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Mountain messenger

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

Lewisburg Paintball brings new outdoor fun to the Greenbrier Valley

By Chelsea Blair

The area's newest business, Lewisburg Paintball, held their grand opening on June 29 with food, target practice, and discount paintball battles. Our community is always looking for new, exciting things to do, especially for kids, and Lewisburg Paintball decided to take advantage of a piece of property they own and bring something different to town. Located in the woods behind DealSmart, Lewisburg Paintball set up a paintball course for those who love the sport or would like to try it out.



Paintballers hide behind obstacles during a game.

The owner of Lewisburg Paintball said he was not interested in Paintball until he tried it last year. He has family members who are avid paintballers and encouraged him to join a game at their family reunion. He fell in love with the sport and decided that Lewisburg needed a paintball course.

Since their opening, they have been constantly working to make it a better place for the kids in the community. The goal is to get kids off on-screen games and into the outdoors, with plans to add more activities over time for all to enjoy. "Paintball is like gaming, but they are in the game," he explains.

The company's top priority is safety, and the next is fun. The owner claims that paintball is less dangerous than many other contact sports, with the appropriate equipment. They provide facemasks to ensure safety. They suggest that no under around

See "Paintball" Page 4

Nature's Way

By Karen Cohen on page 4



Visit us at — www.mountainmessenger.com
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Healing Appalachia announces 2024 lineup

Three-day festival set for Sept. 19-21, , pre-party community event set for July 13-14

By Sarah Richardson

Earlier this week, Healing Appalachia announced the lineup for their fifth annual music festival, which is held each year at the West Virginia State Fairgrounds. This year, the festival will run from Sept. 19 through Sept. 21, with tickets going on sale starting July 9 at 10 a.m. Tickets cover the entire three-day festival and free on-site primitive camping, but Late Night Sets will require a separate ticket.

Promising "three days of unforgettable music, community, and healing," Healing Appalachia will feature a mix of local talent and renowned artists including Tyler Childers, My Morning Jacket, Sierra Ferrell, Shooter Jennings, Benjamin Tod & Lost Dog Street Band, Karl Denson's Tiny Universe, S.G. Goodman, Hiss Golden Messenger, Sierra Hull, Dan Reeder, Oliver Wood Trio, Nolan Taylor, Shadow-



grass, Buffalo Wabs and the Price Hill Hustle, The Local Honeys, Strung Like a Horse, Justin Wells, Cody Christian, Darrin Hacquard, Willi Carlisle, Geno Seale, Palmyra, Jordan Lee King, and Alabaster Boxer.

See "Healing Appalachia" Page 4

Timothy Loehmann, officer involved in fatal shooting of 12-year-old, hired by WSS Police Department; resigns

By Stephen Baldwin
RealWV, www.therealwv.com

This story was originally published on June 27, 2024:

The White Sulphur Springs police department has hired Timothy Loehmann. City Administrator Linda Coleman confirmed the hiring to RealWV in a phone call.

Loehmann's name was in the news in 2014 as the officer who shot a 12-year old Black boy, Tamir Rice, as he played with a toy gun in a park. Loehmann was fired by the Cleveland Police Department several years after the incident. The reason provided for his termination was not being truthful about his previous law enforcement work history.

Since being fired after the Tamir Rice shooting, Loehmann has accepted at least two jobs in law enforcement - Bellaire, Ohio, and Tioga, Pennsylvania. Loehmann resigned shortly after being hired in both cases due to local public outcry over the hiring. In Tioga, his hiring led to a "collapse" of the small borough, according to an investigative report by Spotlight PA.

The US Department of Justice decided in 2020 not to pursue federal charges against Loehmann for his role in the shooting death of Tamir Rice. The report said, "To prove that a police shooting violated the Fourth Amendment, the government must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the use of force was objectively unreasonable based on all of the surrounding circumstances."

According to Coleman, Loehmann has been hired and is on the job with the White Sulphur police department after successfully completing his required training courses with the WV State Police.

Phone calls to Mayor Kathy Glover were not returned Thursday afternoon. Calls to Chief D.S. Teubert went to voicemail at the po-

lice station. City Hall indicated the receptionist was out of the office. RealWV also asked Coleman to speak with Officer Loehmann and were told a message would be left for him.

According to Coleman, Loehmann is "on the job" now with the City of White Sulphur. He did recently receive training, she shared.

A public information officer for the WV State Police says that Loehmann has not received training through his agency. Asked for comment on Loehmann's hiring and fitness to serve in light of his past, the WVSP official declined further comment.

Jess Gundy, Director of Law Enforcement Professional Standards (LEPS) for the state clarified that Loehmann received training at a two-week certification course affiliated with Fairmont State University in May 2024. "He also had some training from a previous jurisdiction," Gundy says. "He was granted an equivalency certification by the LEPS subcommittee."

According to Gundy, the committee did look at the 2014 shooting incident. "He was cleared of it and there were no criminal charges."

The above story was updated to clarify that Loehmann did not recently receive any training from the WVSP.

The following update was released four days later on July 1, 2024:

The office of Mayor Kathy L. Glover released the following statement to RealWV this afternoon:

"At the request and recommendation of the Chief of Police for the City of White Sulphur Springs, Timothy Loehmann was hired as a probationary police officer and at-will employee for the City of White Sulphur Springs. As of today, Monday, July 1, 2024, Timothy Loehmann has resigned his position and is no longer an employee of the City of White Sulphur Springs. Since this is an employment matter, I will have no further comment."

U.S. News & World Report ranks Greenbrier East High School among the 2024 best high schools

Greenbrier East High School has been ranked No. 39 of 111 schools in West Virginia in U.S. News & World Report's 2024 Best High Schools rankings. The school was also ranked No. 27 of 111 in the state on the State Assessment Proficiency ranking factor.

The rankings evaluate nearly 18,000 schools at the national, state, and local levels.

"This recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, teachers, and staff," said Ben Routson, Principal of Greenbrier East High School. "We are committed to providing a high-quality education that prepares our students for success in college and beyond."

The methodology focuses on six factors: college readiness; read-

ing, math, and science proficiency; reading, math, and science performance; underserved student performance; college curriculum breadth; and graduation rates.

"The 2024 Best High Schools rankings highlight schools across the country where students consistently demonstrate academic excellence," said LaMont Jones, managing editor of education at U.S. News. "Having access to our data on the high schools can empower families as they navigate today's educational environment and plan for the future."

Parents and students can see how Greenbrier East High School compares to other institutions and how the rankings are calculated on US-News.com.



Robert C. Byrd Clinic doubles enrollment for successful FARMacy program launch in Lewisburg

Robert C. Byrd Clinic (RCBC) is thrilled to announce the successful kickoff of its 2024 FARMacy program in Lewisburg! This year, the program has seen a significant increase in participation, doubling its enrollment to serve 60 patients at the Lewisburg location.

The FARMacy program is a unique initiative designed to address food insecurity and promote healthy eating habits among patients with chronic diet-related diseases. Selected participants receive a 15-week prescription for fresh produce, redeemable at a pop-up farmers market hosted by a local grower each week.

The program event was launched by RCBC staff, dedicated volunteers, and representatives from the WVU Greenbrier County Extension Office. Extension agents and participating farmers provided valuable guidance on proper produce selection and preparation, empowering participants to make the most of their FARMacy experience.

“We are incredibly grateful for the overwhelming response to this year’s FARMacy program,” said Amy Jasperse, RPh, CDCES, CCMS (Organizer of the event and head of the Culinary Medicine and Diabetes Education programs at the Robert C. Byrd Clinic). “Doubling our enrollment demonstrates the growing need for such initiatives, and we’re excited to witness the positive impact it will have on our patients’ health.”

RCBC extends a heartfelt thank you to all the patients, dedicated volunteers, and collaborating partners whose contributions make the FARMacy program possible. These include the WVU Greenbrier County Extension Office, Mako Medical Lab, Vandalia Health, On The Levels Farm, Bootstraps Farm, Aetna Better Health of West Virginia, and many more.

The original program started in 2014 at a clinic in Wheeling. The course has been so successful that multiple FARMacy programs operate at hospitals and clinics around West Virginia. In addition to Greenbrier County, they now operate at 36 locations in 28 counties.

About the Robert C. Byrd Clinic:

The FARMacy program is one of many initiatives designed to promote preventative care and empower patients to live healthier lives. Robert C. Byrd Clinic is a comprehensive not-for-profit Rural Health Clinic committed to providing outstanding healthcare to the residents of the Greenbrier Valley and surrounding counties. This clinic is accredited by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) as a Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) and has been recognized for organizational excellence by the West Virginia Rural Health Association. For more information, visit rebclinic.org.



The 2024 Robert C. Byrd Clinic FARMacy kickoff was a success.



Now, 60 patients are served at the Lewisburg location.

Seventeen out of seven thousand: WVDOT covered bridges poster available for free download

West Virginia is renowned for its covered bridges. Seventeen of the historic structures are located in the Mountain State, many still actively carrying traffic.

As the West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) maintains its more than seven thousand bridges statewide, historic covered bridges are not overlooked.

Color posters of the state’s covered bridges are now available for free

download on the West Virginia Department of Transportation’s (WVDOT) website. Printer-friendly versions of the poster are available online in 6-by-4-inch, 12-by-8-inch, and 17-by-11-inch sizes.

Centerpiece of the poster is the 286-foot Philippi Covered bridge, which still carries traffic on major highway US 250 across the Tygart River in Philippi. The bridge was built in 1852, and was used by both sides during the American Civil War.

Other notable bridges included on the poster include the Carrollton Covered Bridge in Barbour County, badly damaged by fire in 2017 and painstakingly restored by WVDOT’s own District 7 bridge crews; and the Staats



Mill Covered Bridge, which now resides at Cedar Lakes Retreat near Ripley in Jackson County.

Randy Damron, Troy Morgan, Rusty Marks, and Jennifer Dooley, of the WVDOT Public Relations Division, captured photographs of the historic structures while traveling around the state. Public Relations Division graphics designer Chris Moynahan laid out the poster.

While several of the structures have been retired from service and now serve as tourist attractions, many of the bridges still carry traffic on a daily basis.

For free, downloadable versions of the poster, visit https://transportation.wv.gov/communications/Pages/Covered_Bridges_Photos.aspx

West Virginia taking steps to strengthen 988 crisis response system

By Nadia Ramlagan

More households, workplaces, and schools are struggling with mental health crises, and a new report by the mental health advocacy group Inseparable highlights how West Virginia is handling 988 crisis hotline calls and responses.

Congress passed legislation in 2020 establishing 988 as a nationwide three digit number to access mental health crisis resources, and the number went live in 2022.

Christina Mullins, deputy secretary of mental health and substance use disorders with the West Virginia Department of Human Services, said West Virginia’s call center response rate is 90%, noting the state could make policy changes to continue strengthening its crisis infrastructure.

“We actually did some investments early on to help prepare a crisis line be ready for the 988, transition. And you can see from that 90% answer rate, that those investments are paying off and that our residents are getting their phone calls answered here in the state of West Virginia,” she explained.

According to reporting by the healthcare organiza-

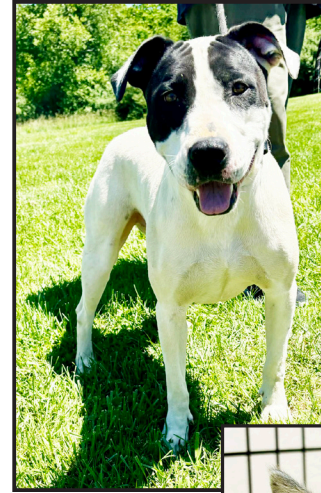
tion KFF, West Virginia’s age-adjusted suicide rate was higher than the national level in 2021. Suicide deaths have increased fastest among people of color, younger individuals, and people who live in rural areas.

Angela Kimball, chief advocacy officer with Inseparable, said states can build strong crisis response systems, but will need to look beyond Medicaid for funding. She said state legislators can take steps to bolster services, noting the consequences of not addressing the issue will result in people going without help, landing in jail and E.R.s, being hospitalized or worse.

“One in five fatal police shootings involve someone with mental illness. So too often we see really a tragic outcome when people don’t get the right help at a less severe level, we see a lot of people who end up in crowded emergency departments,” she said.

The report says additional funding opportunities could come from a 988 telecoms surcharge to support crisis lines, which has already been implemented in a handful of states, and, utilizing a federal program under the American Rescue Plan that allows states to receive extra funding for mobile response services for three years.

PICK OF THE LITTER



SASSY

Sassy is a two-year-old female pit bull mix and weighs 70 pounds



ZILLA

Zilla is a two-month-old female domestic shorthair

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

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

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

Call 304-645-4775 for more information.

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

DON'T SHOP • ADOPT!

Applicants sought for 13 Preserve WV AmeriCorps opportunities statewide

The Preservation Alliance of West Virginia is seeking applications for 13 paid AmeriCorps National Service opportunities with its Preserve WV AmeriCorps Team. AmeriCorps members serve for one-year terms in either full-time or half-time positions with a non-profit or municipal entity where they will complete special projects related to historic preservation, public history, and community development. In return they receive an annual stipend and money for college in the form of a Segal Education Award and up to two tuition waivers specifically for West Virginia colleges or universities. The Alliance is currently

recruiting for all openings to begin on Sept. 3, 2024.

Created in 2013, Preserve WV AmeriCorps is the statewide national service initiative where AmeriCorps members help main streets thrive, capture local history, and preserve beloved West Virginia history. Preserve WV AmeriCorps members serve directly with rural grassroots organizations and public agencies charged with preserving West Virginia history. Members' service is site-dependent but generally involves historic preservation, communications, educational outreach, and volunteer management. The primary goal of this program is to build efficient, effective,

and sustainable organizations working to improve economic, social, and cultural opportunities in West Virginia.

Individuals serving as full-time AmeriCorps will serve 35-40 hours per week and earn an annual stipend of \$22,000, while half-time AmeriCorps will serve 15-20 hours per week and earn an annual stipend of \$11,000. Health insurance and childcare subsidies are offered to qualifying full-time AmeriCorps. Current openings for which the Alliance is recruiting include:

- Greenbrier Historical Society, Lewisburg
- Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex, Moundsville
- The Great Bend Mu-

seum, Ravenswood

- Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission, Charles Town
- Monongahela National Forest Heritage Program, Elkins

- Northern Appalachian Coal Mining Heritage Area, Fairmont
- National Coal Heritage Area, Mt. Hope & Oak Hill

- Ravenswood Historic Landmarks Commission, Ravenswood
- Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail, Point Pleasant
- World Scouting Museum, Charleston

Note that some locations have more than one opportunity available, and additional opportunities may be added later this

month. To read full service descriptions and to learn how to apply, visit <https://www.pawv.org/openslots.html>.

The Preservation Alliance of West Virginia is the foremost statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to historic

preservation. Its Preserve WV AmeriCorps program receives support from AmeriCorps, a federal agency, and Volunteer West Virginia - the state's commission for national and community service. The Alliance is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Healing Appalachia Continued from Front Page

The participating artists donate their time and talent so that ticket funds can be directly distributed to recovery efforts, and to cover basic production costs needed to run the festival.

As in previous years, Healing Appalachia will host a variety of agencies throughout the weekend from who specialize in various aspects of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and will present a range of services including NA meetings, music therapy, Naloxone training, and other wellness activities. Other vendors on-site include regional food and beverage selections, traditional "fair food" options, offerings from local breweries, and a slew of arts and crafts vendors. Merch will also be available for purchase.

To purchase tickets to Healing Appalachia or to donate to Hope in the Hills, visit www.healingappalachia.org. Sign up for their newsletter to be notified when ticket sales go live.

Prior to Healing Appalachia's main festival, a pre-party community event will be held in downtown Lewisburg on July 13 and 14. Healing Appalachia: Discover Lewisburg will focus on celebrating the Lewisburg community, and highlight the philanthropic work done by Hope in the Hills. They will also share their vision of building a "more prosperous, healthy, and sustainable Appalachia free from addiction. None of what we've accomplished so far would be possible without the beautiful city of Lewisburg," they state in a social media post. The pre-party will feature music by Nolan Taylor, Tommy Prine, Kindred Valley, and the John Inghram Band.

Nolan Taylor, Tommy Prine, and Kindred Valley will be performing on Saturday, Jul. 13 from 1 to 8 p.m. in downtown Lewisburg, and the John Inghram Band will perform on Sunday, Jul. 14, at 1 p.m. at Briergarten.

About Hope in the Hills and Healing Appalachia:

Since its inception in 2016, the nonprofit Hope in the Hills has focused on producing events that raise awareness of the Appalachia opioid crisis while fundraising to support recovery efforts. Their flagship event, Healing Appalachia, is held annually each September and serves as a rallying point for supporters and advocates. Inspired by the model of Farm Aid, which supports small family farms, Healing Appalachia aims to celebrate recovery while addressing the root causes of addiction.

Funds generated from the festival are used for recovery efforts around the central Appalachian region. The organization has given more than \$400,000 to a wide variety of boots-on-the-ground nonprofits working throughout the recovery ecosystem from youth and prevention to recovery houses and recovery-to-work initiatives. Some of the recent recipients have included: Recovery Point West Virginia, West Virginia Reentry Councils, Fayette County Family Resource Network (Fayette Prevention Coalition), Mercer County Fellowship Home, WestCare Kentucky (Camp Mariposa), Hope Recovery Manor, as well as teaming up with a wide range of allies such as West Virginia Drug Prevention Institute, West Virginia Collegiate Recovery Network, Addiction Recovery Centers, Healing Housing and many others.

In 2023, Hope in the Hills relaunched its music therapy program, tapping into the superpowers of music therapists from around the region to help spread the joy and proven scientific power of music on the path to recovery and wellness.

Visit www.healingappalachia.org for more information.

Paintball Continued from Front Page

12 years of age participate in paintball battles due to safety concerns with keeping masks in place throughout the entire game. Parents are required to sign a waiver for underage children. Wearing loose layers of clothing can reduce the pain of paintballs to merely nothing. With it being summertime, it is best to schedule parties early in the morning or late in the evening when the temperature is cooler, to keep from being overheated due to many layers. When it comes to fun, they want to ensure everyone feels welcome, whether you are a first-time player or very familiar with the game. They strive to be on the same level as others to teach them well and help them enjoy the experience.

Lewisburg Paintball is currently only hosting games based on appointment. You can schedule parties Saturday and Sunday during anytime and in evenings throughout the week. Also, on the last weekend of every month, there will be an open game day where anyone can join in on games without an appointment. Lewisburg Paintball added that the sport is not for everyone, but everyone is welcome and encouraged to try. You never know, you may love it!

Check out Lewisburg Paintball LLC on Facebook or TikTok to stay up to date on events, open game dates, and more.

HistoriCorps and the Monongahela National Forest seeks volunteers for Preservation Project

HistoriCorps and the Monongahela National Forest are seeking volunteers of all skill levels to help rehabilitate the historic Blue Bend Recreation Area picnic pavilion, with week-long volunteer opportunities running from Sept. 22 through Oct. 18. Those interested in volunteering can visit www.historiccorps.org to register for the project and learn more about other HistoriCorps volunteer opportunities.

HistoriCorps is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to engaging volunteer workforces to preserve historic places and provide free mentorship in the preservation trades. HistoriCorps is returning to Blue Bend Recreation Area after volunteers and Appalachian Conservation Corps members completed over 1,000 hours of labor on the structures in 2023.

The Blue Bend Pavilion was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps between 1936-1938, alongside over 20 camping sites complete with tent pads, picnic tables, and parking areas. The recreation area also includes an elaborate system of retaining walls and stabilized creek banks, two-stoned paved beaches, and a water retention reservoir for recreational swimming. In 1994 the Blue Bend Recreation Area, historically known as the "Blue Bend Forest Camp," was added to the National Register of Historic Places. The campsite is beloved within its lo-

cal community and beyond. This year, HistoriCorps will rehabilitate the cedar shake roof of the larger pavilion and complete log repairs and replacements as needed.

More volunteers are still needed to ensure the success of this project. HistoriCorps welcomes but does not require any experience in the trades; mentorship and all necessary tools are provided. Volunteer sessions are scheduled Sunday evening through Friday morning, and volunteers can expect all meals to be provided by expert field staff. Participants will have access to camping accommodations for tents, truck campers, campervans, and small trailers.

Project Details:

Location: Outside of White Sulphur Springs

Tasks: Roof demolition and replacement with cedar shakes. Log repairs and replacements as needed.

Dates:

Session 1: Sept. 22-27

Session 2: Sept. 29 - Oct. 4

Session 3: Oct. 6 - Oct. 11

Session 4: Oct. 13-18

For more information or to register for a volunteer session, visit www.historiccorps.org, or contact us at info@historiccorps.org

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.

July 7, 1928: The Madonna of the Trail monument was dedicated in Wheeling. It is one of 12 such statues erected along the National Road to honor America's pioneering women.



July 8, 1894: Walter Aegerter was born in Helvetia. An amateur photographer, Aegerter built both a studio and darkroom on his farm and photographed portraits, families, celebrations and everyday scenes of the German Swiss settlement. The glass plate negatives survive today in several archived collections.

July 8, 1924: Rock 'n' roll pioneer Johnnie Johnson was born in Fairmont. Johnson collaborated with Chuck Berry on songs such as "Roll Over, Beethoven." Berry's hit "Johnny B. Goode" was supposedly written as a tribute to Johnson.

July 8, 1961: Sutton Dam was dedicated by Governor Wally Barron. The Army Corps of Engineers operates the dam for purposes of flood control, low-flow augmentation and recreation.



July 9, 1942: An explosion at the Pursglove No. 2 Mine at Scotts Run near Morgantown killed 20 men. It was one of three fatal accidents at the mining operation in an eight-month period.

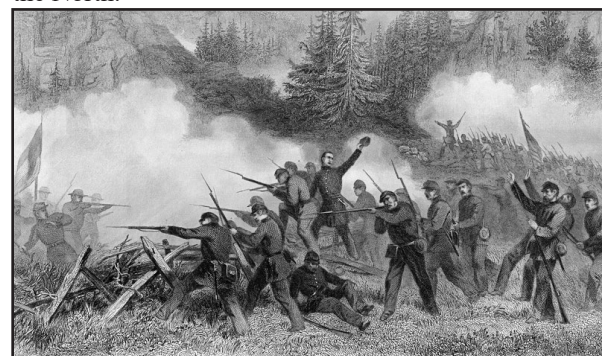
July 9, 1989: Treasurer A. James Manchin resigned after being impeached. With a stock market downturn in 1987, Manchin bore much of the blame when the state lost nearly \$300 million in investments for which he was responsible.

July 10, 1769: Physician Jesse Bennet was born. He performed the first successful caesarian section in America in 1794, on his own wife and without proper equipment and with no antiseptics. He later established a large practice in Mason County and served as an Army surgeon in the War of 1812.

July 10, 1936: The temperature in Martinsburg reached 112 degrees. It tied the record for the state's hottest recorded temperature, which had been set August 4, 1930, at Moorefield.



July 11, 1861: The Battle of Rich Mountain was fought in Randolph County. Union troops under Gen. George McClellan defeated Confederate forces, helping to secure northwestern Virginia (now West Virginia) for the North.



July 11, 1867: John Jacob Cornwell was born on a farm in Ritchie County. He served as the 15th governor of West Virginia.

July 11, 1976: Gov. Arch Moore dedicated the West Virginia Culture Center. The facility was built to showcase the Mountain State's artistic, cultural and historic heritage.

July 12, 2003: The Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences in downtown Charleston opened to the public. It combines a modern performing arts center with a visual arts museum and an interactive science center.



July 13, 1861: The Battle of Corricks Ford took place in Tucker County. During the fight, Confederate Gen. Robert S. Garnett became the first Confederate general killed in battle during the Civil War.

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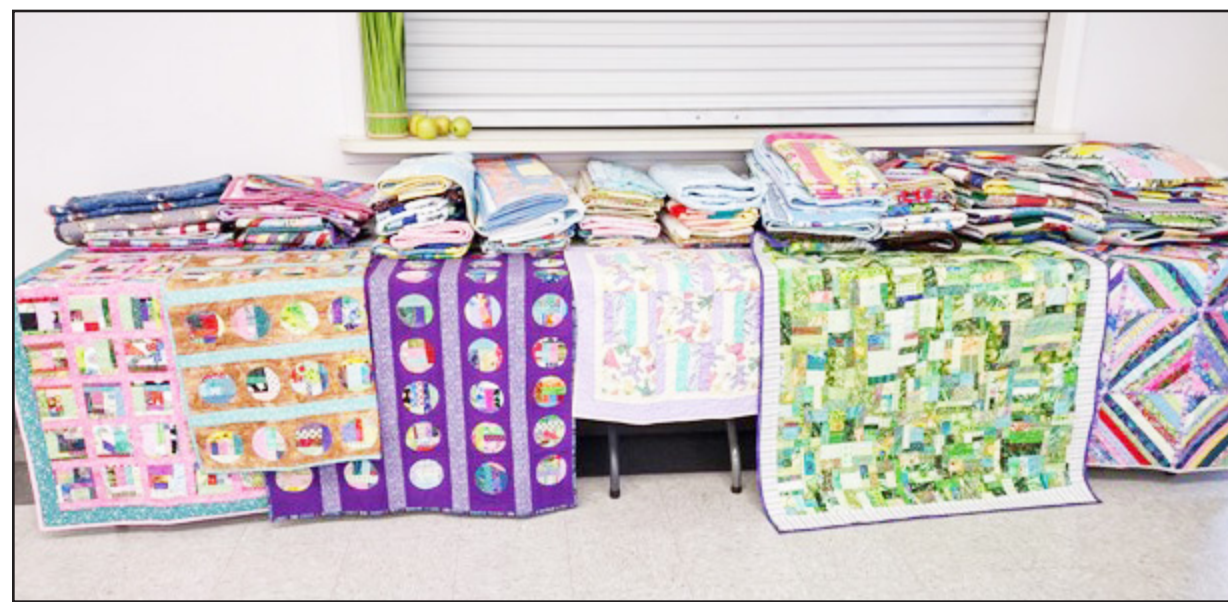


**252 Montvue Drive,
Lewisburg, WV 24901
304-645-1851**

Club & Church

Alderson Quilt Guild donates baby quilts

The Alderson Quilt Guild recently distributed over 70 quilts to local family centers in Lewisburg and one in Marlinton. This has become an annual activity and one where the members thoroughly enjoy the work.



These quilts were donated to area family centers.

Church Bulletin

Worship Services and other events at Lewisburg Baptist Church

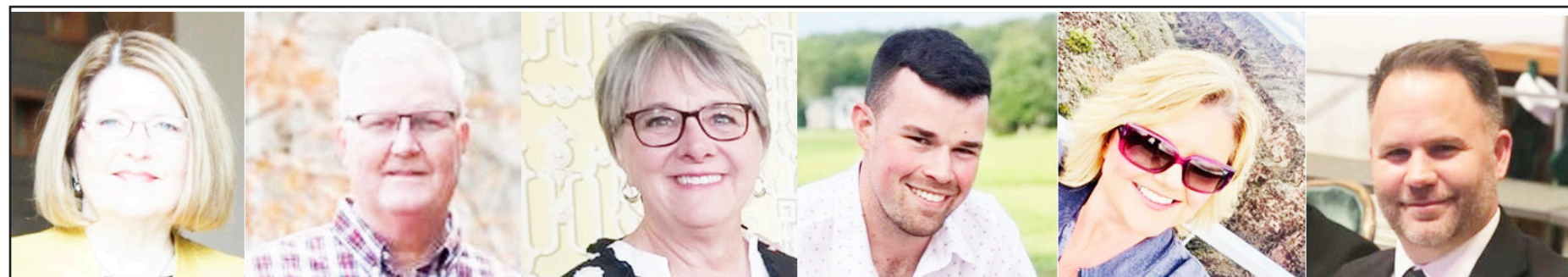
Please join us for services and events at Lewisburg Baptist Church - a Bible believing and preaching Church nestled in the heart of Greenbrier County. Worship services are offered on Sundays (11 a.m. and 6 p.m.) and on Wednesdays (7 p.m.). Sunday School for children and for adults are on Sundays (10 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, WV. Further information is available at www.lbcwv.com, on Facebook, or please call 304-645-3797.

Reunion

Johnston/Johnson

The Johnston/Johnson family reunion will be held July 14, at 1 p.m., at the picnic shelter across from the McMillion Church, Friars Hill. All are welcome! Bring a covered dish, and join in the fellowship.

Rotary Club announces speaker lineup



Speakers for upcoming Rotary Club meetings (in no particular order) include Kathryn Tuckwiller, Mereda Doss, Grant Talbott, Jim Alder, Kendra Boggess, and Jay Phillips.

The Rotary Club of Lewisburg is pleased to announce its speaker lineup for the first quarter of its 2024-25 fiscal year. Make plans to attend our biweekly meetings from July through September to hear interesting presentations about positive things happening in our community.

We meet on the second Monday of the month at 12 noon at the Lewisburg Elks Country Club, where lunch is available for \$18. We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at 5:15 p.m. in the lobby of the Greenbrier

Valley Theatre, where snacks are provided, and beverages are available for purchase.

- Monday, July 8 - Kathryn Tuckwiller, Martin & Jones and RDI Property Management
- Thursday, July 25 - Mereda Doss, Greenbrier Humane Society
- Monday, Aug. 12 - Grant Talbott, Greenbrier Automotive Group
- Thursday, Aug. 22 - Jim Alder, Greenbrier East Bands

- Monday, Sept. 9 - Kendra Boggess, Concord University

- Thursday, Sept. 26 - Jay Phillips, Seed Sowers

We are pleased to have such a great group of speakers scheduled. Spread the word, grab a friend, and join us!



DAR holds June meeting

The General Andrew Lewis Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution met for their June meeting at the home of Karen Lee McClung on June 20, West Virginia Day. Carol Olson served as McClung's co-hostess. The meeting was opened by Regent Suzanne Cronquist with the Pledge of Allegiance and the DAR Ritual. Next came a rousing rendition of the The West Virginia Hills.

The meeting was then suspended to greet and hear from the speaker, Ruann Handy, Chief, VA Center for Development and Engagement. Handy is located at the VA Medical Center in Beckley. She spoke to the group about the role of her department in engaging with the veterans and their families not only for medical care but about socialization and assisting the veterans with transportation and meeting their nutritional and clothing needs. Her department distributes over 600 boxes of food each month to veterans and their families. She explained her office is serving not only the 25 to 50 inpatients at the Center, but those veterans who come to

the out-patient clinic and the homeless veterans. Handy took back with her over \$1,000 in new clothing and games which were donated by the members of the General Andrew Lewis Chapter. The members learned a lot about how they can become more engaged directly with the veterans such as upcoming events where volunteers are needed. If you would like to become a volunteer either here at the VA outpost in Fairlea or in Beckley, you can reach Ms. Handy at 304-255-2121 extension 4162. You can apply online for VA Health Care at VA.gov/PACT.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is a non-profit, non-political women's service organization whose main objectives are historic preservation, education and patriotism. Members are all lineal descendants of those who supported the cause of independence in the Revolutionary War in 1776. If you are interested in the Daughters of the American Revolution, call Registrar Sandra Cowan at 681-215-5303 during the afternoon hours.



Ruann Handy (left), Karen Lee McClung, and Carol Olson

West Virginia Humanities Council announces grant awards

The West Virginia Humanities Council, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), serves West Virginia through grants and direct programs in the humanities. The Humanities Council budgets over \$800,000 for grants and programs each year. A variety of grants are offered to nonprofit organizations that support educational programming.

Minigrants, designed for projects requesting \$2,000 or less, are awarded four times per year. The next Humanities Council minigrant deadline is October 1. The West Virginia Humanities Council recently awarded six new minigrants:

- Greenbrier Historical Society (Greenbrier County), Logan's Lament and Indigenous Peoples-Settler Relations in Lord Dunmore's War, lecture
- Artworks Around Town (Ohio County), The Eye of an Artist, art display and discussions
- Fairmont State University (Marion County), Sand and Fire: 200 Years of West Virginia Glass, exhibit
- Marshall University Research Corporation (Cabell County), Roosevelt Montás and the Herd Humanities, lecture
- Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail (Putnam County), Rivers to Ridges Heritage Trail Interpretive Kiosk Project
- West Virginia Mine Wars Museum (Mingo County), A Marker of Solidarity: Building a New Display for a 1921 Red Bandana, exhibit

For more information about the West Virginia Humanities Council grants program, contact Humanities Council grants administrator Erin Riebe at 304-346-8500 or via email at riebe@wvhumanities.org. Grant guidelines and applications are available on the Humanities Council website, www.wvhumanities.org

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Dear Recycle Lady,

A Look Back

Dear Recycle Lady,
Years ago, when the recycling center was in Fairlea, a woman showed me that when people just toss their recyclables a short distance into the recycling bins, the items pile up in the center of the bin and don't go out into its corners. She showed me how to throw my items into the back area of the bin and into its corners so that the recycling bin fills up properly. I read your column every week. Keep up the good work.

Dutiful Recycler
Dear Dutiful Recycler,

You are absolutely correct; this is excellent advice. The Center's recycle bins have limited space, so it is important to use all areas of the bins, not just the front. Throwing items into the back area and into the corners of the bins provides extra space for incoming recyclables. The Recycle Center personnel service the bins 365 days a year in order to prevent the overflow of recyclables in the bins and to be available to answer questions. Thanks for writing and calling this information to the attention of our readers.

Dear Recycle Lady,
What are plant-based cleaners?
Cleaner-Upper
Dear Cleaner-Upper,
Good question. Plant-

based cleaners are cleaners made with environmentally friendly ingredients. Natural ingredients such as vinegar, lemon juice, and baking soda have excellent antibacterial, degreasing, and stain removing properties. Used properly, they can be just as effective as chemical cleaners, however, they work more slowly so let them sit a while before removing them. There are several commercial cleaners that are plant-based. Look for the EPA Safer Choice label or USDA BioPreferred certified. These products must have a significant part of their ingredients to be plant-based. Tide PurClean ingredients are 75% plant-based and Clorox Ecoclean is made with 99% plant-based cleaning ingredients. Seventh Generation has many plant-based cleaning products, as does Mr. Clean. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also approves natural cleaners with ingredients like thymol (from the oil of thyme), including Seventh Generation Disinfecting Wipes and Cleaners.

Dear Recycle Lady,
Last week you mentioned that unused prescription pills can be placed in a disposal box at the Greenbrier County Court House to be disposed of safely. This is a

great service to the community and the environment, however, please caution your readers that the Courthouse doesn't accept prescription pills in their original bottles. Before putting pills in the Courthouse disposal box, they must be taken out of the bottle, placed in a plastic bag, and sealed.

Environmentalist
Dear Environmentalist,

Thanks for the information about the disposal of prescription pills at the Greenbrier County Courthouse. I am sure you have saved many persons a trip home for a plastic bag.

Kudos to Lewisburg Elementary School Girl Scout Troop 31919. They have completed their collection of 1,000 pounds of plastic film and ordered their bench! Special thanks to Jim's Drive on Route 60 and Martin & Jones, Inc. in Roncerverte that supported the Girl Scouts by giving them huge amounts of plastic film that their products come in. Many thanks also to all the local citizens that have kept the recycle bins full. The Elementary Scouts had so much fun with their collection that the older Girl Scouts want to join in the fun. They have now registered to continue the collection and will be emptying the collection boxes at Amy's, Lewisburg Methodist Church, St. James Episcopal Church, and The Recycling Center. The Lewisburg Elementary School collection sites are closed for the summer while school is out.

Have questions about recycling, or interesting information about recycling? Send questions or requests Recyclelady7@gmail.com. Dear Recycle Lady is sponsored jointly by the Greenbrier Recycling Center and Greenworks Recycling.

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By William "Skip" Deegans

This past July 4, at a ceremony that has occurred annually for nearly 190 years, an American flag that flies at the tomb of the Marquis de Lafayette in Paris was lowered and replaced by a new American flag. Paying tribute to Lafayette for his contribution in the American Revolution are representatives of the U.S. Embassy and French government as well as representatives of the Daughters and Sons of The American Revolution, Society of the

Cincinnati, and Society of American Friends of Lafayette. It is reported that the American flag at the tomb flew throughout the German occupation of Paris during World War II. The cemetery and adjacent convent were considered off limits to German soldiers. Ironically, the nuns in the convent helped Jews in an adjacent hospital to escape before being sent to concentration camps. Many place names in the United States honor Lafayette (e.g., Lewisburg's Lafayette Street and town of Fay-

etteville), and in 1919 LaFayette Motors was founded in Indianapolis and a cameo of LaFayette's face was the company's logo. The company produced a luxury car that was the first car with an electric clock. The company fell under the management of Charles Nash in 1921 and full ownership in 1924. Nash retired the Lafayette brand but reintroduced it in 1934 as a smaller, less expensive line. Later, the name was changed to Nash Lafayette 400 and that name continued through 1940.

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SCRAMBLERS
solution
1. Aligns; 2. Angel; 3. Terse; 4. Sprite
Today's Word
SILENT

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STEPPIN' OUT

Carnegie Hall's 2024 Ivy Terrace Concert Series continues with Distant Light



Distant Light

Carnegie Hall continues its 2024 Ivy Terrace Concert Series Thursday, July 11, at 6:30 p.m. with Distant Light. Sponsored by City National Bank, the concert takes place outside on Carnegie Hall's Ivy Terrace as attendees watch from the expansive lawn in front of New River Community and Technical College. Concertgoers are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or blanket and pack a picnic to enjoy live music. All Ivy Terrace concerts are free, open to the public, and alcohol free.

Distant Light has a sound that spans the genres of country, rock and blues, and at times may touch on a couple others. The sound is nostalgic, although completely original. People tell us that they recognize a particular song but can't put a finger on where they might have heard it before. The majority of the songs are upbeat and popular with folks who like to dance. The rhythmic hooks and beats just make you want to move. We call it "original music with a familiar feel."

Band members include Steve Baker (guitar, harmonica, vocals), Bryan Fox (bass, backup vocals), Tom Ruggerio (lead guitar, backup vocals), Stephanie Blume (piano, violin, backup vocals), Amy McIntire (pedal steel), Bob Baker (congas), and Ed Pfeiff (drums).

Kitchen 304 will be vending on location.

Concerts will move into the Hamilton Auditorium if the weather dictates. For more information, please

visit www.carnegiehallwv.org or call 304-645-7917.

Carnegie Hall WV is a nonprofit organization supported by individual contributions, grants, and

fundraising efforts such as TOOT and The Carnegie Hall Fantasy Gala. The Hall is located at 611 Church Street, Lewisburg, WV.

Super Crossword TV REPLACEMENT

- ACROSS**
- 1 Small order of greens
 - 10 Weighing devices
 - 16 Hostility halter
 - 20 Preach from place to place, perhaps
 - 21 Arm bones
 - 22 Nights before
 - 23 People who yearn to take part in a lunar landing?
 - 25 "Tall" story
 - 26 Wd. division
 - 27 Scratch, e.g.
 - 28 Give help to
 - 29 Divvy up
 - 30 An award-winning new device?
 - 38 With little space in between
 - 40 Crosswalk user, in brief
 - 41 "Hear, hear!"
 - 42 "I refuse to repeatedly forgo this rule for you?"
 - 48 Scratch (out)
 - 49 Cartoon "Explorer"
 - 50 Ruby-colored
 - 51 Notes after sol
 - 55 Boxing weapons
 - 58 Wild, irrational talk of the highest quality?
 - 64 Be a suitor of
 - 66 Great delight
 - 67 New Delhi-based flag carrier
 - 68 Greek city near Athens
 - 72 Traffic tangle
 - 74 Symbolize
 - 75 Plan to pay later, as for bar drinks
 - 77 Go very fast
 - 79 Gaming cube
 - 80 Vacillate about building a hydroelectric structure?
 - 83 Spandex brand
 - 87 Polar vehicle
 - 88 Age
 - 89 Couples
 - 91 "Inferno" director
 - 92 Venue for a large conference?
 - 99 1987 Hoffman-Beatty film
 - 103 Mex. matron
 - 104 Gofers' tasks
 - 105 Football passer who hasn't eaten all day?
 - 111 Swing's Shaw
 - 112 Liquid in un lac
 - 113 Wee bit
 - 114 4G — (cellphone standard)
 - 117 Wee bit
 - 118 Booking to stay at a humble hut?
 - 125 Sacked out bodysuit
 - 127 Entered surreptitiously
 - 128 That gal's sounds
 - 129 Letter-shaped metalworking grooves
 - 130 Alienates
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Unleashes (on)
 - 2 "That's my goal"
 - 3 Telephone sounds
 - 4 Stamped thing: Abbr.
 - 5 Look at
 - 6 Part of ETA: Abbr.
 - 7 "Leaving — Vegas"
 - 8 Wee particles
 - 9 Make lean, as meat
 - 10 "Quiet down!"
 - 11 Actor's nudge
 - 12 Jordan's capital
 - 13 Pope before Benedict III
 - 14 Eat away at
 - 15 Ungodliness
 - 16 Oinker kept at home
 - 17 "Elena of —" (Disney series)
 - 18 Pop diva
 - 19 Fearsome fly
 - 24 Common motif
 - 29 Antlered male
 - 31 Pres. after FDR
 - 32 Comics cry
 - 33 Ran, as colors
 - 34 "Beauty is in the — the beholder"
 - 35 Not many
 - 36 Lupino of old Hollywood
 - 37 Writer Anaïs
 - 38 B-G linkup
 - 39 Trickster god
 - 43 Stiffly formal
 - 44 R&B singer Staples
 - 45 Writer Levin
 - 46 Aloe —
 - 47 Actor Elba
 - 51 Actress Laura
 - 52 Me, myself —
 - 53 9-to-5er's cry of relief
 - 54 "Oho, old chap!"
 - 56 Interwoven
 - 57 Sub tracker
 - 59 Painter Max
 - 60 Pathogenic bacterium, for short
 - 61 Factor of nine
 - 62 Rainless
 - 63 Night watch
 - 65 Filmmaker Preminger
 - 68 Dairy animals
 - 69 Iridescent gemstone
 - 70 Dream, in French
 - 71 "— got a deal for you!"
 - 73 Caused
 - 76 Swiss capital
 - 78 Sunup
 - 81 Maze-running rodent
 - 82 U-Haul renter
 - 84 Sounding like a potato chip bag
 - 85 Big crucifix
 - 86 Writers Rule and Radcliffe
 - 90 Belgrade native
 - 92 Cover with tar
 - 93 "... — quit!" (threat ender)
 - 94 Columbus sch.
 - 95 Monkly title
 - 96 — blanche
 - 97 Gun rights org.
 - 98 Tic-toe linkup
 - 99 Book before Jeremiah
 - 100 Disco flasher
 - 101 "Mad" man of Wonderland
 - 102 Basic chords
 - 106 Some garish lights
 - 107 Judicial mallet
 - 108 Spanish for "cheese"
 - 109 French for "cup"
 - 110 Paradises
 - 115 Carry along
 - 116 Baseball Hall of Famer Slaughter
 - 118 Peppery
 - 119 Eng. course
 - 120 Apt., e.g.
 - 121 Road furrow
 - 122 Outmoded RCA product
 - 123 Alias lead-in
 - 124 Element #50

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PUZZLE ANSWERS PAGE 7

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

Order
SIGNAL

Cherub
GLEAN

Brief
TREES

Fairy
PRIEST

"Didn't you inform her she had the right to remain _____?"

TODAY'S WORD

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Wheel is different. 3. Fence is not as wide. 4. Sleeve is added. 5. Release lever is missing. 6. Hair is different.

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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School



High schoolers participate in the second annual Clinical Anatomy Summer Experience camp.



The 15 high schoolers got a hands-on learning experience.

WVSOM anatomy camp gives high-schoolers in-depth look at human body

On the campus of the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM), 15 high-schoolers got a first-hand look at the human body during the school's second annual Clinical Anatomy Summer Experience (C.A.S.E.) camp.

The weeklong camp is designed to introduce young science enthusiasts to anatomical structures and their clinical importance through interactive activities. In addition to daily time in WVSOM's gross anatomy lab exploring various parts of the body, students played a series of quiz-based games, heard discussions featuring WVSOM faculty members and worked on group projects, culminating in a demonstration of concepts they learned during the camp.

High school students age 15 and older from as far away as Dayton, Ohio, participated in this year's event, which took place June 24-28. Most campers were from West Virginia's Greenbrier and surrounding counties, including Ava Stover, of Hinton, WV, a student at Summers County High School who signed up for the camp after seeing it mentioned in a newspaper.

"I've always been curious about what goes on in the body, and the camp gave me a hands-on look at things I'd been questioning for a long time," Stover said. "I'd never seen anatomy in real life. I'd

seen diagrams, but I wanted to get a deeper experience. I'd love to go into the medical field, and spending time in the anatomy lab and learning to properly use surgical instruments gave me a feeling of 'I can do this.'"

Karen Wines, a WVSOM anatomy instructor who designed and leads the camp, said last year's event served as a pilot program and that the 2024 camp was closer to how it will function in the future.

"We had additional funding this year that allowed us to increase the number of campers from 10 to 15 and made it possible for me to hire three medical school interns to help with the program instead of one. Last year's pilot gave us time to think about how this should work, and this year's camp is how I can see us operating as we move forward," she said.

For 2024, the school received 39 applicants for 15 available spots, with selection partially based on the curiosity and professional aspirations expressed in the essays students submitted with their applications. Wines said the camp brings together young people from all walks of life who have an interest in science and medicine.

"The camp is about learning for the sake of learning, in an environment that isn't graded," she said. "We have a number of kids who are

familiar with the path to medical careers because they are children of physicians, and we have others with no healthcare careers in their family at all. They're coming together on the same playing field, finding commonality in realizing that there are people like them, that they aren't alone in their interests."

Above all, Wines said, the goal of the camp is to spark an interest in structures of the body and gain a greater appreciation for the human form.

"You have one body, and it doesn't come with a warranty or an owner's

manual, so it's your job to figure out what's going on with it. When most people think of anatomy, they think of drawing in textbooks and posters in doctors' offices. But when students actually get to see in person how there are so many layers and how everything is connected, it's eye-opening for them," Wines said.

The C.A.S.E. camp is supported through funding from the Jeanne G. Hamilton and Lawson W. Hamilton Jr. Family Foundation, FirstEnergy Corporation, the WVSOM Foundation and the WVSOM Alumni Association.

Sports

Mountaineer Open Horseshoe Tournament results announced

The Mountaineer Horseshoe League of Ronceverte hosted the Mountaineer Open Horseshoe Tournament at Ronceverte Island Park on Saturday, June 8, 2024.

There were a total of 15 pitchers who participated in the tournament with a total of four classes in the tournament.

CLASS A			
* = Tournament Champion			
	Shoes	Ringers	% Average
* Jr. Peters of Naoma (2023 State Champion)	300	223	74.3%
Solomon Simmons of Ronceverte	340	129	37.9%
Kenny Rhodes of Leon	280	108	38.6%
Allen Withrow of Ronceverte	240	83	34.6%
CLASS B			
* Roger Carter of Panther	330	120	37.3%
Gene Goins of Rainelle	340	96	28.2%
Jerry Davis of Lewisburg (2023 State Champion)	280	90	32.1%
Johnny Mitchell of Rainelle	270	85	31.5%
CLASS C			
* Doug Withrow of Hillsbobo	360	87	24.2%
Fred Doss of Lewisburg	330	94	28.5%
Randy Doss, Jr. of Union (2023 State Champion)	270	32	11.9%
Randy Doss, Sr. of Union	240	55	22.9%
CLASS D			
* Jimmy Nutter of Rainelle	210	21	10%
Freddie Hodges of Ronceverte	280	24	8.6%
Charlie Brown of Springdale	270	22	8.1%

The Mountaineer Horseshoe League would like to thank everyone who participated in the tournament and Allen Withrow for all his hard work in managing the tournament and also the Mountaineer Horseshoe League.

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LEGAL

Tariff Form No. 12
(Tariff Rule 23.1 et seq.)

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGE IN RATES BY NON-LRR MUNI UTILITY

NOTICE is hereby given that the Corporation of Falling Spring a.k.a. the Town of Renick public utility has adopted by ordinance on April 2, 2024, a tariff containing increased rates, tolls and charges for furnishing water service to 117 customers at Renick in the County of Greenbrier.

The proposed increased rates and charges will become effective May 17, 2024, unless otherwise ordered by the Public Service Commission and will produce approximately \$4,708.00 annually in additional revenue, an increase of 12%. The average monthly bill for the various classes of customers will be changed as follows:

	(\$) INCREASE	INCREASE (%)
Residential		12%
Commercial		12%
Industrial		12%
Resale		12%
Other		12%

Resale customers of the Corporation of Falling Spring include:

The increases shown are based on averages for all customers in the indicated class. Individual customers may receive increases that are greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increases or decreases) by the Public Service Commission in its review of this filing. The Commission shall review and approve or modify the increased rates only upon the filing of a petition within thirty (30) days of the adoption of the ordinance changing said rates or charges, by:

(1) Any customer aggrieved by the changed rates or charges who presents to the Commission a petition signed by not less than twenty-five percent of the customers served by such municipally operated public utility; or

(2) Any customer who is served by a municipally operated natural gas public utility and who resides outside the corporate limits and who is affected by the change in said rates or charges and who presents to the Commission a petition alleging discrimination between customers within and without the municipal boundaries. Said petition shall be accompanied by evidence of discrimination; or

(3) Any customer or group of customers of a municipally operated natural gas utility who are affected by said change in rates who reside within the municipal boundaries and who present a petition to the Commission alleging discrimination between said customer or group of customers and other customers of the municipal utility. Said petition shall be accompanied by evidence of discrimination.

All petitions should be addressed to the Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, 201 Brooks Street, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323.

A complete copy of the proposed rates, as well as a representative of the utility to provide any information requested concerning it, is available to all customers, prospective customers, or their agents at any of the following offices of the utility:

Lewisburg City Hall
942 Washington Street, West
Lewisburg, West Virginia 24901

A copy of the proposed rates is available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Secretary of the Public Service Commission at 201 Brooks Street, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323.

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LEGAL

GREENBRIER COUNTY COMMISSION - REQUEST FOR BIDS WV GRANT NUMBER DLAP24-14/GBC-03 Asbestos Abatement and Demolition of Abandoned and Dilapidated Properties

The Greenbrier County Commission invites qualified contractors to submit firm fixed price sealed bids for the asbestos abatement and demolition of condemned structures identified for removal under the WVDEP DLAP program by the Greenbrier County Commission. The successful bidder shall be awarded a one-year contract for demolition and asbestos abatement for some or all structures for which WVDEP DLAP funding has been awarded that may be renewed annually for up to two additional years.

Sealed bids with all required information must be received by the Greenbrier County Commission at 912 Court Street North, Lewisburg, WV, 24901 on or before 12 July, 2024 at 12 p.m.

Bids shall include the following information: 1). Cost per square foot and linear foot for the lawful removal and disposal of identified or assumed asbestos containing material within a condemned structure; 2). Cost per square foot for the demolition (including the removal and lawful disposal of all material, foundations, and reseeded) of residential stick frame condemned structures; 3). Cost per square foot for the demolition (including the removal and lawful disposal of all material, foundations, and reseeded) of commercial masonry condemned structures; 4). Removal of any existing debris/trash piles per square foot of trash pile.

All debris must be disposed of in a lawful manner. All bidders must be licensed for demolition and asbestos removal or subcontract with a licensed asbestos contractor for that purpose. Project documents and bid sheets are available upon request. For additional information, contact Stephen Simmons at 304-520-5825. The Greenbrier County Commission reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

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GVT's Jenna Sulecki talks about directing *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*

The Hunchback of Notre Dame, a collaborative production by Greenbrier Valley Theatre (GVT), Carnegie Hall, and Greenbrier Valley Chorale (GVC), will be presented on July 25, 26, and 27, at Carnegie Hall in Lewisburg, WV. The show is being directed by GVT's Artistic Associate Jenna Sulecki. GVT's Marketing and Communications Director Josh Lapping sat down with Sulecki to discuss the upcoming production.

Lapping: What is it like to lead, as the director, this production - as the first-time community wide collaboration?

Sulecki: Directing Hunchback is a great responsibility that I am honored to be entrusted with. In my 20s, I bounced around from place to place quite a bit, and I never really found myself staying still for long. Moving to Lewisburg three years ago is the first time I have intentionally slowed down and committed to making someplace a home. With that being said, the community has been vital in my sense of belonging here, and so it is a joy to collaborate with so many community members on this production, and to give this gift back to the place I love.

Lapping: What are some of the exciting elements we will see on stage? What are some things that audiences can anticipate?

Sulecki: This is a concert production, so audiences should know that they're not walking into a fully staged musical with a grand set or elaborate choreography. What they can expect is unparalleled vocals (from the chorale and the principal cast) and an intimate attention paid to the storytelling and heart of the piece. Something really spectacular about concert productions is that when you strip away the frills, what you're left with is the connection between people - the cast and the audience. There is a greater plea from the characters to the audience to hear their story, to see their hearts. In this regard, audiences can expect to feel very close to this cast and these characters.

Lapping: Can you talk a little bit about the work of casting the core principles?

Sulecki: Because this event is so important to the community, we worked hard to find the perfect person for each role. We went to New York City and auditioned folks there, as well as accepted video submissions from across the country. I did a lot of digging for people who have worked on the musical before and reached out to them to submit for our production. We have a truly spectacular group of people in the principal cast. Julian Decker (Quasimodo) has played the role several times before, including understudying the role in the first ever production of Hunchback. Decker, a Broadway veteran, brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role that will be instrumental in the musical's success. Valerie Torres-Rosario (Esmeralda) recently made her Broadway debut in Camelot, but GVT patrons will remember her from Little Shop of Horrors and I Love

You, You're Perfect, Now Change. Evan Buckley Harris (Frollo) is also a familiar face at GVT, having performed in Next to Normal and Some Enchanted Evening. Harris has performed the role of Johnny Cash in Million Dollar Quartet in over 1200 performances, so he brings that deep bass vocal resonance to this challenging villain role. Willem Butler (Phoebus) was someone I found on YouTube, of all things. Butler had previously played Quasimodo, but when I reached out to tell him about this production, its importance to our community, and to ask him to submit a tape for Phoebus, he was excited to do so. Butler's resume is equally impressive, having just finished a national tour of Anastasia, where he played Dmitry. Rounding out the principal cast is Mekhi Holloway (Clopin). Clopin is a challenging role, being at once a narrator and a lens for the audience to view the show. We struggled to find someone for this role, but when I saw Holloway's tape, I knew he would bring the energy the role needed.

Lapping: What excites you, personally, about directing this show?

Sulecki: I don't often get to direct musicals, and I miss it! I haven't directed a musical for GVT yet, so this is much different from what people have come to expect from me. I'm excited to dust off my musical skills and dive into Hunchback. I haven't directed a musical since 2017, when I directed a production of Godspell in Ireland, and Heathers: The Musical at my alma mater, Gannon University. I have grown substantially as a director since then--obtaining my MFA in Directing and building my resume at GVT--so I'm eager to take all my new skills and apply them to this production.

Lapping: Can you tell me a little about the similarities that audiences may know from the 1990s movie versus what may be different?

Sulecki: I'm embarrassed to admit that I've never seen the movie, and I famously do not engage with or seek out other versions of work that I am directing, so I will probably watch it after our production closes. But my understanding is that the musical draws heavily from the tone of the 1831 novel by Victor Hugo. It's darker than the movie, but still family friendly. Much of the music is the same, but Stephen Schwartz and Alan Menken wrote some new songs for the musical. The gargoyles serve a different purpose to Quasimodo in the musical. In the movie they are very much comedic relief; in the musical they are strong influences and allies for Quasi. Perhaps the biggest difference is the use of the choir. The musical's addition of a large choir makes the music pack a much larger punch than it does in the movie, so the stakes always seem higher in the musical because of the grandiosity of the choir. The ending of the musical is different from the movie, too, but I won't give those details away.

Lapping: Is there anything else you would like to share?



Greenbrier Valley Theatre Artistic Associate and The Hunchback of Notre Dame Director Jenna Sulecki.

Sulecki: I just want to stress what a big deal this production is for these three arts organizations, and to this community. It is a triumph and a celebration of our people. It's not to be missed.

For Sulecki, 2024 marks a decade since taking her first directing job. Since then, she has enjoyed directing numerous plays and musicals in community theatres, universities, and at her regional theatre home - Greenbrier Valley Theatre. She can occasionally be found in the classroom teaching students of all ages or coaching post-graduates for MFA programs and auditions. Sulecki holds a BA in Theatre and Communication Arts from Gannon University and an MFA in Directing from the University of Portland.

Performances of The Hunchback of Notre Dame, featuring nationally recognized actors and professional choreography, costumes and lighting, will take place at Carnegie Hall on Thursday and Friday, July 25 and 26 at 7:30 p.m. There will be two performances on Saturday, July 27, at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets are available online at www.carnegiehallwv.org, or at the Carnegie Hall box office, 611 Church Street, Lewisburg, WV, 304-645-7917.

This program is presented with financial assistance from the West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the National Endowment for the Arts, with approval from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts.

Entertainment Calendar

July 5-14

Friday, July 5

Friday Night Community Market, Edgar Ave, Ronceverte, 5 p.m.

Summer Reading Program, Alderson Public Library, 1-3 p.m.

Firemen's Rodeo, Alderson Memorial Football Field, Free Admission, 7-10 p.m.

Ode to the Red, White, and Blue; Greenbrier Valley Theatre, 7:30-9 p.m.

Saturday, July 6

Kids Fishing Tournament, Alderson Mini Park, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Open Mic Night, Alderson Depot, 6-9 p.m.

Veteran's Event, Greenbrier Valley Brewing Company, Maxwelton, 1-9 p.m.

All-American Baking Contest, Johnson Memorial United Methodist Church, Alderson, 12-1 p.m.

Courthouse Farmer's Market, Robert C. Byrd parking

lot, Lewisburg, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Greener Pastures Band, Alderson Memorial Football Field, 7-10 p.m.

Sunday, July 7

8th Annual Horse Show, Glen Ray Road, Alderson, 1 p.m.

Gospel Sing, Alderson Memorial Football Field, 6-10 p.m.

Marketfest, Sunset Berry Farm, Alderson, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Flea Market, Pence Springs, 8 a.m.

Monday, July 8

Book Club, A New Chapter, Lewisburg, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 9

Alderson Farmer's Market, 3-6 p.m.

Trivia by KC and Top Cat, Mountain Table, Renick, 7 p.m.

Farmer's Market, Mountain Table, Renick, 4-7 p.m.

Wednesday, July 10

Line Dance, Active SWV, Old Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, Lewisburg, 6-7:30 p.m.

Pocahontas County Farmer's Market, Green Bank Fire Dept., 2:30-5:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 11

Distant Light, Carnegie Hall Ivy Terrace, Lewisburg, 6:30-8 p.m.

Pioneer Days, Marlinton, 3 p.m.- 10 p.m. on July 13

White Sulphur Springs

Farmer's Market, Main Street, 3-6 p.m.

Open Mic Night, Greenbrier Valley Brewing Company, 5 p.m.

Friday, July 12

The Big Will Bash, WV State Fairgrounds, 6:30 p.m.

E.T. the Extra Terrestrial, Lewis Theatre, 7 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.)

Friday Night Community Market, Edgar Ave, Ronceverte, 5 p.m.

Summer Reading Program, Alderson Public Library, 1-3 p.m.

Alice Wallace with guest Allan Sizemore, General Lewis Inn, 7-10 p.m.

Saturday, July 13

Healing Appalachian: Discover Lewisburg, Downtown Lewisburg, 11 a.m.-July 14 at 5 p.m.

OSCC Family Fun Day, Organ Cave Community Center, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Climax Special Caboose Rides, Cass Scenic Railroad, 12:30-3 p.m.

Cruizin4kidz fundraiser, WV State Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Freedom Fest, Sweet Springs Resort Park, Gap Mills, 11 a.m.- 12 p.m. on July 14

Sunday, July 14

Bastille Day Celebration, The French Goat, Lewisburg, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Marketfest, Sunset Berry Farm, Alderson, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Flea Market, Pence Springs, 8 a.m.

To submit information to Mountain Messenger's Entertainment Calendar, email news@mountainmessenger.com. Information should be submitted two weeks in advance.

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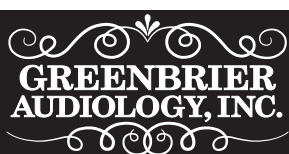
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