank my entire life. I was raised two houses away from his Tuckahoe Road home on Spruce Street."

The House Resolution highlights Mosley's expansive career at The Greenbrier Resort, as well as his military service. He was born in Thurmond, WV, on April 2,

1933, and was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Korean War. After he was shot in the eye, he was awarded a Purple Heart for his service.

See "Frank Mosley" — Page 2



Frank Mosley began his career at The Greenbrier on May 20, 1959. His favorite memory was meeting Tiger Woods in 2013 and his perfect day at The Greenbrier was when they had his birthday celebration in 2017! Join us in thanking Frank for his 61 years of service!

Ronceverte Community Market now accepting vendors

By Sarah Richardson

The area's newest market is currently accepting applications from local vendors in preparation for their inaugural launch next month. The Ronceverte Community Market is a newly-established, locally-based farmer's market with meat, produce, fruit, baked goods, art, and handmade items all anticipated to be available to patrons, and will be located on Edgar Avenue in Ronceverte every Friday evening starting on May 31 and running through Oct. 25. Running from 5 to 7 p.m. each Friday, it is anticipated that there will be roughly 20 vendors available.

With 11 spots already taken, interested vendors should email roncevertcommunitymarket@gmail.com for more information. Participants will need to obtain the annual \$25 Arts and Crafts Permit from the City of Ronceverte. Please note that this is a producers market, not a resale market.



Reimagining WV coal country by building on state's legacy as an energy provider

By Ramona Schindelheim for Working Nation.
Broadcast version by Nadia Ramlagan for WV News
Service reporting for the Working Nation-Public News Service Collaboration

As the country transitions to green energy, and natural gas has become more affordable, the appetite for coal continues to fade. By 2025, electricity powered by solar energy is forecast to jump significantly in the United States, while coal production is expected to hit its lowest level since the 1960s.

Employment in the coal mining industry has been on a steady downward path since the mid-1980s when there were 178,000 people employed in the industry. Compare that to roughly 43,000 today.

For regions like Appalachia, once the country's leader in coal production, the impact is stark. West Virginia - the only state entirely in the Appalachian region - has been particularly hard hit.

At \$27,346, its per capita income level is the second-lowest in the country, only slightly bigger than Mississippi. Its labor participation rate of 54.8% is also one of the lowest in the country and many young people are leaving the state to find opportunities elsewhere.

It's those kinds of financial realities that are the driving force behind a new generation of West Virginians determined to stay put and rebuild Appalachia's economy.

"We're not here to demonize the coal industry. We're here to build upon its legacy and continue our birthright to produce energy, but through new tools," says Jacob Hannah, CEO of the nonprofit Coalfield Development, which is training and hiring workers in growing industries.

Embracing a Diversified Economy That is Creating Jobs

"When folks look at Appalachia, you hear a lot about the loss of jobs, loss of employers, due to the coal companies shutting down and other companies shutting down

See "Reimagining" — Page 3



The Great American Eclipse of 2024

By Barry Pyne

Hello once again fellow astrophiles! A very special event is about to happen, and I figured it's my duty to get out there and yell it from the mountaintops. But just to be sure you hear me, I thought I'd write about it here too. Just remember though, if you're ever riding by a mountain soon and you hear somebody yelling, that's probably me.

The event I'm talking about is the Great American Eclipse of 2024, which occurs on Monday, Apr. 8. Folks, let me tell you, you DO NOT want to miss this one! This is the LAST total solar eclipse that will cross America for over 20 years. So, if you're over 50 like myself, this just might be your last chance to see one of the greatest spectacles in the universe. Now, you might say, "Hold on there just a second, Mr. Pyne, aren't you exaggerating just a little bit? In the UNIVERSE? Really?"

Well, I'm here to tell you, heck no! I ain't exaggerating one little bit! You see, when the sun covers the Moon in a total solar eclipse, it covers it almost EXACTLY!

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Historic covered bridge repaired within a week of being damaged

On Friday, Mar. 22, West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) bridge engineers discovered the historic Laurel Creek covered bridge leaning precariously to one side. WVDOH District 9 Engineer Jim Moore, P.E., said the wooden structure had apparently been hit by an oversized truck.

District 9 District Forces, or DisForce, used a come along winch tied to a tree to pull the bridge back upright and immediately installed temporary beams in the roof to keep the bridge from collapsing until permanent repairs could be made.

The following week, DisForce crews were back to replace broken beams and rafters and restore the span to its original condition.

“It’s a historic structure,” Moore said. “There aren’t many of these covered bridges left, and it’s important to preserve them.”

Built in 1912 at a cost of \$365, the Laurel Creek covered bridge is the smallest of West Virginia’s 17 remaining covered bridges. The 24½-foot bridge carries Laurel Creek Road over Laurel Creek about four miles southwest of Union in Monroe County.

DisForce is a dedicated crew specializing in bridge and other projects requiring special expertise. For the Laurel Creek repair, DisForce brought in locally sourced hemlock to make repairs to the bridge using original materials. Restoration required partial disassembly of the existing bridge structure to replace some of the beams underneath.

Crews completed structural repairs on the span on Friday, Mar. 29, and intended to re-stain parts they had to replace on Monday, Apr. 1.

“DisForce does a lot of maintenance work on bridges throughout the district,” Moore said. “It was because of them and their skill level that we could respond as quickly as we did.”



The historic Laurel Creek covered bridge was repaired earlier this week after apparently being struck by an oversized truck.

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!”



The informational plaque is reinstalled on the covered bridge.

Frank Mosley Continued from Front Page

In May of 1958, he was hired at The Greenbrier for a “temporary” job after being turned away three times. During his nearly 65 years of service he worked as a houseman, a dishwasher, busboy, window washer, bell stand captain, and greeter, and was awarded an honorary title of Greenbrier Ambassador in 2011.

“Mosley’s job led to encounters with numerous celebrities, including United States presidents. His favorite memory was meeting Tiger Woods in 2013. But the unassuming Mosley was the biggest celebrity of them all, drawing guests of all ages wherever he went throughout the resort. Generations of families grew to know and love Mosley and look forward to his greeting upon arrival at The Greenbrier,” states the Resolution.

Cam Huffman, Director of Public Relations for The Greenbrier, said of Frank, “Whether you’re a guest or whether you’re a team member here at The Greenbrier, you always knew one of the first things you were going to do when you came through those doors was see Frank and see that smile and be greeted by him. Very few people are truly irreplaceable, but, I think Frank was. There’s never going to be another here.”

Delegate Campbell said, “The US Army PFC Frank Walker Mosley Memorial Bridge will serve as a reminder of his military service as a United States Army Veteran, who earned a Purple Heart for his service in the Korean War, while continuing to greet guests to The Greenbrier as they come and go at the I-64, Exit 175 interchange for years to come.”

Permanent signs will be installed at the bridge at a later date yet to be announced.

YOUR CONSERVATIVE VOTE



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Continued from Front Page

in the harsh light. And you might also get to see some prominences - huge bands of plasma, many times larger than Earth, arching over the sun’s surface. In fact, the sun is currently heading towards its maximum of sunspot activity, which means seeing prominences is much more likely.

So, you see, you owe it to all lifekind, everywhere in the universe, to go see this thing. Don’t be the person sitting there watching TV while what is possibly the greatest show in the cosmos is happening just a few hundred miles away. Think about it, all those envious alien astronomers have no hope of getting here, but here you are already. Also, if you’ve seen a partial solar eclipse but never a total solar eclipse and you figure, “Eh, what’s the difference?” you couldn’t be more wrong. Trust me, there is NO SIMILARITY between a total solar eclipse and a partial solar eclipse! They are indescribably different.

I think seeing a total solar eclipse should be on everyone’s bucket list. I saw the last one to cross America in 2017, when I was down in Madisonville, Tennessee. Let me tell you folks, it’s a sight to behold! When you stand there and watch as that last sliver of the sun’s orb disappears, as day gives way to night and the stars appear in the firmament, it gives you a really weird, creepy feeling. Your mind rebels against the very idea of the sun suddenly going out in broad daylight. And, as a bonus, this time around totality will last almost twice as long as it did in 2017.

Well folks, I’ve done my best to try and get you out of the easy chair and on the road, to witness what’s likely to be the grandest spectacle you’ll ever see. The closest places to Lewisburg where you can see the total eclipse are Ohio and Indiana. If you do decide to go, be sure to buy some eclipse glasses before you leave, so you can view the sun safely. Also, my advice is, if you have to take time off work to see it, then take the time off. You only live once, right? And this just might be your last chance to see one. Ever. The next total eclipse that passes over the country occurs on August 12, 2045. Will you still be here? I don’t know about you, but I’m not taking my chances.

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Eclipse

And that can only happen because of a very, very weird coincidence that we humans are the lucky beneficiaries of. Now, it just so happens that the diameter of the sun is 400 times the diameter of the Moon, but the sun is also 400 times further away. This extremely unlikely occurrence means that the sun and the Moon appear exactly the same size in the skies of Earth!

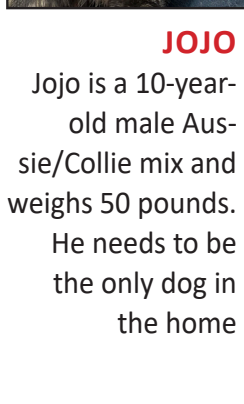
Also, the moon is an appreciable fraction of the size of the Earth, to the point where some astronomers think these two bodies should actually be considered a double planet system. In other words, having a moon that’s so big compared to its planet is thought to be a very rare thing indeed. And when you add this bizarre fact to the apparent size coincidence I mentioned above, astronomers reach the conclusion that it’s very unlikely that aliens anywhere in the entire galaxy have a chance to see a total stellar eclipse, where their star exactly covers their moon in their strange, otherworldly skies. In fact, this might be the case for aliens anywhere in the entire universe! And it’s the fact that the sun covers the Moon exactly that makes our eclipses so special, because this allows you to see the sun’s atmosphere, called the corona. You get to see the strange silvery filaments stretching out from the sun’s surface, which are normally washed away

PICK OF THE LITTER



SPRITE

Sprite is a three-year-old female domestic shorthair



JOJO

Jojo is a 10-year-old male Aussie/Collie mix and weighs 50 pounds. He needs to be the only dog in the home



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!

Briefly

Senior Prom - a prom for all ages

The community is invited to the Senior Prom Apr. 5 presented by the Greenbrier County Committee on Aging in partnership with the WVSOM Geriatrics Club from 6 to 9 p.m. at the WVSOM Alumni Building. There will be music and dancing, snacks, and a cash bar. Tickets may be purchased at the Fairlea or Rupert Senior Centers - \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. Call 304-645-7842 for more information and for sponsorship opportunities. Donations to benefit the Greenbrier County Committee on Aging may be sent to GCCA, 1003 Greenbrier Street, Rupert, WV 25984.

Williamsburg Shooting Match

Spring has sprung! Join us for the Williamsburg Shooting Match that will be held Apr. 6 beginning 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 @\$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! 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.williamsburg-wv.com or call Bill Jarvis at 304-645-3690.

Volunteers needed - Make It Shine Day

Annual Make It Shine Day in Lewisburg is Tuesday, Apr. 9. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and starts in front of Lewisburg City Hall. Trash bags and gloves will be provided. Volunteers will be pairing up in groups and picking up litter in downtown Lewisburg.

Democratic Executive Committee

will meet next Wednesday, Apr. 10, at 5:30 p.m. at the Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate office in downtown Lewisburg. This is a public meeting, and all people interested in promoting the Democratic Party are welcome.

Williamsburg Spaghetti Dinner

Spring is here, get out and join Williamsburg for a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Apr. 13, from 4 to 7 p.m., \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 10. The dinner will include spaghetti with meat sauce, or meatless sauce, salad, garlic bread, drink and dessert. This dinner is a fundraiser to aid the funding of the Williamsburg Fair fireworks. Come eat in or take out!

Judge Richardson to address newly admitted WV lawyers

Judge Robert E. Richardson will be addressing some of West Virginia's newest attorneys at the statewide "Bridge the Gap" seminar program on Monday, Apr. 8 in Charleston. The event, sponsored by the West Virginia State Bar, is designed to help new attorneys transition from law school to the real life challenges of law practice, and all newly admitted lawyers are required to complete the seminar within two years of admission.

Judge Richardson and Judge Joseph Reeder of the Circuit Court of Putnam County will be presenting on the topic of "The Attorney's Duty to the Court and Counsel - What Circuit Court Judges Expect of New Lawyers."

"It's an honor to be invited by the Young Lawyers Section of the State Bar to speak again at this event," Judge Richardson stated. "We try to convey to these new attorneys the necessity of careful preparation in the legal profession, as well the importance of being candid with their clients and with the court."

Judge Richardson and Judge Reeder will also stress in their presentation the need for attorneys to develop and maintain a healthy balance in their lives.

Judge Richardson is the Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, serving Greenbrier and Pocahontas Counties. He was appointed to the bench in 2014, and then elected for a full eight-year term in 2016. Prior to becoming a judge, he practiced law for 27 years, representing clients in both civil and criminal litigation, as well as in a wide range of estate planning, real estate and business matters.

Marriages

Isaula Dunia De Jesus Lopez and Alexis Maradiaga Kaitlyn Leann Kelley and Jacob Michael Adwell

Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Convictions

Kathleen Marie Davis, Alderson. GP, petit larceny, jail 30 days - credit for 1 day, remainder suspended. Unsupervised probation - 1 year.

Serena Adkins, Williamsburg. NCP, trespassing, jail 7 days - time served

Raeann Jane Wright, Lewisburg. GP, improper registration - fine \$25, certificate of insurance - fine \$200

Uzay V. Cagatay, Gibbsboro, NJ. GP, speeding, fine \$24

Ethel R. Johnson, Crawley. GP, speeding, fine \$8
Edis A. Castro-Banegas, Lewisburg. NCP, leaving the scene of an accident with vehicle damage, fine \$100

Mary Smith, Norfolk, VA. GP, speeding, fine \$18

Justin Jackson Via, Renick. GP, fishing without license, fine \$30

Emily Nicole Carter, Lewisburg. NCP, driving suspended or revoked - fine \$100, expired registration - fine \$50, no MVI - fine \$10, no proof of insurance

For the Record

Deeds

Clifton P. Neal and Vicky L. Neal to Christopher P. Neal, Clayton P. Neal, and Courtney P. Osborne: 0.54 acres, Falling Spring District, Map 55N Parcel 5. Filed March 25, 2024.

Hazel D. Fleshman and Autumn Stanley to Cynthia L. Long and Thomas E. Long: 2.48 acres, Blue Sulphur District, Map 25 Parcel 0023 0001. Filed March 25, 2024

Herbert F. Ley and Lorene K. Ley to William J. Fanning and Jill A. Fanning: 20.28 acres, 9.89 acres, Falling Spring District, Map 48 Parcel part of 41. Filed March 25, 2024.

Billy W. Mitchell, Jr. and Tessa N. Mitchell to Tanner R. Richmond and Sarah N. Edmond: 1.277 acres & right of way, Fort Spring District, Map 9 Parcel 32. Filed March 25, 2024.

Carl E. Davis to Aaron B. Davis: 25.636 acres, Blue Sulphur District, Map 24 Parcel 88. Filed March 25, 2024.

Carl E. Davis and Regina A. Davis to Jared A. Davis: 2.706 acres and 84.51 acres, Blue Sulphur District, Map 24 Parcel 88.3. Filed March 25, 2024.

Luz M. Silva to Ronald R. Anderson and Bustos L. M. Silva: lots 75 - 76, Lewisburg District, Map 5 Parcel 124. Filed March 25, 2024.

Craig Hall and Tiki Hall to Val Callisaya: lot 14, Lewisburg District, Map 21 Parcel 194. Filed March 25, 2024.

Cindy J. Halverson (executrix of the Theresa D. Bonner estate) to David Habermehl and Tina Habermehl: 2 parcels, Frankford District, Map 145 Parcel 11. Filed March 25, 2024.

My Ruby Slippers LLC to Leslie Bolen and Rebecca Morrow: 4,840 square feet, Rainelle District, Map 9 Parcel 77. Filed March 26, 2024.

James Walker to Henry L. Walker: 6 acres, Fort Spring District, Map 20 Parcel 0012. Filed March 26, 2024.

Kimberly A. Walker to Henry L. Walker: 6 acres, Fort Spring District, Map 20 Parcel 0012. Filed March 26, 2024.

Ann W. Murty to Henry L. Walker: 6 acres, Fort Spring District, Map 20 Parcel 0012. Filed March 26, 2024.

Helen W. Burke to Henry L. Walker: 6 acres, Fort Spring District, Map 20 Parcel 0012. Filed March 26, 2024.

Kenneth Spencer to Henry L. Walker: 6 acres, Fort Spring District, Map 20 Parcel 0012. Filed March 26, 2024.

Lura Perry, Kathleen Sweet, Mary Harding, and Cecil Perry Jr. to Chad Hefner and Liza Hefner: 1.442 acres, Anthony Creek District, Map 35F Parcel 52.1. Filed March 26, 2024.

Sandra A. DeJohn and Douglas B. McKinney Residual Trust (by trustees Douglas B. McKinney and Rodney K. McKinney) to Evan J. Blumstein: lot 2 Graham Addition, Lewisburg District, Map 24 Parcel 0165. Filed March 26, 2024.

Dwayne L. Woody and April L. Woody to Linda Burgin: lot 11, Main St., 50 X 240 X 60 X 272, Ronceverte District, Map 10 Parcel 147. Filed March 26, 2024.

Michael P. Livesay to Ruschelle Smiroldo-Khanna, Anubhav Khanna, and Cheri Smiroldo: 15.40 acres, Rt. 27, Livesay, Blue Sulphur District, Map 14-0062.0000. Filed March 27, 2024.

Jeffrey W. Lushbaugh estate (by co-administrators) to Craig A. Buchanan and Kelsie Buchanan: 1.06 acres, Lewisburg District, Map 20 Parcel 114. Filed March 28, 2024.

Colleen Kenney to Malcolm T. Beverly: lots 8 & 9, Ronceverte District, Map 9 Parcel 29. Filed March 28, 2024.

Nicholas Waugh to Jessie Schoolcraft: lot 40 Caring Addition, White Sulphur District, Map 12 Parcel 214. Filed March 28, 2024.

Reimagining

Continued from Front Page

because of that. There's a large amount of people who have given up looking for work because there's either not a lot of employment near their isolated community in Appalachia, or they've been impacted by the dilapidation of coal," explains Hannah.

Coalfield Development serves 21 counties in southern West Virginia and is headquartered in Huntington, one of the cities hardest hit by the opioid overdose epidemic.

"We focus on hiring people facing barriers to employment and connecting them to our personal, professional, and academic development model. These are folks coming out of incarceration, coming out of recovery, and coming from being laid off from the coal mines or other industries."

Hannah says there's a combination of need and opportunity right now in West Virginia and the nonprofit's strategy is to learn from the past and move away from an economy that was so dependent on one industry.

"Our solution to avoiding those challenges, and reversing some of the damage, is to go from a mono economy to a diversified economy where there's multiple opportunities and multiple markets that can bring up the workforce."

The nonprofit wholly or partially owns a number of employment-based social enterprises, "enterprises that exist for the purpose of advancing the well-being of its employees."

It's through these businesses that Coalfield Development offers paid on-the-job training in what it sees as industries with a future in West Virginia, including renewable energy, construction, manufacturing, re-use and recycling, and agriculture.

"We have what you would call 'brain drain' in the region. A lot of people in their 20s have left for other opportunities. That leaves a large swath of people either just coming out of high school, or folks in their 30s or older. We've had trainees as old as in their 60s," says Hannah.

He adds, "There's no shortage of people that need jobs and there's no shortage of employers that need the people. It's a matter of connecting the two."

The most comprehensive program requires a three-year commitment. Workers receive 33 hours a week of paid on-the-job training, six hours of community college to obtain an associates degree, and three hours of mentoring and coaching to remove barriers such as regaining a driver's license for people who might be justice-impacted. A shorter model offers paid on-the-job training as an introduction to one of the sectors, along with mentoring support for six months.

"You're also in a union job, so it's paying good wages

See "Reimagining" Page 4

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

meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the Greenbrier County Courthouse, 912 Court Street North, Lewisburg, WV 24901 in the County Commission Meeting Room. The public is invited to attend. Call 304-520-3221 for more information.

Historic Landmarks Commission

will meet Monday, Apr. 8 at 5 p.m. in regular session in the Paul R. Cooley Council Chamber at City Hall, 942 Washington Street West. On the agenda:

- Approval of Minutes - Mar. 7, 2024
- Comments from the public
- Linda Underwood, 116 East Foster St. - build a porch on existing log cabin
- Yarid's Shoes, 885/887 Washington St. - replace roof
- The City of Lewisburg, 942 Washington St. W - build a stage at the Greenspace
- Bestitle, 1128 Washington - window sign
- Florian Schleiff, 263 Echols Lane - build a garage
- Florian Schleiff, 151 Foster St. - build a garage
- Jim Morgan, 140 Oak St. - add additional solar panel to existing three
- Libby Tomas, 1505 Washington St. - replace soffit, fascia and porch flooring
- Emil Stalis, 331 Lafayette St. - install 10x12' shed
- Comments from Members
- Comments from Zoning Officer

The next scheduled meeting of the Historic Landmarks Commission will be Monday, May 13 at 5 p.m. with a deadline of Friday, Apr. 26 at noon.

Greenbrier Co. Board of Education

will meet Tuesday, Apr. 9 at 6 p.m. in the Eastern Greenbrier Middle School Auditorium, 403 Knight Dr., Ronceverte. On the agenda:

- Time Out for Applause
 - Local & State Hoop Shoot Winner Ella Hamric
 - Recognition of elementary archery teams - Alderson Elementary: Jason Ward, Matt Tabor, Andrea Edge, Alicia Utterback Coaches; Frankford Elementary: Jim Anderson, Susan Anderson, Shawn Woods, Coaches
 - County winner & State Top Ten Finalist in WV Poetry Out Loud competition - Christian Montgomery, 10th grade GEHS
 - 2024 County Young Writers grade level winners - Paisley Berkel, Kindergarten Crichton Elem.; Rowan Bailey, 1st grade Ronceverte Elem.; Baylor Brown, 2nd grade Frankford Elem.; Elizabeth Spencer, 3rd grade Crichton Elem.; Archer Ward, 4th grade Lewisburg Elem.; Jaxon Dolan, 6th grade EGMS; Ellie Burns, 7th grade EGMS; Tianna Brigman, 9th grade GEHS; Peyton Barker, 12th grade, GEHS
 - 2024 State Young Writers winner - Baylor Brown, 1st Place in State
 - Recognition of 2024 County & Regional Science & Engineering Fair Winners - 1st Place County Kellan Pack; 1st Place County & 1st Place Regional Brysan Hamrick, Milyn Neumann, Saja Huggi, Barrett Ott; 1st Place County & 2nd Place Regional - Hailey Williams, Emerson Miller, AnnaLeigh Merritt; 1st Place County & 3rd Place Regional - Alisha Khan
 - Recognition of 2024 State Science & Engineering Fair Winners - 1st Place at State Emmalyn Webb, Ayaan Patel; 2nd Place at State Tayton Martin, Jaxon Dolan-White; 3rd Place at State Jayce Bush
 - Recognition of 2024-25 County Math Field Day winners participating in Regionals
 - 2024-25 Regional Math Field Day alternates
 - Recognition of 2024 Teacher of the Year Candidates Melissa Santos, David Poticher, Angie Tipton, Regina Holliday, Kelley McDade, Elizabeth Dills Wood, Jessica Hughart, Wendy Anderson, LeAnn Nutter, Alayna Sparks, Brooke Crane, Emily Dunkle, Tim Yunker
 - Winner to be announced

Mountain Messenger

The Weekend Newspaper for the Greenbrier Valley

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

Reimagining

with good benefits,” says Hannah.

There is also a free one-month program offered around in-demand industries such as solar energy and construction. “They’re not on our payroll. They’re community individuals that are looking for information on a topic that aligns with the employment demand in the community or region,” he adds.

Mining the Sun in West Virginia

Coalfield Development has hired more than 1,700 people for local jobs through its training programs since its founding in 2010. Hannah estimates that 75% of the trainees have remained in the workforce, with another 25% choosing to continue their education.

The nonprofit has supported or started 72 new businesses, creating another 800 new jobs, according to Hannah.

The biggest social enterprise in the Coalfield Development ecosystem is Solar Holler, one of the largest solar installers in West Virginia. The jobs provided through the training program are IBEW union apprenticeships.

Solar Holler’s website says its mission is to “Mine the Sun” and touts that “For generations, Appalachians have powered America. We continue that legacy with clean energy that empowers our neighbors and renews our communities.”

In just over a decade the company has completed more than 1,400 solar installations in homes, businesses, and nonprofits.

Solar Holler and Coalfield Development are part of a broader coalition called ACT (Appalachian Climate Technology) NOW that competes for federal dollars to have a bigger impact. The coalition has been awarded roughly \$88 million dollars in federal grants and matches from non-federal sources.

That investment has translated into a bigger push to train workers in the solar energy industry in the region, a trend that is evident around the country. The demand for solar installers nationwide is expected to grow 22% over the next eight years.

OPINION

Letter to the Editor

An appreciation for Billy Joe Ratcliff - MSHA Inspector

Dear Editor:

It was going to be a busy day. Virginia Living Museum people were coming to pick up some petrified logs and I was going to have them help strap the logs and guide them onto the trailer while I ran the loader lifting and placing them. It was going to be easy with those guys’ help. At the same time, the National Geographic Jason Education Project team was assembling in the parking lot for a trip underground to document our gem mine. A Smithsonian Institution mineralogist was working with them to guide the tour which included three smart high school students. The plan was the students would ask smart questions and the Doctor would give bright answers, all recorded by the video team and the audio team and a Director.

I slipped into my office to escape the general chaos but where I could watch the action when, I felt a presence; I looked over my shoulder and saw this giant filling the doorway and his barely clearing the top, and I let out an, “Oh No!” Billy Joe said, Aren’t you glad to see me?” cheerfully. I’m glad he wasn’t stopping me on some West Virginia back road in the middle of the night back in his Deputy days! So, I couldn’t use the free, untrained, un-equipped help to load the petrified wood and did it by myself, the “team” standing by uselessly and Billy Joe standing back and watching everything!

Back in the store, the National Geographic team began arriving and I immediately knew we had trouble. They had no hardhats and were wearing little caps lamps on their heads like a bunch of coon hunters! Billy Joe looked them over with a jaundiced expression and asked, “Do you think you are going underground like that?” None of them had hard-toed boots either. One student girl was at least wearing cowgirls’ boots. She and Billy Joe had lively discussion about her boots. She argued, “They are hard-toed; my horse has stepped on my foot and no problem.” She pulled them off and gave them to Billy Joe and he said, “Show me where it says “MSHA Approved”?” Well, Billy Joe won.

To add “injury to insult,” the cowgirl boots came off, the soft street shoes came off, we found every old, stiff, derelict boot left on the minesite, cracked, leaking and wrong sizes, and the team was forced to wear them! It was comical. Good going, Billy Joe! I got just one violation that day; he found a cover not on an electrical panel and true to his profession, he “wrote me up”! What a day.

Billy Joe loved hamburgers. On his first inspection at lunch time, he asked where he could get a good hamburger. We told him about our favorite place and we said it will be the best he’d ever eaten. He commented something like, “I’ve eaten a lot of hamburger in a lot of places and it would have to be awfully good to be the best” Later, he was back and he said, “That is a good hamburger!” From then on, we got a break while Billy Joe had a hamburger.

But Billy Joe, you were always fair. You really did keep us safe and you added much professionalism to our underground gem mine. You alerted us to upcoming large problems like developing a second means of access to our deeper levels knowing it would take time mining by hand as we did. You brought your technical skills and mining experience to us. You were always pleasant. I and we at Morefield mine thank you and we are glad we got to know you, appreciate you as a person, and to meet a Massy Energy “hot seat” continuous miner operator. I know you were a believer and I know you are in a safe place, a Heavenly place. No rock falls, no gas, no accidents, no hazards, no darkness. Welcome home, our West Virginia Friend!

Sam and Sharon Dunaway and our team 4/1/2024

Letter to the Editor

Why I am pro-choice

Dear Editor:

I can’t say something about abortion that hasn’t already been said. So, I thought I’d tell you about my journey from staunch pro life young man to the pro-choice supporter I am today. I grew up in a fundamentalist Baptist household. The first protest that I ever went to was an anti-abortion protest on the Elk River bridge in Charleston. We felt that life began at conception and should be protected from that point.

I first started questioning my position when I learned about “the quickening.” That’s when a woman can feel her baby’s movement in her womb, and historically thought of as when a baby receives its soul. The quickening was the line when it is legally possible to have an abortion. This is a standard used going all the way back to Aristotle. Typically, the quickening can happen anywhere between 16 and 22 weeks. If this is the standard going back all the way to Aristotle, why should it change now?

When I went to nursing school, we talked about stages of fetal development. From the beginning of the pregnancy a zygote is just a clump of cells (about the size of a poppy seed at week four), at week 8 the fetus is about an inch long, at 12 weeks the fetus is 3 inches long, at 16 weeks its about 5 inches long, to week 24 when a fetus can potentially survive outside the womb. This knowledge had an impact on me. Its hard to call something merely 3 inches long a baby.

Later, I learned about third trimester abortions, which usually happens when wanted pregnancies develop birth defects that make it so a fetus cannot survive outside the womb. Diagnoses like “anencephalic syndrome,” which means that the fetus has not developed a brain. Sometimes its due to complications with the placenta, or neural tube defects, or spina bifida, or any number of defects. I think if more people were educated on the incredibly sad nature of third trimester abortions, they wouldn’t be as anti-abortion.

So, there it is. How I went from pro-life to pro-choice. Now, I’m running for the House of Delegates in the 47th district. If elected I will work to give women back the right to choose abortion if they wish. The person most educated to make that decision is a woman and her doctor. I believe that to be pro-choice is to believe in a woman’s bodily autonomy, and mercy, and recognizing that no individual knows the struggles of all others.

Roger Vannoy

Democratic candidate for the House of Delegates

In West Virginia, where the minimum wage is \$8.75 an hour, solar installers average nearly twice that amount at \$17.31 an hour.

‘I was pretty much just scheming to get out, pretty much as soon as possible’

When 21-year-old Dylan Albright discovered there was a free, one-month program to learn more about solar energy jobs, he was intrigued.

He says he and his friends have long been interested in sustainability, but after high school he went to a trade school and boot camp for computer systems repairs. While he was offered part-time jobs, he says the wages were not much different that what he was earning in a warehouse for a retailer and believed he’d need to leave West Virginia.

“For pretty much my entire middle school, high school, and even some of my early adult life, I was pretty much just scheming to get out, pretty much as soon as possible,” says Albright.

When they learned about the free program at Coalfield Development, he and his friends signed up.

“When we heard that there was a program teaching people about the ins and outs of solar, including installation and how it worked, it was kind of a no brainer for us to hop on that and learn as much as we could about it,” says Albright.

Last fall, Albright says, he learned everything from design and installation of solar panels to how to operate a forklift and eventually earned certifications that included the OSHA 10-Hour Construction Certification.

He now works full-time as a solar installer for Solar Holler, with insurance and benefits through his union. “I’m comfortable knowing that if I needed to, I could live alone without a roommate. I could support myself and still be building savings.”

Albright says he likes his new job, but cautions it may not be for everyone.

“You’re working long hours, up on a roof, and on a harness. It does get the back and upper body working, for sure. But if you like moving your body, and you like having a variety in the tasks that you can do, it’s a pretty nice job.” he says. “Honestly, it’s the best job I’ve had by far, I feel pretty good. I feel like I could stick around for a lot longer than I used to think.”

‘For me, it’s deeply personal’

Coalfield Development CEO Hannah is a fifth generation West Virginian. Three generations of his family worked in the coal industry and he is personally invested in building a better future for Appalachians through a more diversified economy, one that builds on the energy that powered it for so long.

“We’re not here to just mine coal, we’re mining the sun. Coal is just sunlight that’s trapped in the soil for a billion years and we are just cutting out that middle man of the billion years and going straight to the source.

“For me, it’s deeply personal. It’s deeply spiritual. It’s what I consider a just transition, something that’s been needed for the last 100 years.

“This work is what I would have wished my dad had the chance to do. I saw him get laid off from the coal mines and get his last check in the mail. I’ve seen businesses in my community shut down. I, myself, had to leave to go to school to find better opportunities.

“Now, it is seeing folks be able to have agency and dignity again, and for our region not to continue to be this battleground area for this narrative that it’s down in its mouth, down on its luck, and just doesn’t wanna work. None of that’s true. This is a way to give us the tools to prove that in a way that honors our legacy, as well.”

(Ramona Schindelheim wrote this article for Working Nation)

Attorney General urges caution during last minute tax filing

It’s that time of the year again: income tax filing - this year’s deadline for both state and federal taxes is Apr. 15.

And with that comes a reminder from West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey for last-minute filers to take their time filling out personal information.

“It’s easy to feel rushed when you have a limited amount of time,” Attorney General Morrisey said. “However, make sure you take enough time to fill out everything correctly and send your information to the right place.”

Getting things right in the beginning means no delay in a potential tax refund or confusion caused by submitting incorrect information.

Attorney General Morrisey advises consumers to follow some simple steps to avoid making a last-minute mistake:

- File electronically. It’s time efficient, safer and ensures a faster tax refund.
- Double check your information.
- If you decide to mail your tax return, double check the mailing address at IRS.gov.
- Make sure to validate the legitimacy of any tax preparer or tax filing service you use.
- Shred any discarded documents that contain personal information. Doing so makes it harder for thieves to steal information.
- Be aware of scammers who claim to be IRS representatives as they request personal information. Scammers often make these requests with threat of arrest or lawsuit, but consumers should not comply.

If you believe you’ve been the victim of a tax-related scam or identity theft, contact the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Office at 800-368-8808 or online at www.ago.wv.gov. Find more information at www.irs.gov/identitytheft or www.ftc.gov/identitytheft.

OBITUARY

Elsie Austin Griffith



Elsie Jane Austin Griffith, 87, of Covington, VA, died Saturday, March 30, 2024, at Carillion Roanoke Memorial Hospital in Roanoke.

Elsie was born April 7, 1936, on Teaberry Road near Ronceverte, WV, a daughter of the late Henry William and Rachel Yates Austin. In addition to her parents, she was preceded

in death by her husband, Ray Eldridge Griffith and brother, Robert Lee Austin.

Mrs. Griffith attended Bluefield Business College and worked at several clerical jobs over the years, including at The Greenbrier and at various doctor’s offices in the area. She enjoyed traveling, crafts, gardening, reading, chocolate, and people. She loved talking and listening to new and old friends alike.

Surviving are her children, Stanley Griffith of Manassas, and Donna Griffith Shewmake of Henrico; two grandchildren, Megan Coles Shewmake of Austin, TX, and Tyler Lewis Shewmake of Richmond; two sisters, Emily Austin Badra and husband, Joe of Coco-

nut Creek, FL and Connie Austin Murphy and husband Donald of York, PA; numerous nieces and nephews; and many others who lovingly called her “Aunt Elsie.”

In accordance with her wishes, her body has been cremated.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at 11 a.m. at Faith Baptist Church in Covington, with the Rev. Andy Bellanger officiating. The family will receive their friends from 9:30 a.m. until service time at the church.

Arritt Funeral Home has been entrusted with overseeing arrangements.

Those wishing to send condolences online may do so at arrittfuneralhome.com.

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Club & Church

Senior Prom slated April 5



Planning the Prom: Gloria Martin (left), Terri Baker and Vicki Dove of GCCA and WVSOM students, members of the Geriatric Club

Once again, The Greenbrier County Committee on Aging in partnership with the WVSOM Geriatric Club are sponsoring the "Senior Prom," A Prom for Everyone. This fun event will be held on Friday, Apr. 5 at the WV-SOM Alumni Center from 6 to 9 p.m. There will be dancing with music from throughout the decades. Complimentary refreshments are included and

a cash bar is available. This is a fundraiser for the Committee on Aging as the monies received from Federal, State and private grants do not cover the costs incurred by GCCA

in providing services for the Seniors of Greenbrier County. Tickets are \$15 per person or \$25 a couple and available by calling GCCA at either 304-392-5138 or 304-645-1978.



Karen Lee McClung welcomes Judy Deegans, who is bringing the 2024 edition of the Club's yearbook.

Lewisburg House and Garden Club holds first 2024 meeting

The Lewisburg House and Garden Club held the first meeting of the year on Mar. 27 at the lovely home of Karen Lee McClung. Mary Lindquist and Joan Montgomery served as hostesses.

President Marit Withrow opened the meeting by having the members say the Creed of the National Association of Garden Clubs: "In the garden of life, we will join together in service to protect and respect our environment, to model compassion and generosity in our communities, and to be dedicated to the beautification of this garden and the education of its occupants."

This was a working meeting where plans were made for the Homes Tour coming up on the second Saturday in June, and for the Club's Spring Luncheon at beautiful Spring Creek Farm in May. The yearbooks for this new year were distributed.

Lewisburg United Methodist honors Easter with flowering crosses

The flowering of the cross represents the transition from Good Friday to Easter - from meditation on Jesus' death to joyful celebration of His resurrection.

The Lewisburg United Methodist Church has constructed the flowering crosses for several years as one of the symbols of Easter.

LUMC would like to express our gratitude to Kroger for providing all the flowers for our sanctuary cross and the outdoor cross at the corner of Washington and Lee Streets.

The church hopes the public will enjoy the flowering crosses and remember the cross as an emblem of Jesus' resurrection and His continuing presence.



2024 Adopt-A-Highway Spring Cleanup set for April 27

Individuals, families, churches, businesses, schools, civic organizations, government agencies and communities can register to pick up trash on almost any state-maintained road

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) is now accepting registrations for the 2024 Adopt-A-Highway Spring Statewide Cleanup set for Saturday, Apr. 27.

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

Individuals, families, churches, businesses, schools, civic organizations, government agencies and communities can register to pick up trash on almost any state-maintained road, back road, or main route. Private roads and interstate highways cannot be adopted.

The Adopt-A-Highway program provides garbage bags, work gloves and safety vests to volunteers, and takes care of disposing of collected trash. Volunteers must be at least 12 years old to participate. One-time cleanups are encouraged but must be registered.

Groups must register in advance by Apr. 17 and inform their local DOH garage if they need supplies. Supplies may be picked up during normal business hours at your local DOH Garage.

To register, call 1-800-322-5530 or send an email to dep.aah@wv.gov. If you reach the REAP voicemail, please leave your name, phone number, group name, date of cleanup, number of participants, and the county where your adopted road is located.

The 2023 Adopt A Highway spring cleanup saw nearly 3,000 volunteers from over 300 groups and removed over 85,000 pounds of litter from over 600 miles of roadway.

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

Free Spring Pruning Clinic upcoming

The Master Gardeners Announce a free Spring Pruning Clinic will be held on Saturday, Apr. 20, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Master Gardener Demonstration Garden at the WV State Fairgrounds in Fairlea. The clinic will be taught by Dr. Mira B. Danilovic, Extension Specialist Consumer Horticulture and Associate Professor with the WVU Extension Service and WVU Davis College of Agriculture Natural Resources and Design. Additionally, Dr. Mira serves as State Coordinator for the WV Extension Master Gardener Program.

The topics that will be covered will include how and when to prune garden and fruit trees, bushes, vines, and what type of pruning equipment you need and how to care for them.

This clinic is free and open to the public. If you are interested in attending this clinic please call Mary Dameron at the Greenbrier County Agriculture Extension Office at 304-657-7408.

THANK YOU FOR READING THE MOUNTAIN MESSENGER



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Applications must be received at WSS City Hall no later than Monday, April 15, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

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SCHOOL

JMHS James Monroe Day set for April 22

James Monroe High School's (JMHS) Student Government Association (SGA) will host its fifth annual James Monroe Day on Apr. 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Highlights of previous James Monroe Days include a variety of community-oriented themes such as:

- A display of the Monroe County Courthouse Bell, cast in 1818 when James Monroe was President of the United States
- A display from Sprouting Farms with equipment, products, and ideas for local food production and marketing
- A display from the Monroe County Historical Society with living historians, maps, and publications regarding our community's rich and varied history
- Local veteran's organizations - the American Legion and Vietnam Veterans of America
- "Senator Jennings Randolph," sponsor of the 26th Amendment that lowered voting age to 18 as portrayed by Mr. Lee Dean of the WV Secretary of State's office.

• "President James Monroe" on his trusty horse as portrayed by JMHS's Dr. Scott Womack and his horse, Junior.

- One-act plays about James Monroe written and performed by JMHS students
- Military recruiters

In addition to activities such as those listed, JMHS will use this year's James Monroe Day to honor students who have committed to serving our country in uniform as members of the U.S. Armed Forces. There is also an anti-vaping and substance abuse assembly that day for students and a presentation on the same topic for parents at JMHS at 5 p.m.

The JMHS Student Government hopes to reprise these and other interested civic organizations this year at James Monroe Day. If your group would like to participate, please contact the SGA advisor, Dr. Scott Womack, via email at swomack@k12.wv.us, phone at 304-753-5182, or on Facebook messenger.

Farmer's Market Association to host Product Labeling Class

The West Virginia Farmers Market Association, in collaboration with partners AceNet, West Virginia Department of Agriculture Business Development Coordinators, American National Insurance, and the Food and Farm Coalition, is excited to announce a Product Labeling Class. Supported by the USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program, this event is tailored for farmers, artisans and home-based food product businesses, aiming to enhance their presence in West Virginia's farmers markets, festivals, and stores.

This session, set to take place at The Schoolhouse Hotel on May 5 from 1 to 3 p.m., is designed to educate participants on the essentials of product labeling and offer insights into branding, marketing, food safety, and insurance specifics. Our partnering agencies' collective expertise will provide various resources, ensuring attendees

have the tools and knowledge to successfully navigate the complexities of selling home-produced food products.

Offering not just invaluable information but also a locally sourced meal, this class is an opportunity not to be missed for home-based food entrepreneurs looking to expand their horizons. Free to attend, it underlines the commitment of the West Virginia Farmers Market Association and its partners to nurturing the local food economy and supporting small business growth. Registration is available at www.wvfarmers.org under Projects.

The West Virginia Farmers Market Association (WVFMA) is a statewide membership-based organization designed to strengthen farmers' markets and enhance their surrounding communities. The WVFMA provides resources and technical assistance to farmers' markets throughout the state.

Carnegie Hall Calendar of Events

Saturday, April 13: TAKE3 - Join Carnegie Hall in the Board Room before the Take3 performance from 6 to 6:45 p.m., Saturday, April 13. Free admission. Cash bar and snacks available.

Saturday, April 13: TAKE3 - Mainstage Performance by classical crossover trio Take3 on Saturday, April 13, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$32/adults and \$10/students.

Wednesday, April 17: WVU Symphony - Special Performance by West Virginia University Symphony on Wednesday, April 17, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15/adults and \$7/students.

Saturday, April 20: WVSO State Tour - The West Virginia Symphony Orchestra (WVSO) is thrilled to hit the road with A Melding of Cultures: Spring Tour 2024 on Satur-

day, April 20, at 7 p.m. Free Admission, but must register.

Thursday, May 2: Chris Haddox - Second Stage Performance on Thursday, May 2, at 7 p.m. featuring well-loved, easy-going consummate picker and gifted songwriter in the traditional folk, country, and Americana vein, Chris Haddox. Second Stage Series takes place in the Old Stone Room and is general admission seating. Tickets are \$20/adult; \$5/child.

Rotating Galleries:

Old Stone Room Gallery - Fiber Arts Network. There will be an opening reception on Friday, April 5, at 5 p.m. The exhibit runs through the end of April.

Museum Gallery - "Spirits" by Richard Shrewsbury. The exhibit runs through the end of April.

Lobby Gallery - "Dream Art" by Michelle Kelly. The exhibit runs through the end of April.

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

Permanent Exhibit:

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

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

Super Crossword

PUTTING ON A GOOD FACE

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

Seek **UPUSER**

Entry **LOPART**

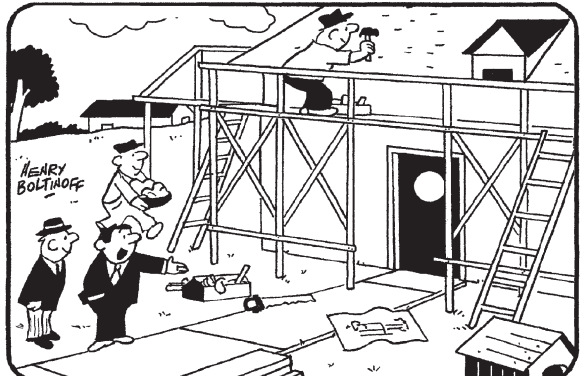
Sniff **HALIEN**

Dense **TUBEOS**

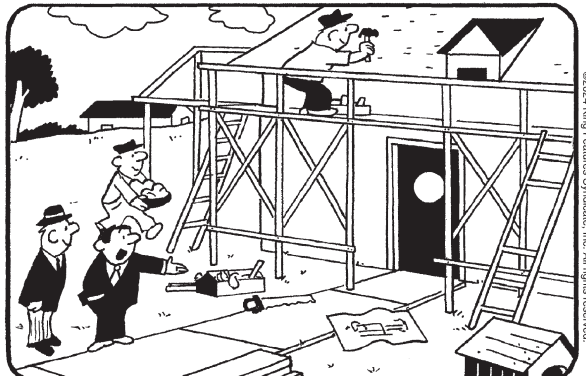
TODAY'S WORD

"You can put my opinions down as just the _____ of his."

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



taller 4. Dormer is moved. 5. Ladder rung is missing. 6. Line in walkway is moved.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Very little bit
 - 5 Large Indian city
 - 10 Discover by chance
 - 15 Elegant
 - 19 Liposuction target
 - 20 Take out — (borrow cash)
 - 21 Journalist — Rogers St. Johns
 - 22 Actor Cronyn
 - 23 Initial impression
 - 25 Printer cartridge contents
 - 27 Still in the future
 - 28 Harsh review
 - 30 Admit defeat
 - 31 Wonder
 - 32 Like bedroom communities
 - 35 Partners of 84-Down
 - 36 Metal sleeve in an engine's piston
 - 40 Slide down a slope
 - 41 Cuts of pork
 - 42 Disney who drew
 - 43 Toot one's own horn
 - 46 Gaius' garb
 - 50 Rand of objectivism
 - 51 "Viva — Vegas"
 - 52 Base coat on a wall, maybe
 - 54 Is a little too fond of
 - 57 Rest on top of
 - 59 Writer Nin
 - 60 Prefix with conscious
 - 61 Dock
 - 62 Honey liquor
 - 64 Cpl., e.g.
 - 65 Big grant-giving group
 - 72 Totally
 - 73 Granny
 - 74 Dog food brand
 - 75 Places with lots of IVs
 - 76 Mental picture
 - 78 Dictators
 - 81 Row of PC-screen buttons
 - 85 Cabaret where the cancan originated
 - 87 Kilmer of "Tombstone"
 - 88 Kitchen utensil brand
 - 89 "Little" actress Rae
 - 90 Decorative tattoo dye
 - 91 Very little
 - 93 Garden pest
 - 95 Mem. of the family
 - 97 Annotation in the text of Christian scripture
 - 100 Server overseer, informally
 - 103 Convention speeches
 - 105 "... flaw — feature?"
 - 106 Mixed with cognac, e.g.
 - 108 Flip (out)
 - 109 Clip out
 - 113 Something cast at sunset
 - 116 What you have passed when you figure out this puzzle's theme?
 - 118 Hydroxyl compound
 - 119 Cooling, as champagne
 - 120 French gal pals
 - 121 To be, to Livy
 - 122 Really resist
 - 123 Former quarterback Rodney
 - 124 French governing body
 - 125 Letters after pis
- DOWN**
- 1 Not definite
 - 2 "Rolie Polie —" (kids' book)
 - 3 Sour
 - 4 Refrain from drinking
 - 5 Patted lightly
 - 6 Fanning of "Teen Spirit"
 - 7 Baseball's Gehrig
 - 8 Wields influence
 - 9 Occupy
 - 10 TV's Linden
 - 11 Lupino or Tarbell
 - 12 Actress Thompson of "Creed"
 - 13 Brand of fake 69-Down
 - 14 — a one (zero)
 - 15 Go through the motions
 - 16 1/16 pound
 - 17 Aroma
 - 18 "— Johnny!"
 - 24 Small cities
 - 26 Ankara native
 - 29 Convent sister
 - 32 Span. women
 - 33 Steel support for concrete
 - 34 Grill
 - 36 Dressed (in)
 - 37 "Around-the-world" toy
 - 38 Dryer fluff
 - 39 Actor McGregor
 - 40 Fuel additive brand
 - 44 Strong ill will
 - 45 Dutch artist Jan
 - 47 Certain Arab
 - 48 State Farm alternative
 - 49 Fiery crime
 - 51 Spa sponge
 - 52 Actress Valerie of "Lenny"
 - 53 Storm-finding systems
 - 55 Cartoon cry
 - 56 Act starter
 - 57 Qatar export
 - 58 Letter #22
 - 61 Take selfish advantage of
 - 63 "It's —!" ("You're on!")
 - 65 "Darkman" director Sam
 - 66 Actor Edward James —
 - 67 Santa —
 - 68 — nous
 - 69 Liposuction target
 - 70 Mantra words
 - 71 "For shame!"
 - 77 In a harshly bright way
 - 79 Pass quickly on foot
 - 80 "To repeat ..."
 - 81 Unveiling cry
 - 82 — -chic
 - 83 Pivot point
 - 84 Fishing sticks
 - 86 Devils' org.
 - 87 Dirt Devils, e.g., in brief
 - 91 Nissan car models
 - 92 Reason for extra innings
 - 93 Get — on reality
 - 94 Ceiling coat
 - 96 Terminates
 - 98 Arrow shooter
 - 99 Short-horned grasshopper
 - 100 Differently — (other-skilled)
 - 101 Pilotless craft
 - 102 Lead-in to "the cloth" or "the hour"
 - 103 Cartoonist Bill
 - 104 Comic and actor Murphy
 - 107 Breakfast chain, in brief
 - 109 "I — bad moon rising"
 - 110 Meeting period, slangily
 - 111 — buco (veal dish)
 - 112 Map nos.
 - 114 Tenth mo.
 - 115 Very little
 - 117 Cousins, e.g.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14		15	16	17	18		
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113										114	115			116		117						
118																						121
122																						125

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

West Virginia Symphony presents A Melding of Cultures: Spring Tour 2024

The West Virginia Symphony Orchestra (WVSO) is thrilled to hit the road with A Melding of Cultures: Spring Tour 2024 at Carnegie Hall on Saturday, Apr. 20, at 7 p.m.

The WVSO comes to Carnegie Hall for an immersive concert experience where Appalachian and Korean cultures meet. American composer Ted Wiprud and Korean soloist Gamin come together with the WV Symphony to explore music theory and how cultural influences impact its formation and progression. Concert goers will be guided with commentary and notes from composer Ted Wiprud.

Gamin is a Korean born US based multi-instrumentalist specialized for traditional Korean wind. She tours the world performing both traditional Korean music and cross-disciplinary collaborations. Gamin has received several cultural exchange program grants, including Artist-in-Residence at the Asian Cultural Council, and has collaborated in cross-cultural improvisation with world-acclaimed musicians, presenting premieres at Roulette Theater, New School, and Metropolitan Museum.

The program begins with Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's Novelle No. 4, followed by a new commission from Wiprud featuring Gamin on the Piri, a traditional Korean instrument. Copland's Appalachian Spring will close the concert and experience.

"We look forward to welcoming Gamin and returning talented composer Ted Wiprud to West Virginia as we explore the cultural fusion of Korean and Appalachian music across this great state," said WVSO President Joe Tackett. "Wiprud's commission for the traditional Korean Piri will show-



Gamin



Theodore Wiprud

diences to this unique instrument."

The WVSO's Spring Tour is made possible by the generous support of the West Virginia Humanities Council and Carnegie Hall. This event is free and open to the public.

"The arts not only feed our hunger for beauty, they can nourish cultural understanding and human connections across borders of every kind. We are delighted to lend our support to this wonderful

program," said Eric Waggoner, Executive Director of the West Virginia Humanities Council.

The West Virginia Symphony Orchestra is West Virginia's premier performing arts organization, presenting classical and pops concerts annually throughout the Mountain State. Currently in its 85th season, the WVSO is a proud member of the community and enriches the region by providing affordable, high-quality concerts, collaborations with West Virginia arts organizations and a nationally award-winning education program.

This is a free event, but attendees must register. To register, call Carnegie Hall Box Office at 304-645-7917, visit 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. Carnegie Hall WV is a non-profit organization supported by individual contributions, grants, and fundraising efforts such as TOOT and The Carnegie Hall Gala.

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

GREENBRIER COUNTY COMMISSION REQUEST FOR BIDS

WV GRANT NUMBER DLAP24-14/GBC-01 Demolition of Abandoned and Dilapidated Properties

The Greenbrier County Commission invites qualified contractors to submit a firm fixed price sealed bid for the demolition of the structures located at the following addresses: 203 Hunter Road, Rainelle, WV 25962, Parcel # 11-47R-68; 164 Old Pike Road, Crawley, WV 24977, Parcel # 11-82-12; 136 Creekview Lane, Caldwell, WV 24925 Parcel # 8-6-2. Sealed bids must be received by noon on Friday April 12, 2024. Submit your sealed bid to the Greenbrier County Commission at 912 Court Street North, Lewisburg, WV, 24901. Bids shall be for the aggregate cost but itemized for each of the three parcels inclusive of the cost of: Demolition, removal and disposal of all structures and foundations, and the cost of reseeded. Debris must be disposed of in a lawful manner. These structures have been inspected for the presence of asbestos, NO ASBESTOS DETECTED, reports are available to bidders. For more information, call Stephen Simmons 304-520-5825.

LEGAL

NOTICE that the City of Lewisburg Council will hold two (2) public hearings; one on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 9:00 AM and one on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 7:00 PM. The hearings will be held at the Lewisburg City Hall, 942 Washington Street West, Lewisburg, WV 24901. The public is invited to attend and submit comments on the proposed Lewisburg Zoning Ordinance. Copies of the proposed zoning ordinance, including maps, will be available for review prior to the public hearings during normal business hours (Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM) at Lewisburg City Hall and Greenbrier County Library located at 152 Robert W. McCormick Drive, Lewisburg, WV 24901 during normal business hours. The proposed zoning ordinance is also available to view online at <https://lewisburg-wv.org/>. The proposed zoning ordinance replaces the following city ordinances, which will be repealed, numbered as follows: Article 1709: Wireless Telecommunications Facilities, Article 513.10: Establishments Where Gambling is Permitted, and Chapter Three- Zoning Ordinance, Articles 1331 through 1383.

Ordinances to be repealed are available to review online <https://lewisburg-wv.org/>. The proposed zoning ordinance divides land in Lewisburg into zoning districts, which specify permitted and conditional uses as well as development standards for real property within the zoning districts. The proposed zoning ordinance also creates a board of zoning appeals, adopts procedures and requirements for nonconforming land uses, variances, and conditional use permits; and specifies certification requirements for the zoning district map that are consistent with the Lewisburg Comprehensive Plan. Members of the public can call Marsha Cunningham, 304-645-2080 ext. 104 if they are unable to view the zoning ordinance at the city hall or online. Written comments and objections to the proposed zoning ordinance may be made and will be heard at both public hearings and must be filed, prior to the hearings, with Lewisburg City Clerk at the Lewisburg City Hall, 942 Washington Street West, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

LEGAL

(2021-S-00000168 - Greenbrier County - WV CO TAX CERT PURCH 2021 LLC)
To: WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TAX & REVENUE, TACTICAL TECHNOLOGIES LLC, TACTICAL TECHNOLOGIES LLC, WHITE ROCK MOUNTAIN RETREAT PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOC. INC., COVENTRY GROUP COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT, WHITE ROCK MOUNTAIN RETREAT PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION INC, WHITE ROCK MOUNTAIN RETREAT PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION INC, 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 WHITE SULPHUR MAP 30 PARCEL 0025 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: 2021-S-00000168, 1.600 AC OR LOT 37 (FEE) WILD WOOD RIDGE S/D FROM, located in WHITE SULPHUR, which was returned delinquent in the name of TACTICAL TECHNOLOGIES LLC, and for which the tax lien(s) thereon was sold by the sheriff of Greenbrier 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 May 13, 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, May 12, 2024, will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to May 12, 2024.	\$ 654.97
Amount of subsequent year's taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to May 12, 2024.	\$ 507.05
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 May 12, 2024.	\$ 1,282.67
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to May 12, 2024.	\$ 955.83
Total Amount Payable to Sheriff - cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable Bruce Sloan, Sheriff and Treasurer of Greenbrier County.	\$ 3,400.52
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 May 12, 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

LEGAL

GREENBRIER COUNTY COMMISSION REQUEST FOR BIDS WV GRANT NUMBER DLAP24-14/GBC-02 Asbestos Abatement and Demolition of Abandoned and Dilapidated Properties

The Greenbrier County Commission invites qualified contractors to submit a firm fixed price sealed bid for the asbestos abatement and demolition of the structures located at the following addresses: 1588 Main Street, Rainelle, WV 25962 Parcel # 11-54C-63.1; 140 Old Pike Road, Crawley, WV 24977 Parcel # 11-82-13; 17907 Seneca Trail North, Maxwelton, WV 24957 Parcel # 7-18-23. Sealed bids must be received by noon on Friday April 12, 2024. Submit your sealed bid to the Greenbrier County Commission at 912 Court Street North, Lewisburg, WV, 24901. Bids shall be for the aggregate cost but itemized for each of the three parcels inclusive of the cost of: Asbestos abatement, demolition, removal and disposal of all structures and foundations, and the cost of reseeded. Debris must be disposed of in a lawful manner. These structures have been inspected for the presence of asbestos, ASBESTOS IS PRESENT, and the reports are available to bidders. The demolition contractor must be licensed for asbestos removal or must partner with a licensed asbestos contractor. For more information, call Stephen Simmons 304-520-5825.

LEGAL

(2021-S-00000183 - Greenbrier County - WV CO TAX CERT PURCH 2021 LLC)
To: WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TAX & REVENUE, JAMES A. PAYNE, KATHERINE RAFFA, KATHERINE RAFFA, JIM PAYNE, 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 WILLIAMSBURG MAP 33 PARCEL 0048 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: 2021-S-00000183, AC .28 45 P (BK) FR PAYNE, located in WILLIAMSBURG, which was returned delinquent in the name of MORAN MOLLY JO ET ALS, and for which the tax lien(s) thereon was sold by the sheriff of Greenbrier 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 May 15, 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, May 14, 2024, will be as follows:

Amount equal to the taxes and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest, to May 14, 2024.	\$ 110.77
Amount of subsequent year's taxes paid on the property, since the sale, with interest to May 14, 2024.	\$ 6.24
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 May 14, 2024.	\$ 1,229.08
Amount paid for other statutory costs with interest from following the sheriff's sale to May 14, 2024.	\$ 758.63
Total Amount Payable to Sheriff - cashier check, money order or certified check must be made payable to The Honorable Bruce Sloan, Sheriff and Treasurer of Greenbrier County.	\$ 2,104.72
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 May 14, 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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STEPPIN' OUT

One Night Only student musicians perform to a sold-out crowd

Carnegie Hall, working in partnership with Greenbrier County music and theatre educators, presented One Night Only: A Celebration of Young Musicians in the Greenbrier Valley on Thursday, Mar. 7. The concert was a performance opportunity for accomplished music students in grade 6-12 living or taking lessons in the Greenbrier Valley. The showcase took place on Carnegie Hall's Hamilton Auditorium Stage and was sponsored by Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC).

The One Night Only Showcase featured over 45 students who were juried in by video entries for solo performers and ensembles. Carnegie Hall received over 40 submissions, with the top 25 being selected.

"What a wonderful night of music and community! The very first One Night Only was undoubtedly a smashing success, and we've paved the way for an excellent yearly event at Carnegie Hall," states Birch Graves, Eastern Greenbrier Middle School Assistant Band Director, Guitar and Music Educator, and One Night Only committee member.

Graves also wanted to thank "the music educators for your hours of patient teaching, the musicians for your excellent performances (the hours of practicing paid off!), the staff of Carnegie Hall who lovingly thought of every detail and thank you to the community for such strong support of the arts. We truly live in a special place."



Selected performers included Aubrey Adkins, Joshua Alley, Ella Butler, Theo Crowell, Lily Dense, Ezra Dick, Tad Elkins, Kylee Fury, Kean Hedrick, Alexus Hill, Mason Huffman, Lydia Jackson, Mary Johnson, Sasha Lanek, Lucia Lipton, Lillian Long, Sal Marks, Ashley Meadows, Isaac Tincher, Wyatt Thornton, Coleton Uterback, Alyson Vandall, Emma Vincent, Nathaniel Vin-

cent, Arabella Webb, The Shattered Glass (Second Block Rock Group), Enceladus Quartet (Heartstrings Academy), and The Arrivals (Second Block Rock Group).

One Night Only was also assisted by student stage/tech crew members, Kimmi Butler, Brian Lopez, and Preston Hedrick, and a student Emcee, Teagan Mandeville.

Greenbrier County Schools Superintendent Jeff Bryant was also very impressed. "I was in awe as I sat in the audience and thoroughly enjoyed and was inspired by each student(s) performance. One Night Only inaugural success necessitates a continuation of this amazing musical event for years to come. Not only were the students' performances wonderful and beautiful, but the support from the community to sell-out Carnegie Hall was inspiring in itself."

Special thanks to: Susan Adkins, Sally Bray, CAMC, Bill Clapham, Harmony Flora, Birch Graves, Gibbs Kinderman, Mary Leb, Kit Lindsey, Cathy Rennard, Susanna Robinson, Cathy Sawyer, David Webb, Nancy Wood, and all Greenbrier County music instructors and classroom teachers that encouraged students to participate.

Carnegie Hall WV is a member-driven nonprofit organization supported by individual contributions, grants, and fundraising efforts such as TOOT and The Carnegie Hall Gala.



WVU Symphony Orchestra

WVU Symphony Orchestra to perform April 17

Carnegie Hall is pleased to present the West Virginia University Symphony Orchestra in concert on Wednesday, Apr. 17 at 7 p.m. Concert tickets are on sale now - only \$15/adults and \$7/students. The performance will be conducted by Rotem Weinberg, WVU's Director of Orchestral Activities.

The program will include Villa Lobos' Sinfonietta No. 1, Beethoven's Piano concert No. 5 "Emperor," movements 2 and 3, and Brahms' Variations on a Theme by Joseph Haydn.

In addition, the WVU Symphony Orchestra will be performing daytime Link Up concerts on Thursday, Apr. 18. Join-

ing the WVU Symphony for the Link Up concerts will be over 500 fifth grade Greenbrier County students and special guest vocalist from Greenbrier East High School under the direction of Ms. Carrie Neese.

Link Up, a program of Weill Music Institute of Carnegie Hall in New York City, pairs orchestras across the country with students in grade three through five to explore orchestral repertoire through a hands-on music curriculum. Students from Greenbrier County will participate in the Link Up concert where they will sing along and play recorders with the orchestra.

Carnegie Hall would like to thank the Greenbrier County Commission and Greenbrier County Schools for their support of Link Up.

First Fridays After 5 returns to Lewisburg

The First Friday Spring Fling is April 5!



fittings and a free gift with \$150 purchase. (818 Jefferson St. S, 304-645-6646, @littleblackboxlingerie)

At Stardust Cafe we will be doing the return of our prime rib night on First Fridays. Featuring a locally sourced prime rib roast with local vegetables and demi glace. We will also have special cocktails and appetizers. 1023 Washington St E., 304-647-3663, @stardustcafewv.

The Band "Untrained Professionals" performs at The Asylum starting at 8 p.m. (339 E Randolph, 681-318-3515 @asylum.lewisburg)

The Briergarten is continuing our 3 Year Birthday Celebration! We will have our specially formulated Birthday Brew from Bad Shepherd Beer Company - "A Bit Louder Double IPA" on tap! (121 Stratton Alley, 304 520 4039, @briergarten)

A New Chapter is hosting a book signing for author Joseph Cooper and his newest book, Splash Fields, from 6 to 8 p.m. The book is available to purchase in store now. (922 Washington St West, 681-318-3501, @newchapterbookswv)

Patina will have Live Celtic music Patrick O'Flaherty. Complimentary beverages and snacks including Girl Scout cookies! (1046 Washington St, 304-520-4962, @patina.lewisburgwv)

Nathan Seldomridge will perform in the Green Space from 5 to 8 p.m.

The Greenbrier Valley Visitors Center welcomes spring with an evening celebrating agritourism and sustainable fashion! Stop in to chat with local farmers and producers and learn more about agritourism and how Greenbrier Valley agriculture is at the forefront of the state and regionally in the United States.

April's Art in the Valley show is Enduring Fashion Choices, an exhibition of sustainable fashion themes and choices that will encourage all to embrace eco-friendly opportunities when putting together a wardrobe. Sustainable brands on display include Charlie Darwin Textiles from Philadelphia and Thomas Ruggiero of

Lewisburg. The exhibit also showcases thrifted and upcycled looks that promote a long life for textiles. Enjoy an evening of eco-friendly resources in the Greenbrier Valley and beyond! (905 Washington Street W., 304-645-1000 @GbrValleyWV)

Edith's will sample its latest Olipop soda flavor, Banana Cream. It's a unique flavor that blends creamy vanilla and sweet banana, creating a taste that closely resembles a banana cream pie in a can. (1035 E Washington St, 304-645-7998, @edithshealthstore)

Aggie's/Vest will be open late and offering 20% off all tulip products. (979 Washington St W, 304-645-4063, @aggieslewisburg)

Little Black Box will be open late offering free bra

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Spring Beautiful Living

2024

How to create an outdoor living retreat



Al fresco entertaining has taken off in recent years. It's much more common today to find homeowners who want to extend living spaces to the outdoors in meaningful ways that go beyond a few lawn chairs and a stand-alone grill. Dream backyard living rooms mirror similar spaces indoors and contain features like cozy corners, lush furniture and televisions or movie projectors. Plus, they often abut additional outdoor luxuries like fully functional kitchens.

Homeowners have various options when designing outdoor living spaces. Above all else, spaces should be created with the goal of encouraging people to get together. Here are some ideas.

Poolside retreat
Homeowners with pools and other water features likely want this area to be the star of the entertaining space. Furniture will be more of the lounging variety, with comfortable chaises and spots to catch the sun. If a swim-up bar isn't possible, a rolling bar cart can be stocked with essentials for cocktails or mocktails for the kids. Furniture near the pool will be exposed to a lot of sun, so look for durable, sun-resistant fabrics.

Fireside nook
Gather- ing around an outdoor fireplace or fire pit is a treat when the weather cools down. Mirror the look of the same setup indoors by arranging outdoor sofas so they flank the fireplace. Add some ottomans or side tables for stowing mulled cider or hot chocolate. A mantel above the fireplace can hold pots of greenery or candles that add to the ambiance.

Consider a custom banquette
Unused corners on a patio or rooftop retreat can utilize a custom-made banquette that provides the functionality of a sofa sectional outdoors. Have a contractor design it to the exact specifications of the area, and add a rug to ground the space.

Vary the flooring
Depending on the entertaining space, a balance of soft grass, pavers or other hardscape will be necessary. Certain areas will need to be hard enough for chairs and other furniture, particularly for those who are including an outdoor dining table in the design.

Create some privacy
Some homeowners are lucky enough to have natural barriers that offer privacy in their entertaining spaces. When there isn't enough, tall shrubs, inexpensive bamboo fencing or trellis can provide a blind that makes an outdoor living area more cozy and private. Consider placing tall, potted plants on rolling casters to improve privacy as the need arises.

Outdoor living spaces are all the rage, and they can add value and functionality to most any home.

Tips to revitalize a garden this spring

Gardening is a rewarding hobby that pays a host of significant dividends. Many people love gardening because it allows them to spend time outdoors, and that simple pleasure is indeed a notable benefit of working in a garden. But the National Initiative for Consumer Horticulture notes that gardening provides a host of additional benefits, including helping people get sufficient levels of exercise, reduce stress and improve mood.

With so much to gain from gardening, it's no wonder people look forward to getting their hands dirty in the garden each spring. As the weather warms up, consider these tips to help bring a garden back to life.

- Discard the dead weight. Winter can take its toll on a garden, even in regions where the weather between December and early spring is not especially harsh. Discard dead plants that have lingered into spring and prune any perennials that need it. Branches that fell during winter storms also should be removed at this point if they have not previously been discarded.

- Test the soil. Soil testing kits can be purchased at local garden centers and home improvement retailers. Such tests are inexpensive and can reveal if the soil needs to be amended to help plants thrive in the months to come.

- Mulch garden beds. Mulching ben-

efits a garden by helping soil retain moisture and preventing the growth of weeds. Various garden experts note that mulching in spring can prevent weed seeds from germinating over the course of spring and summer. That means plants won't have to fight with weeds for water when the temperature warms up. It also means gardeners won't have to spend time pulling weeds this summer.

- Inspect your irrigation system. Homeowners with in-ground irrigation systems or above-ground systems that utilize a drip or soaker function can inspect the systems before plants begin to bloom. Damaged sprinkler heads or torn lines can deprive plants of water they will need to bloom and ultimately thrive once the weather warms up.

- Tune up your tools. Gardening tools have likely been sitting around gathering dust since fall. Serious gardeners know that tools can be expensive, so it pays to protect that investment by maintaining the tools. Sharpened pruners help make plants less vulnerable to infestation and infection. Well-maintained tools like shovels and hoes also make more demanding gardening jobs a little bit easier, so don't forget to tune up your tools before the weather warms up.

It's almost gardening season, which means gardeners can start on the necessary prep work to ensure their gardens grow in strong and beautiful this spring.

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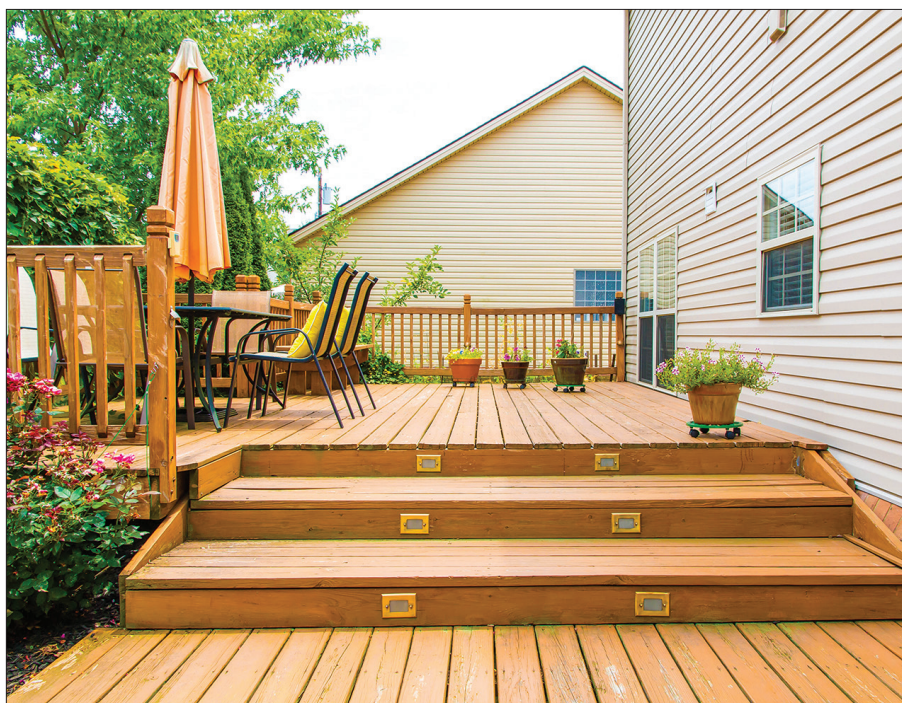
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Signs it's time to repair or replace your deck

Spring is a season of rejuvenation that compels millions across the globe to quit hibernating and get back to enjoying the great outdoors. Spring also marks a great time to assess a home's exterior, namely those areas like a deck where people will spend a lot of time in the warmer months to come.

Assessing a deck after winter can be eye-opening. Harsh winter weather can take its toll on a deck, and the following are some telltale signs that a deck could be in need of repair or replacement.

· **Wobbly underfoot and in hand:** Wobbly planks and railings are one sign of a deteriorating deck homeowners won't recognize as they hide from winter weather indoors. But these tend to reveal themselves rather quickly when examining a deck after winter. Wobbly planks in the middle of the deck can be inconvenient, but wobbly steps and railings can be dangerous. According to the home improvement resource Angi, wobbly railings can be a byproduct of rot. A local decking professional can assess the extent of the rot in railings and elsewhere and determine the best course of action. If the rot is isolated to



an area or two, a simple repair may be all that's necessary. Extensive rot may require a full replacement of the existing deck.

· **Faded paint:** Many homeowners paint their wood decks, and that paint will not last forever. Faded paint can turn an otherwise lovely deck into an

eyesore, and paint can fade over the winter. Thankfully, a local painter can address a faded deck and may recommend some additional strategies to safeguard the deck against fading next winter and beyond.

· **Holes in the wood:** Many a homeowner has encountered curious-looking

holes in their deck. This could be a sign of insect infestation. Termites, carpenter ants and carpenter bees are among the various types of insects that can bore holes through wood. Homeowners who notice holes throughout their deck are urged to call a deck professional and/or pest control firm to assess the holes and offer a solution. Though small issues may be addressed with repairs, a deck littered with holes caused by insects may need a full replacement.

· **Rust:** Wood decks may be made of wood, but they can still exhibit signs of rust, namely in the nails and metal connectors that hold the deck together. If screws have rusted to the point where they are no longer holding the deck together, a full-scale replacement could be in the cards, as the deck could have substantial structural damage. Like other issues that can reveal themselves during a springtime inspection of the deck, rust necessitates a thorough examination by an experienced decking professional.

Many people do not use their decks during winter, which only underscores the significance of a full deck inspection in spring.

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