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# Mountain messenger

July 13, 2024

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

## County Commission reviews bids for FEMA Hazard and Mitigation Grant Program

By Chelsea Blair

Tuesday's regular County Commission meeting began with the approval of \$15,787.27 to be transferred from savings to checking for Arts and Recreational funding. \$567.35 will go to Alderson and White Sulphur Springs libraries for 2023-2024 programming, \$1,219.92 goes to High Rocks for 2023-2024 pickleball equipment, coding robots, and gardening containers; and Meadow River Trail will receive \$14,000 for mowing services of the trail.

The first item of new business was the opening of bids for FEMA Hazard and Mitigation Grant Program, Residential Elevation Grant. The grant is for a residential property located at 169 John Perry Lane, Fort Springs. The home was damaged in the flood of 2016 and the grant was submitted in 2018. Commissioner President Tammy Shifflett-Tincher stated that after moving through the process with FEMA and the state, they are now at the point to open bids for the construction. Commissioner Lowell Rose opened the only bid received, placed by Melton Construction LLC from Saint Albans in the amount of \$245,000. The motion to send the bid for documentation and review was approved unanimously.

The next and final item on the agenda was consideration to approve a grant agreement for 2024-2025 Department of Justice and Community Service Community Corrections Grant in the amount of \$270,000. The total award is to be distributed in four quarterly payments of \$67,500 each to assist in funding for the Community Corrections Program. The motion was approved unanimously.

## Blueberry picking season peaks in the Greenbrier Valley

By Sarah Richardson

Summer is here, and along with the sweltering heat comes the annual blueberry harvest - ripe for the picking. Local blueberry farms, White Oak Farm and Friendly Goat Fruit Farm, are in the middle of the busy season and are currently welcoming pickers of all ages to visit and pick some berries. Blueberry season starts in mid-June and usually lasts around 6 weeks, so if you haven't gone picking yet this year, plan to go soon!

White Oak Farm, located at 1700 Brownstown Road in Renick, opened for the season on Jun. 13, and Friendly Goat Fruit Farm, located further down the road at 2801 Julia Road, opened on June 15.

With two farms to choose from, it is easy See "Blueberry Picking"

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Friendly Goat Fruit Farm



White Oak Farm

## White Sulphur mayor announces new police chief, City Council creates public safety review board

By Stephen Baldwin  
RealWV, www.therealwv.com

Mayor Kathy Glover began Monday night's White Sulphur Springs City Council meeting by reading a statement. It pertained to the personnel moves which have occurred in the town's police department since Timothy Loehmann was hired and then quickly resigned following a public outcry.

"As mayor, I understand your outrage and emotional investment in this whole situation," she said. "The chief of police oversaw hiring, firing, and disciplinary actions of the department."

"The name of the new hire did not engage any recollection for me personally, and I trusted the results and the due diligence of the department head when swearing him in," she continued. "When the previous incident was brought to light, we acted as calmly, swiftly, and professionally as we could to validate the accusations that were being circulated on social media and other sources. This did take a little time... Attempts were made to reach the chief of police but he was not available to come to the office on Friday."

**Nature's Way**  
By Karen Cohen  
on page 4



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Members of the public spoke to White Sulphur Springs City Council following the hiring, and subsequent resignation, of Timothy Loehmann.

"I reached out to the city attorney for discussion and to review what little I knew. At the recommendation of the city attorney, I did schedule an appointment to meet with the chief of police, the city attorney, and myself on Monday, July 1, at 8 a.m. At that time, after a review of the information in the police department's personnel file for the officer, I called for a meeting with the officer at 1 p.m. that same day. During the meeting with the officer, he resigned effective immediately."

"After processing the information I had gathered thus far, on Tuesday evening I contacted Chief Teubert and requested to meet with him on Wednesday morning at 8 a.m. It was a brief exchange of conversation and Chief Teubert voluntarily resigned his position as chief of police and voluntarily demoted himself to patrolman. On July 3, at 1 p.m., Deputy Chief Julian R. Byer, Jr. was sworn in as the new chief of police."

"Although I was not aware of the situation regarding the hiring, I still accept accountability as the leader of the city. This should not have happened. I accept that there are mistakes in the current process we have and those mistakes will be reviewed and changed moving forward. I sincerely apologize to the Rice family for the unwanted and unnecessary attention this matter has brought to each of you. Thank you."

### Public Safety Review Board

Later in the meeting, Mayor Glover recognized Councilmember Ryan Lockhart for a policy proposal discussion related to police personnel decisions. With her support, Lockhart proposed the creation of a Public Safety Review Board in the city.

"This should save our citizens from the perils of what everyone experienced in the last few weeks with the officer ordeal," he said.

The board would be comprised of three members - the

sitting mayor, a sitting council member, and a citizen at large. It would hold the power to review and approve all hires in the police department and to review and approve all disciplinary actions against officers. The chief may only hire a new officer, for example,

See "WSS City Council" \_\_\_ Page 3

## Ronceverte moves forward with Home Rule application

By Dakota Baker

Ronceverte City Council held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, July 1, and opened a public hearing regarding the Home Rule application that Council has discussed in previous meetings. This was the one public hearing required by the Home Rule board. During the hearing the public was informed of the five areas that the Home Rule application covers. The biggest and most important aspect of the Home Rule program is that it would allow the City of Ronceverte to pass a sales use tax; this would be an additional 1 percent tax that would be added to the sales of good and some services.

It is important to understand that if Ronceverte is approved for Home Rule, this sale tax would not go into effect until July 1, 2025. The hopes with this sales tax are to give the City extra revenue to make improvements around the city, including fixing the street lighting

and sidewalks.

Furthermore, Home Rule would allow the City of Ronceverte to speed up the process of forfeiture of structures which would allow Ronceverte to handle the issue of dilapidated properties in a timely manner.

Citizens were invited to make comments related to the Home Rule application during the hearing, with one speaker commending the city workers, volunteers, and the city council for their hard work and how Ronceverte is in a better position today than it was 2-3 years ago. There were also some concerns from citizens regarding the Home Rule application, mainly regarding the increased freedom it would give City Council when it comes to decision for the city.

According to wvml.org, "Home rule allows municipalities - including the See "Home Rule" \_\_\_ Page 3





# Blood donors critically needed in July

*Donors can help hospitals stay prepared to weather challenges this summer*

This July, the American Red Cross continues to stress that blood donors are critically needed right now to support lifesaving transfusions this summer. Donors of all blood types are in demand, especially those with type O blood.

Upcoming blood drives include:

- Monday, July 22: Lewisburg United Methodist Church, 214 E. Washington Street, Lewisburg, 12 to 6 p.m., and Greenbrier Valley Medical Center Annex 1, 1320 Maplewood Avenue, Ronceverte, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 5: Lewisburg United Methodist Church, 214 E. Washington Street, Lewisburg, 12 to 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 13: Greenbrier Valley Church of the Nazarene, 167 Dawkins Drive, Lewisburg, 1 to 6 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 19: Lewisburg United Methodist Church, 214 E. Washington Street, Lewisburg, 12 to 6 p.m.

The Red Cross has teamed up with Universal Pictures for the theatrical release of TWISTERS to help avoid a summer blood shortage. All who come to give blood

July 1-31 will get a Fandango Movie Ticket\* by email. Plus, those who come to give by July 14 will also receive a one-of-a-kind TWISTERS and Red Cross umbrella, while supplies last. BONUS: Those who come to give blood in July will also automatically be entered for a chance to win a 2025 Ram 1500 Big Horn®. See RedCrossBlood.org/Twisters for full details.

How to donate blood:

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

## Annual Poker Run to benefit Family Refuge Center

Rev up your engines for a good cause! The Family Refuge Center is hosting its third annual Poker Run, promising a day filled with excitement, community spirit, and the roar of engines. Whether you're a seasoned rider or a community supporter, this event offers something for everyone. There is a grand prize of \$300 for the best hand and even a consolation prize of \$100 for the unluckiest/worst hand.

Tickets are \$25 per rider, \$10 per second rider, and an additional \$10 per additional hand. Tickets can be purchased on our event page on Harness, by mailing payments to PO Box 249, Lewisburg, WV 24901, or on the day of the event. Registration begins at 9am and the run will begin at 11 am at FRC's main office located at 213 Coleman Drive behind Ruby Tuesday.

This event is more than just a ride - it's a celebration of community and camaraderie. Participants can look forward to a 50/50 raffle, a bug splat contest, and a cookout waiting at the finish line. Plus, the added bonus of helping survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Mark your calendars for July 27, or August 3 in case of rain, and join us at the starting line.

For more information about the fundraiser, please contact Tyranda Martin at 304-645-6324.

## Leonard Cordova Road closed through July 19

County Route 5, Leonard Cordova Road, will have a closure at milepost 6.99, from 8 a.m. on Monday, July 8 through 5 p.m. Friday, July 19 for a culvert replacement. Inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances may affect the project schedule.

The traveling public is asked to use alternate routes around the work area. Traffic will be detoured via County Route 5 to County Route 9, Friars Hill Road or County Route 5 to US 219.

WVDOH expresses their apologies for the inconvenience this closure may cause the citizens and guests to the area. Motorists are asked to observe all traffic control signs and devices and use caution while traveling around the work zone.

## Barn Swallow at Circle K Farms to host Car Show fundraiser

By Chelsea Blair

The Barn Swallow at Circle K Farms is tucked away on a beautiful 29-acre lot in Ballard, Monroe County, and will be the site of the Field of Dreams Classic Car and Antique Tractor Show on Saturday, July 20, to support the Ballard Volunteer Fire and Rescue in working with Treasures for Children to supply Christmas gifts to over 125 children. Each year the owners of Barn



The Field of Dreams Classic Car and Antique Tractor Show will be held in Ballard at Circle K Farms on Saturday, July 20.

Swallow choose a nonprofit to support, last year being Reigning Warriors.

In 2018, Barn Swallow owners Ange and Brian Kaluk opened the venue for those near and far to enjoy, and they continue to dedicate their time and effort on upgrades and improvements to the facility. The property has a two-story barn to host weddings, parties, family reunions, bridal showers, baby showers and much more either indoors or outdoors.

Ange stated that the reason they decided to host this event is she wanted to provide a way to support a nonprofit organization while simultaneously providing something to do for members of the community and the car show participants.

The show will begin at 12 noon, allowing spectators to admire classic cars and antique tractors as well as peruse offerings from a large selection of local vendors. Food will also be available for purchase from Nana B's BBQ, The Mobil Smoke, and Frosty Fins. Also included in the event will be a Craft Show and a special performance by local musician Brett Mahon from 1 to 3 p.m. A swap meet for vehicles and car and tractor parts will also be part of the festivities. Swap meet and Craft Show exhibitors can set up at 9 a.m. with a space fee of \$20. General admission will be by donation. There is plenty of space and fun for those of all ages.

To book an event, party or wedding, contact Barn Swallow at 304-646-6709 or visit them on Facebook at Barn Swallow at Circle K Farm. They are located at 4227 Pine Grove Road, Ballard.

## WV lawmakers urge passage of Raylee's Law during special session

By Nadia Ramlagan

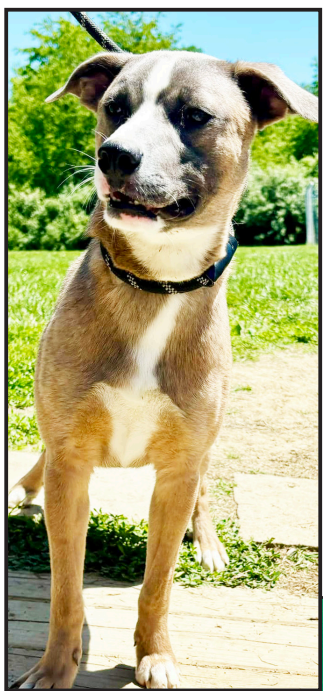
After the tragic death of Kyneddi Miller, a 14-year-old West Virginia girl found dead in her home, some state lawmakers are calling on the governor to pass a bill known as "Raylee's Law" during a special session expected in August.

Named after Raylee Browning, an 8-year-old girl who was removed from public school and home-schooled after teachers reported abuse to child protective services, versions of the law have stalled in the Legislature the past few years.

Del. Joey Garcia, D-Fairmont, said the law would ban county school boards from authorizing home-school instruction if there's a pending child abuse or neglect

See "Raylee's Law" — Page 3

## PICK OF THE LITTER



**RODNEY**

Rodney is a one-year-old terrier mix and weighs 26 pounds



**BEN**

Ben is a two-year-old male domestic long-hair

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.

## Robert C. Byrd Clinic, Greenbrier Valley Medical Center, and Greenbrier County Health Department partner for Community Health Forums

Robert C. Byrd Clinic, Greenbrier valley Medical Center, and the Greenbrier County Health Department are joining forces to host a series of community health forums across Greenbrier County. These forums aim to gather valuable input from residents to better understand and address local healthcare needs.

**Opportunity for Input and Open Discussion:**

The forums will provide a platform for community members to voice their concerns and priorities regarding healthcare services. Local healthcare leaders will be present to facilitate discussions centered around the following key questions:

- What do you need from your healthcare provider?
- Are there healthcare services your family needs that are currently unavailable in the county?
- Have you faced any challenges in accessing healthcare? What improvements can be made to enhance the overall experience?
- Are you familiar with the Greenbrier County health needs assessment and community health improvement plan?

**Forum Schedule:**

We invite all interested community members to attend one of the following sessions:

- **Alderson City Hall:** Friday, July 19, at 5 p.m.
- **Williamsburg Community Center:** Tuesday, July 23, at 5 p.m.
- **Marvel Cafeteria (Rupert):** Tuesday, July 30, at 5 p.m.
- **Clingman Center (Lewisburg):** Tuesday, Aug. 6, at 5 p.m.
- **Renick Community Center:** Tuesday, Aug. 13, at 5 p.m.

By working together, we can ensure Greenbrier County residents have access to the high-quality healthcare they deserve. Your voice matters! We encourage you to attend a forum and share your thoughts.

**About the Robert C. Byrd Clinic**

The 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 [rcbclinic.org](http://rcbclinic.org).

**DON'T SHOP • ADOPT!**



# Briefly

## Enchanted Evening Dinner at Williamsburg

The Williamsburg Historical Society invites you to a home cooked steak and gravy dinner on Friday, July 19 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Williamsburg Historical Society Museum. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children under 10, 1/2 servings. The full menu includes steak and gravy, mashed potatoes/gravy, green beans, cobblers, and tea, coffee or water. Call 304-645-2153 with any questions. Directions to the historical museum: I-64 to exit 161, north on route 12, right onto route 60 east, first left (Sinking Creek Road), stay on the 2 lane about 9 miles to Williamsburg, at the "Y" keep left, take first right onto Williamsburg Road about 1 mile (pass the church on the left, the Historical Society is the next white house on the right)

## Alderson Farmers Market

is held each Tuesday from 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. beginning May 7 - Oct. 29. They offer WIC, senior vouchers, carrot club for children, stretch, snap, and they accept credit cards (purchases must be \$5 or more).

## Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers available

The Greenbrier County Committee on Aging now has vouchers available for the 2024 Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

Vouchers are available at the following locations:

- Western Greenbrier Senior Center, 284 Greenbrier Street Rupert 304-392-5138. Monday through Friday 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.
  - Eastern Greenbrier Senior Center, 150 Taylor Lane Fairlea 304-645-1978. Monday through Friday. 8 to 10 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.
- Must be at least 60 years of age and meet income guidelines. Bring ID with proof of age.

## Blueberry Picking Continued from Front Page

to make a family day out of berry picking. White Oak Farm is owned and operated by Max and Anne Robinson, and they planted the first blueberries on their farm in the fall of 1993. The pick-your-own blueberries have been a popular staple in the Renick area for years, but in addition to growing blueberries they raise and grow a lot of their own food with some extras to sell. They have a milk cow, beef cows, sheep, and chickens. Eggs are available for purchase at the check-in stand. They are open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 4 to 8 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and are closed Wednesday and Sunday.

Contact White Oak Farm at whiteoakberryfarm@gmail.com, call 304-497-3577, or visit White Oak Berry Farm on Facebook for more information and to check the status of the berries.

Friendly Goat Fruit Farm is owned by Herb and Rene Ley and is aptly named for their friendly goats that they raise on the property. They offer pick-your-own blueberries and then blackberries later on in the season. Herb says that they planted their first blueberries seven years ago, and that they have several varieties to pick from, including large Chandler blueberries. They are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 4 to 8 p.m. Saturdays, open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Closed Sundays.

Follow the farm on Facebook at Friendly Goat Fruit Farm, or call 304-497-2005 for more information.

## WSS City Council Continued from Front Page

once all three members of the board approve of the hire. Councilmember Thomas Taylor, who previously served as mayor of White Sulphur, voiced support for the proposal. He said that while state code gives the power to mayors to oversee all police personnel decisions, he believes that's too much power for a single person and should be shared among a small group of people.

City council unanimously approved Lockhart's proposal and the board was created to begin work immediately. Mayor Glover, Councilmember G.P. Parker, and Pastor Greg Scott were chosen by the Council to serve on the board.

### Citizen comments

During the portion of the agenda dedicated to citizen comments, several locals voiced their displeasure with the police personnel situation.

Jerrell Newsome called on the mayor to resign.

Sonia Brown thanked Lockhart for the policy proposals, but questioned how the situation had come this far in the first place.

Penny Fioravante said, "The situation that happened with the police force was unacceptable. It wasn't just a bad decision. It was a betrayal of our public trust. It is going to take more than the chief stepping back to be a patrolman to restore that public trust. Mayor Glover, I respect you very much, but I do think you should consider resigning."

Chief Byer has already been sworn in and comes with prior experience as chief in the neighboring towns of Ronceverte and Alderson. He served as Assistant Chief up until last week when he received a promotion from Mayor Glover.

Councilmember Ryan Lockhart said after the meeting, "I'm dismayed and disappointed in the decision to keep him (Teubert) on the payroll after the incident that's occurred."

## 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.

## Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Convictions

Justin Todd Ferdinand, Ronceverte, reckless driving, fine \$100, GP

Brian Michael Persinger, Oak Hill, domestic battery 1st offense, fine \$250, jail 6 months 32 days credit for time served, NCP

Amanda Marie Tope, Ronceverte, 1) reckless driving, fine \$25; 2) failure to report an accident, fine \$20, NCP

Bobby Joe Amick, Quinwood, harassment, fine \$75, jail 30 days - suspended and placed on 12 months unsupervised probation, NCP

Aaron Mathew Muhs, Lewisburg, failure to properly restrain child while vehicle in motion, fine \$10, GP  
Patrick Lee Murphy, Lewisburg, speeding, fine \$18, GP

Aaron Mathew Muhs, Lewisburg, no child restraint, fine \$10, GP

Devin C. Cantwell, Inwood, speeding, fine \$5, GP  
Krystal Lynn Meadows, White Sulphur Springs, keeping vicious dog, jail 30 days - suspended. Must surrender all dogs to the Humane Society within 7 days. No additional dogs during the term of probation which is 18 months., NCP

Darrell Kay Vandall, Jr., Caledonia, OH, possession of controlled substance, fine \$100, NCP

Logan Lee Sims, Lewisburg, use of electronic device without hands free equipment, fine \$100, NCP

Justin Oliver Hitt, Gap Mills, unlawful disposal of letter - less than 100 lbs. or 27 cubic feet, fine \$100, GP  
Lucas Judd Reynolds, Ronceverte, 1) shoplifting, fine \$20, restitution \$100; 2) shoplifting, fine \$20, restitution \$18, GP

Charles M. Pursley, Ronceverte, speeding, fine \$100, GP

Jacob Vanburen, White Sulphur Springs, violation of a Protective Order, jail 30 days - suspended and placed on 12 months unsupervised probation, NCP

## Home Rule Continued from Front Page

smallest towns with populations under 2,000 - greater self-determination within the limits of state law."

Council clarified that nothing will be changed outside of the five issues being addressed within the Home Rule application, with councilmembers noting that Home Rule does not allow them to just do whatever they want; they still have rules they have to abide by. Reporting by WVNews' Conner Griffith in 2018 cited that roughly one fifth of West Virginia's population lives under a Home Rule city, with 28 of those cities passing a 1 percent sales tax.

The City of Lewisburg completed a Home Rule application in recent years, with a 1 percent tax being implemented starting July 1 of 2023.

Councilmembers did vote to move forward with the application process for the Home Rule program. Citizens are encouraged to call City Hall and speak with Pamela Mentz if they have any questions at 304-647-5455.

Also during the Council meeting, there was a revision to ordinance 2024-04, which allows law enforcement to administer citations to those camping in public areas; where camping has been prohibited unless otherwise posted. This revision was passed after being voted on by council members.

The next regular City Council meeting will be held on Monday, August 5, at City Hall. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month.

## Raylee's Law Continued from Page 2

investigation against a parent or guardian.

"I think what we're looking at is there has to be some level of accountability," Garcia contended. "Just like there is in the public school system, that children are being taught, that they're not being abused."

A 2023 analysis by the Washington Post estimated there are 1 million to nearly 3 million home-schooled children in the United States. In West Virginia, the number is around 13,000, according to the West Virginia Home Educators Association, which said it opposes any oversight of home schooling.

Garcia emphasized the law is designed to help improve one aspect of the state's failing child welfare system. In 2019, current and former foster care children filed a class-action lawsuit arguing the state repeatedly failed to protect children in its care. He added West Virginia has work to do when it comes to child safety.

"Across the aisle, Democrats, Republicans, people of all different beliefs with respect to education, to try to provide for a reasonable and narrowly tailored law that protects children," Garcia explained.

Lawmakers also are in discussion with local school boards about enforcing assessment completion for home-schooled kids. State law requires assessments at certain grade levels and local public school officials have few options to check on children when a parent or guardian fails to submit them. Data show just 37% of home-school households submit assessments.

## For the Record

### Deeds

James R. Senter and Margie A. Senter to CLB Investments LLC: lot 16 Rolling Hills, Lewisburg District, Map 9 Parcel 0041. Filed July 2, 2024.

Richard D. Wood to The Woodmont Revocable Trust: 0.468, Lewisburg District, Map 13-10-5-0049.0000. Filed July 2, 2024.

Alderson Renaissance Corporation to CKJS Investment Trust LLC: parcel A, 9.767 feet, Alderson District, Map 6, 6, 6, 6, 6 Parcel 449, 450, 451, 452, 453. Filed July 2, 2024.

CKJS Investment Trust LLC to Town of Alderson: parcel B, 8.959, Alderson District, Map 6 Parcel 449, 450, 451, 452, 453. Filed July 2, 2024.

Property Brothers LLC to Susan W. Holloway: lots 18 and 19, White Sulphur District, Map 12 Parcel 298. Filed July 2, 2024.

Eddie A. Hoke to Carol A. Hoke: lot 6, 1.884 acres, lots 3 and 3A, 4 and 4A, White Sulphur District, Map 1, 1, 1, 1 Parcel 19, 9, 13, 12, 11. Filed July 3, 2024.

Robert Critzer and Trenia Critzer to Carleigh Toothman and Mark Toothman: lot 4, 2.232 acres, Frankford District, Map 14 Parcel 164. Filed July 3, 2024.

Steven L. Boswell to Steven D. Boswell and Sharron E. Boswell: 1.00, 0.963 acres, Anthony Creek District, Map 35, 35 Parcel 32, 39. Filed July 8, 2024.

Tanaya M. Harms to Jerry L. Mann III and Elly N. Wickline: 2.01 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 67 Parcel 25. Filed July 8, 2024.

Joseph R. Johnson to Osequera R. Nunez: lot 1 Quick Sub, Lewisburg District, Map 26 Parcel 1. Filed July 8, 2024.

Ronald E. Hinkle Jr. and Rhonda Combs to Thomas O. Gillespie and Nancy Gillespie: 3.00 acres, lot B, Fort Spring District, Map 12K Parcel 42. Filed July 8, 2024.

Timothy Price and Lora Price to Lora and Timothy Price Family Irrevocable Trust (by trustee Savannah J. Price and Adam L. Price): lot 14 Colonial Acres Subdivision, Fort Spring District, Map 18A Parcel 0021. Filed July 8, 2024.

Lora A. Price and Timothy L. Price to Lora and Timothy Price Family Irrevocable Trust (by trustee Savannah J. Price and Adam L. Price): lot 22 Colonial Acres Subdivision, Fort Spring District, Map 18A Parcel 0024. Filed July 8, 2024.

Jeffrey Laughlin to Jeffrey Laughlin and Dara Vance: 2.26 acres, Williamsburg District, Map 42 Parcel 63. Filed July 8, 2024.

Fannie Mae AKA Federal National Mortgage Association to Barry W. Lussier Revocable Trust of 1998 (by trustee): lots 1 and 2 and part of lot 5, tract 0.31 acres, Quinwood District, Map 12 Parcel 3.4. Filed July 8, 2024.

Joanna Greer and Cindy Sue Alie to William J. Greer and James F. Vaughan: lot no. 4, Lewisburg District, Map 24 Parcel 198. Filed July 9, 2024.

## Suits

New Cases from 7/3/24 to 7/10/24

New Civil Cases

United Bank v. Patricia Long

New Divorces

Robert Lee Waugh, Jr. and Melissa Sue Waugh

## Marriages

Jeri Dee Martin and David Letcher Martin  
Breanna Fayle Boggs and Landon Shane Hunter  
Amy Jo Reardon and Michael Edward Huddleston  
Tina Marie Sharp and Vicente Lidea  
Shai Heaven Shifflett and Braeden Allen Morris  
Phyllis Ann Jones and Troy Curtis Morgan  
Alexis Brooke Bowyer and Mallory Nichole Alderson  
Andrew Chase Vass and Jaret Martino  
Jaret Martino and Andrew Chase Vass

## Mountain Messenger

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#### Corrections:

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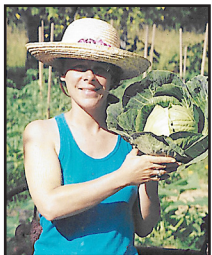
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THANK YOU FOR READING  
THE MOUNTAIN MESSENGER





By Karen Cohen

## Fly Away

Do you know what West Virginia's state butterfly is? It's the monarch butterfly, and it was designated to be our state butterfly in 1995. Monarchs are easily identified by their brilliant orange wings laced in black. They used to be pretty common to see everywhere since there were billions of them. But now in eastern North America, the population of monarchs has dropped nearly 90%. That decline has put them on the Endangered Species Act protection waiting list. This year in December, the final determination will be made whether they get listed as an endangered species or not.

Last year in Lewisburg I saw two monarchs right in town, flitting about hanging flower baskets on our main street of shops and restaurants. They hung around long enough for me to get a few photos of them in action. I was elated to see them since the year before I had noticed a marked decline in my woodlined fields. Please note that there are just an estimated 200,000-300,000 of them left alive.

What has caused their decline? Disappearing habitat is a main factor. Logging, clearing fields, and development removes valuable foraging settings for all butterflies. They survive on flowering plants/weeds that nourish them with nectar. Remove all nectar producing plants and there go the butterflies too. With a short life span, they won't be able to breed if they cannot find food.

So what can you do to help? Should you even bother? Yes, please step up to the plate, no pun intended. Monarchs are important pollinators and absolutely critical to our food web. Someday we may recognize the supreme importance of our pollinating insects when and if they disappear all together. Bees also are disappearing. Let's remember that flowers aren't the only species pollinated by flying insects. Fruits and vegetables are too.

If we no longer have our friends, the butterflies, bees and birds to pollinate, crops such as blueberries, cher-

ries, tomatoes, apples, pumpkins, just to name a few, can only continue with hand pollination, human or robotic hands. Who in their right mind would attempt to pollinate a field of anything, one flower at a time; it is not cost effective. The plain and simple fact is the human race along with other terrestrials would not survive because 80% of flowers in the world reproduce only by being pollinated.

Flowers are where the pollen dust lays. When the pollen is lifted out of a flower by a visitor's wings or legs, it gets taken to a neighboring plant where that flower's stigma receives pollen and hence fertilization occurs. That flower then produces a fruit or vegetable. Simply genius, isn't it? We can learn to appreciate our pollinators and help them along before it is too late.

How? Monarchs feed on native milkweed. Rather than spraying that plant with biocides which kill it, let it grow freely. Native milkweed will come back on its own from its dropped seeds, year after year without any help from humans. You can purchase milkweed seeds from various seed companies and get a crop of it growing right in your yard. There are tons of different kinds of milkweed.

Do not plant or buy tropical ornamental milkweed, *Asclepias curassavica*, or Mexican butterfly weed because it is not beneficial and can harm butterflies. Its life cycle is much longer than native milkweeds and that fools butterflies into sticking around longer, sipping nectar, laying eggs, and then the cold temps hit and may kill them. Migration to warmer climates is essential for butterflies to mate and lay eggs. For our region, swamp milkweed, whorled milkweed, poke milkweed and butterfly weed grow best. Monarchs drink the nectar of these plants and lay their eggs on the leaves. So put down that insecticide, too! Don't kill the caterpillars that munch on leaves. Pesticides are poisoning the habitats for pollinators of all kinds and that causes great distur-



A bee sips nectar from a native milkweed plant. (Photo by Karen Cohen)

bance in the natural food chain. Insects dine on leaves and plants, birds, fish, toads and frogs eat bugs, animals eat these species, and we eat animals. Even if we skip eating the animals, we still rely on plant sources directly to nourish ourselves. It is a complete cycle where not one player can be eliminated without dire consequences.

Lots of folks prefer to look away from doom and gloom scenarios. The plight of the monarch is not one to take lightly. Their beauty reigns supreme. Their role in our lives is more important than the clerk in the grocery store. Let's give the monarchs their due respect, help them to survive and pollinate, and allow the food production lines naturally chugging along to keep our planet fed.

## This Week in WV History

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

**July 14, 1861:** Union troops under Gen. Jacob Cox drove Confederate militia and cavalry out of town during the Battle of Barboursville. Union forces remained in control of Barboursville for the remainder of the war.

**July 14, 1900:** Gangster William "Big Bill" Lias was born in Wheeling, or Greece. For much of the mid-1900s, he was considered the leader of bootlegging, organized crime and gambling in the Wheeling area.

**July 15, 1886:** Congressman Cleveland Monroe "Cleve" Bailey was born on a farm in Pleasants County. He represented West Virginia's third congressional district for eight terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, 1945-47 and 1949-63.



**July 15, 1988:** Interstate 64 was completed when the final section between Sam Black Church and the West Virginia Turnpike was opened to traffic.

**July 16, 1791:** General Adam Stephen died. He fought in the French and Indian War and Revolutionary War, receiving a commendation after the Battle of Trenton and concluding his military career after the American loss at Brandywine. He played pivotal roles in the founding of both Berkeley County and Martinsburg.

**July 16, 1869:** Philanthropist Michael Late Benedum was born in Bridgeport. He made a fortune in the oil and gas business but is best remembered for establishing the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

**July 17, 1861:** The Battle of Scary Creek took place in Putnam County. It was one of the earliest battles of the war and one of the first Confederate victories.



**July 17, 1914:** Singer Eleanor Steber was born in Wheeling. She made her debut with the Metropolitan Opera in 1940.

**July 17, 1921:** Marcenia "Toni" Stone was born in Bluefield. She would become the first woman to play professional baseball for a previously all-male team. In 1953, she joined the Indianapolis Clowns of the old Negro American League, replacing the team's second baseman, Hank Aaron, who had just joined the National League's Milwaukee Braves.

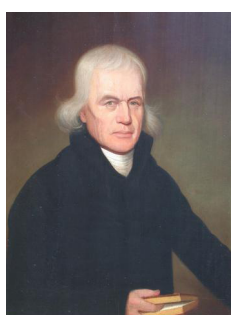
**July 17, 1922:** The Cliftonville Mine Battle took place east of Wellsburg, Brooke County. The gun battle between striking miners and sheriff's forces left at least nine people dead.



THANK YOU FOR READING  
THE MOUNTAIN MESSENGER



**July 18, 1776:** Methodist bishop Francis Asbury first set foot in present West Virginia outside of Berkeley Springs. He worked extensively in what is now the Eastern Panhandle, preaching and lecturing almost every day, before continuing further into western Virginia.

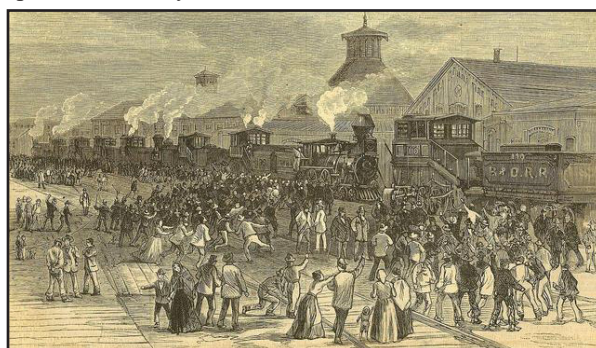


**July 18, 1893:** Spencer State Hospital opened. With its connected brick buildings, a quarter-mile in length, the hospital was sometimes referred to as the longest continuous brick building in America. It remained in operation until June 1989.

**July 19, 1850:** Pope Pius IX established the Diocese of Wheeling, naming Richard V. Whelan as its first bishop.

**July 19, 1863:** A Confederate raid led by Gen. John Morgan came to an end on Buffington Island, near Ravenswood. The Confederates were overtaken by federal troops, local militia and three U.S. Navy gunboats.

**July 19, 1877:** Federal troops arrived in Martinsburg, where the Railroad Strike of 1877 had begun days earlier. The troops ended the violence in Martinsburg, but the deadly strike continued across the country into September. It was the first work stoppage in U.S. history to spread nationally.



**July 19, 1946:** Author Stephen Coonts was born in Morgantown. After graduating from West Virginia University and serving in the navy during the Vietnam War, Coonts became a best-selling action and adventure novelist with the 1986 publication of *Flight of the Intruder*.

**July 19, 1952:** Novelist Jayne Anne Phillips was born in Buckhannon. After graduating from West Virginia University, her short stories and novels began receiving wide recognition. In 2024, she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for her 2023 novel *Night Watch*, about a mother and daughter in West Virginia after the Civil War.

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## OPINION

Commentary

### Democratic Chair Mike Pushkin challenges Jim Justice and Patrick Morrisey to reject harmful provisions in Project 2025

West Virginia Democratic Party Chair Mike Pushkin today called on Governor Jim Justice and Attorney General Patrick Morrisey to publicly reject some of the most destructive provisions outlined in Project 2025, the controversial government reorganization plan drafted by former Trump administration officials. The provisions in question, include abolishing the Department of Homeland Security, privatizing Social Security, banning the abortion pill, and restricting overtime eligibility for American workers. Each of these provisions pose significant threats to the well-being and security of West Virginians and all Americans.

"Project 2025 represents a direct assault on the values, freedoms, and protections that West Virginians hold dear," said Pushkin. "The abolition of the Department of Homeland Security would leave our nation vulnerable to acts of terrorism. Privatizing Social Security would undermine the financial security of millions of seniors and disabled individuals who rely on these benefits to survive. Banning the abortion pill is an extreme attack on women's health and reproductive freedoms. And restricting overtime eligibility for American workers is a blatant attempt to undermine fair labor standards and the economic well-being of working families."

Pushkin emphasized the importance of standing up against these dangerous proposals and called on Governor Justice and Attorney General Morrisey to demonstrate rejecting leadership by explicitly and unequivocally rejecting them.

"As leaders of our state, Governor Justice and Attorney General Morrisey have a duty to protect the interests and rights of West Virginians," Pushkin continued. "I urge them to take a stand against Project 2025 and its catastrophic objectives. West Virginia deserves leaders who will fight for the security, health, and economic well-being of all our citizens."

Pushkin also highlighted the broader implications of Project 2025, warning that its adoption could set a dangerous precedent for the future of the country.

"This isn't just about West Virginia; it's about the direction our entire nation is heading," said Pushkin. "We cannot allow radical proposals that threaten the foundation of our social and economic systems to go unchallenged. It is time for all of us to stand together and reject Project 2025 in its entirety."

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## Club & Church

# Williamsburg CEOS make Appalachian Heritage dishes

What food do you remember eating while growing up? The Williamsburg Community Educational Outreach Service Club members shared what they ate most often while growing up while discussing the lesson "Teaching Appalachian Heritage Cooking to Children, Part II" which was presented by Patty Post.

The club meeting was held Tuesday, July 9 at the Williamsburg Historical Museum beginning at noon. Food shared included roasted root vegetables, fried potatoes, green beans, cornbread, squash casserole, potato salad and homemade cakes.

Those participating were Loretta Shirley, Blanche Knically, Cassandra Perkins, LauraAnn Tiller, Laura Sevy, Burl and Patty Post.

Laura Sevy, representative from the AmeriCorps Seniors/RSVP, recognized members for their participation in the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program by presenting each with a certificate and gift.

The club will meet again on Tuesday, Aug. 13 beginning at noon (sharing more homemade food!) at the Williamsburg Historical Museum.

We are building and growing families and our communities by sharing our skills and experiences and learning new skills from the WVU extension service and each other. All are welcome and encouraged to participate.



Patty's granddaughter helped make the roasted root vegetables.

For more information about the CEOS please check the WVU Extension Family and Community Development website or call the county extension office at 304-647-7408.

# Lake Sherwood July Education Series

Monongahela National Forest invites you to join us Fridays in July from 7 to 10:30 p.m. as we share activities that bring us closer to the world around us. Meet near the Lake Sherwood Campground Amphitheater for an evening of themed kids activities, special programs and movies. Be sure to bring your camp chair, snacks and water.

### July 12 - Insects

7 p.m. - 8 p.m. - Kids activities (nature scavenger hunt, coloring, yard games)  
8 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - Education Program  
8:30 p.m. - Movie

### July 19 - Migration

7 p.m. - 8 p.m. - Kids activities (nature scavenger

hunt, coloring, yard games)

8 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - Education Program  
8:30 p.m. - Movie

### July 26 - Smokey Bear's 80th Birthday Party

7 p.m. - 8 p.m. Kids activities (rock painting, coloring, yard games)  
8 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Education Program  
8:30 p.m. Movie

Activities, program and movie are all subject to suitable weather conditions. Lake Sherwood Recreation Area and Campground is located off WV-92, north of White Sulphur Springs. For more information call 304-846-2695 or visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/mnf/recarea/?recid=7008>.

# Beckley and Bluestone travel plazas to close for completion of construction



A rendering of the Beckley Travel Plaza.

The Bluestone Travel Plaza on the West Virginia Turnpike closed on Monday, July 8 to allow completion of a new travel plaza being built on site. Fueling stations at the site are already offline, but the travel plaza will be closed to truck parking until construction is complete at the end of the year.

Diesel fueling stations and all truck parking will be closed at the Beckley Travel Plaza on Thursday, Aug. 1, until completion of that project.

In February 2023, the West Virginia Parkways Authority approved a contract for \$122,820,381.53 with Paramount Builders LLC, of St. Albans, for demolition and renovation of the Beckley and Bluestone travel plazas. The newly redeveloped travel plazas will offer expanded food concepts, a 24/7 Mountain State Market convenience store, an outdoor dining options, expanded parking for tractor-trailers and passenger vehicles, EV charging stations, separated vehicle and tractor-trailer fueling options, picnic area, and pet relief areas. The

Beckley Travel Plaza will offer a drive through, increased restroom facilities, and bus parking, as well as enhancing and highlighting the Parkways Authority Tourist Information Centers.

"It's necessary for the West Virginia Parkways Authority and general contractor, Paramount Builders, to fully close the Beckley and Bluestone travel plaza sites in order for the contractor to complete the site renovations in the areas that have remained open up to this point in the project," said Jeff Miller, executive director of the Parkways Authority.

"This will certainly have an impact on diesel fuel customers at Beckley and those commercial truck drivers who use the site for overnight parking," Miller said. "We recognize that, and want to assure the traveling public that when these sites are completed and reopened they will be able to enjoy world-class facilities, with expanded offerings over the previous facilities."

## 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](http://www.lbcwv.com), on Facebook, or please call 304-645-3797.

### Reunions

#### 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.

#### Bowden Reunion

The Bowden Family Reunion will be held Saturday, Aug. 10. Lunch 12 noon at The Sweet Springs Resort Park, 19540 Sweet Springs Valley Road, Sweet Springs, WV 24941. A \$10 charge per family. Organizers will provide drinks, paper plates, napkins and plasticware. Like previous reunions, please bring a covered dish of vegetables, pasta, meat, and/or dessert to share. If you want to participate, there will be a "Grab Bag" for sale for \$5 each. If you decide to bring one, stuff it with something special and staple it closed. It should have a minimum value of \$5. The family hopes to see everyone there!



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# Dear Recycle Lady,

# A Look Back

**Dear Recycle Lady,**

Thanks for the information on plant-based cleaners. However, I have some suggestions for additional information to your response last week to Cleaner-Up-Per. The most important benefit of choosing plant-based cleaners over chemical cleaners is their safety and the absence of toxic chemicals in your home. The ingredients in chemical cleaning products have been linked to asthma, allergies, endocrine disruption, and even cancer. According to the Consumer Report article, <https://www.consumerreports.org/home-garden/cleaning/choose-healthier-and-more-sustainable-cleaning-products-a3827765097/>, there is no federal law, at this time, requiring companies to list all ingredients in cleaning products. It further states that "using cleaner cleaning products with safer ingredients leads to healthier living spaces." Homecourt mentions the environmental impact of chemical cleaners in their website, <https://homecourt.co/blogs/cleaners/a-healthier-home-the-advantages-of-plant-based-cleaners>. Since plant-based cleaners are designed to be biodegradable, they decompose rapidly into non-toxic, harmless components that are absorbed safely in the environment.

*Plant-Based Cleaner*

**Dear Plant-Based Cleaner,**

You are absolutely correct! Using non-chemical, non-toxic cleaners in our homes is definitely healthier for humans and healthier for the environment. The two websites given explain clearly why this is true and how to achieve this goal. Many thanks for the info.

**Dear Recycle Lady,**

Many foods in the grocery store are packaged in #5 plastic containers. I have heard that these containers are toxic. Is it safe to reuse these containers? Is it safe to use them in a microwave?

*Like Plastics*

**Dear Like Plastics,**

Polypropylene plastics, or #5 plastics, are considered safe to use in the microwave as they are heat-resistant and stable under heating. Number 5 plastics are a hard plastic; thus, they can toler-

ate both extreme cold as well as extreme heat. They stay cool even when heated, whereas other types of plastics become hot, causing them to warp or melt. When this happens, the plastic may leach harmful chemicals into the food. If you are unsure of the type of plastic your container is made of, do this short test. Put some water in the container and microwave it for 30 seconds. If the container gets hot, it is not safe for microwaving. One word of caution, #5 plastics, or any other types of plastic, are not oven safe. They will melt in the high heat and may cause your oven to catch fire. Incidentally, #5 plastics are not recyclable locally.

**Dear Recycle Lady,**

This isn't about recycling, but I thought it was good information for readers, especially dog owners. Kentucky-based veterinarian, Dr. Matt McGlasson, has cautioned that there are potentially fatal consequences if dogs eat sugar-free foods such as candy, gum, baked goods, pudding snacks and peanut butter as they contain a sugar substitute called xylitol.

*Dog Lover*

**Dear Dog Lover,**

Thanks for alerting readers to the dangers of xylitol. According to <https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/xylitol-toxicity-in-dogs>, when dogs eat xylitol, the xylitol is quickly absorbed into the bloodstream and can cause a profound drop in blood sugar (hypoglycemia). Higher doses cause liver failure. Call Pet Poison Helpline 800-213-6680 if xylitol has been ingested by your dog.

Good News: Parley's Global Cleanup Network, a worldwide alliance of organizations, is clearing plastic from beaches, rivers, mangroves and coastal communities in 30 countries. They are working to protect marine environments from plastic and to address the flow of plastic waste in waterways.

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



Sources: Virginia Cavalcade, International Sewing Machines Collectors Society, Lawrence House Museum. Photo from Wikipedia.

**By William "Skip" Deegans**

On U.S. 219 at Millpoint in Pocahontas County is a highway marker that credits James E.A. Gibbs with inventing the chain-stitch sewing machine.

Gibbs' path to success as an inventor was circuitous and formidable. The first sewing machine was patented in Germany in 1755. The first practical sewing machine was made by a French tailor in 1829, and in 1932 the first lock-stitch sewing machine was invented by the American Walter Hunt. In 1844, an Englishman, John Fisher, developed a more sophisticated machine but botched his patent filing, and Issac Singer leaped over him in the early 1850s.

Gibbs' family moved from New England to Rockbridge County, Virginia when his father brought the first wool carding machine to Virginia. Gibbs was born in 1829. He moved to West Virginia where he worked on a surveying team in Randolph County and was injured while working. Unable to continue surveying, he became a carpenter and mill right. While visiting his parents, he saw his first Singer machine in a tailor's shop. He found it too heavy, complicated, cumbersome and expensive. Back in Pocahontas County, he carved a crude wooden model of a sewing machine that could produce a chain-stitch and honed the needle himself. In order to raise money to pay for a patent filing, he sold half interest in his invention to a local sawmill owner. He went to Philadelphia to sell his patent and met, providentially, James Wilcox, a dealer in inventions.

Capitalized by Wilcox, he built a patent model and was awarded patent number 17,427. Gibbs and Wilcox formed a partnership and engaged a Rhode Island firm to manufacture the machines. The first machine was produced in 1858, and Wilcox and Gibbs opened a New York office. In 1859, Scientific American praised Gibbs' machine for its beauty, accuracy and absence of noise. It was simpler and less expensive than Singer machines.

Still living in West Virginia, Gibbs joined the Confederate Army during the Civil War. He contracted typhoid and pneumonia and served only three weeks. When the Union forces moved toward Pocahontas County, he moved back to Rockbridge County. After the war, Gibbs went to Philadelphia where he found that Wilcox, his partner, had banked \$10,000 for Gibbs during the war. By southern standards, Gibbs was a wealthy man. In 1867, Wilcox and Gibbs opened a London office and one in Richmond in 1872. They found they couldn't compete with Singer for the home market. Instead, they successfully concentrated on the commercial market. Gibbs dubbed the village where he lived, Raphine, which is Greek for needle. He died there in 1902.

The Wilcox and Gibbs machines are sought after and considered by some collectors to be among the finest examples of 19th century precision engineering.

An interesting side note: Henry Leland, a machinist and engineer, worked for Wilcox and Gibbs and went on to create the Cadillac Car.

## State Fair to host third annual Big Wheel Bash this weekend

Officials at the State Fair of West Virginia are excited to announce the third annual Big Wheel Bash, a fundraiser for the fair's scholarship and endowment funds. Set for Friday, July 12 from 6:30 to 10 p.m., this event will include food and beverages, a live band, and benefit auction.

"The Big Wheel Bash has quickly become one of the most important and fun events we host," State Fair CEO Kelly Collins stated. "Since its inception, the State Fair Scholarship has given over a half million dollars to kids from our state to further their education and it's a goal to continue to grow this program."

Tickets for this the Big Wheel Bash are \$100 and include dinner, drinks, and live entertainment from Blaze the City. Dinner is highlighted with NY Strip Steak and Crab Cakes, while an exclusive Ben Ellen Bread Pudding will be served for dessert!

For more information, or to order tickets

visit [statefairfsv.com/big-wheel-bash](http://statefairfsv.com/big-wheel-bash) or call 304-645-1090.

In 2006, the State Fair of West Virginia created an endowment fund to ensure the long-term support of three key initiatives: scholarships for West Virginia students, youth educational enrichment programs, and competitive agricultural exhibit premiums.

The 10-day State Fair of West Virginia is celebrating 99 years on Aug. 8-17. The State Fair of West Virginia, with a \$16.9 million economic impact on the state of West Virginia, is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation committed to the traditions of agriculture, family entertainment, and education. For more information, please visit [www.statefairfsv.com](http://www.statefairfsv.com), or follow fair events on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and Twitter. Join the conversation by using #sfwv2023!

**SCRAMBLERS**  
*solution*  
1. Repute; 2. Impede;  
3. Parse; 4. Launch  
*Today's Word*  
**MUSTACHE**

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# Nature's Way

By Karen Cohen

## Fly Away

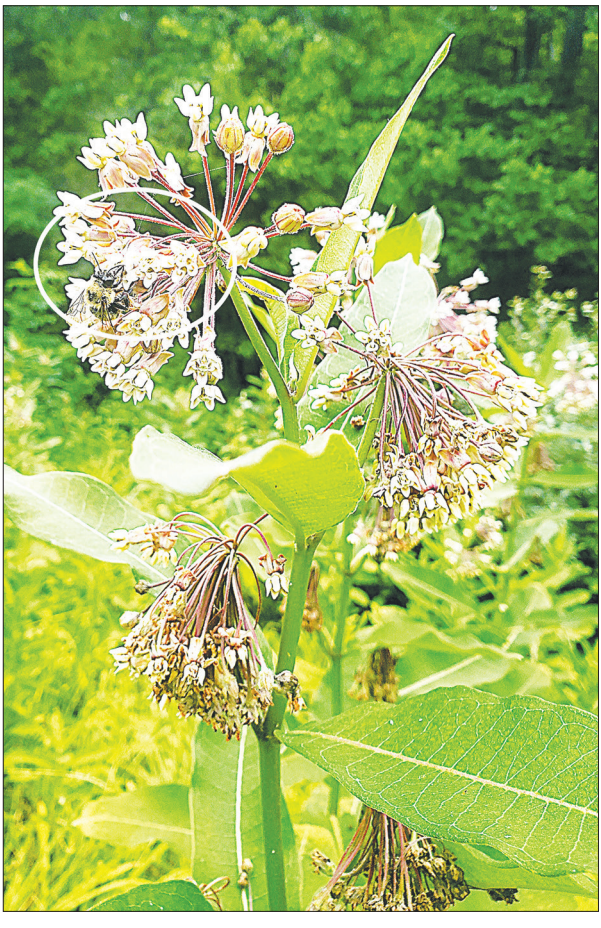
Do you know what West Virginia's state butterfly is? It's the monarch butterfly, and it was designated to be our state butterfly in 1995. Monarchs are easily identified by their brilliant orange wings laced in black. They used to be pretty common to see everywhere since there were billions of them. But now in eastern North America, the population of monarchs has dropped nearly 90%. That decline has put them on the Endangered Species Act protection waiting list. This year in December, the final determination will be made whether they get listed as an endangered species or not.

Last year in Lewisburg I saw two monarchs right in town, flitting about hanging flower baskets on our main street of shops and restaurants. They hung around long enough for me to get a few photos of them in action. I was elated to see them since the year before I had noticed a marked decline in my woodlined fields. Please note that there are just an estimated 200,000-300,000 of them left alive.

What has caused their decline? Disappearing habitat is a main factor. Logging, clearing fields, and development removes valuable foraging settings for all butterflies. They survive on flowering plants/weeds that nourish them with nectar. Remove all nectar producing plants and there go the butterflies too. With a short life span, they won't be able to breed if they cannot find food.

So what can you do to help? Should you even bother? Yes, please step up to the plate, no pun intended. Monarchs are important pollinators and absolutely critical to our food web. Someday we may recognize the supreme importance of our pollinating insects when and if they disappear all together. Bees also are disappearing. Let's remember that flowers aren't the only species pollinated by flying insects. Fruits and vegetables are too.

If we no longer have our friends, the butterflies, bees and birds to pollinate, crops such as blueberries, cherries, tomatoes, apples, pumpkins, just to name a few, can only continue with hand pollination, human or robotic hands. Who in their right mind would attempt to pollinate a field of anything, one



A bee sips nectar from a native milkweed plant. (Photo by Karen Cohen)

flower at a time; it is not cost effective. The plain and simple fact is the human race along with other terrestrials would not survive because 80% of flowers in the world reproduce only by being pollinated.

Flowers are where the pollen dust lays. When the pollen is lifted out of a flower by a visitor's wings or legs, it gets

taken to a neighboring plant where that flower's stigma receives pollen and hence fertilization occurs. That flower then produces a fruit or vegetable. Simply genius, isn't it? We can learn to appreciate our pollinators and help them along before it is too late.

How? Monarchs feed on native milkweed. Rather than spraying that plant with biocides which kill it, let it grow freely. Native milkweed will come back on its own from its dropped seeds, year after year without any help from humans. You can purchase milkweed seeds from various seed companies and get a crop of it growing right in your yard. There are tons of different kinds of milkweed.

Do not plant or buy tropical ornamental milkweed, *Asclepias curassavica*, or Mexican butterfly weed because it is not beneficial and can harm butterflies. Its life cycle is much longer than native milkweeds and that fools butterflies into sticking around longer, sipping nectar, laying eggs, and then the cold temps hit and may kill them. Migration to warmer climates is essential for butterflies to mate and lay eggs. For our region, swamp milkweed, whorled milkweed, poke milkweed and butterfly weed grow best. Monarchs drink the nectar of these plants and lay their eggs on the leaves. So put down that insecticide, too! Don't kill the caterpillars that munch on leaves. Pesticides are poisoning the habitats for pollinators of all kinds and that causes great disturbance in the natural food chain. Insects dine on leaves and plants, birds, fish, toads and frogs eat bugs, animals eat these species, and we eat animals. Even if we skip eating the animals, we still rely on plant sources directly to nourish ourselves. It is a complete cycle where not one player can be eliminated without dire consequences.

Lots of folks prefer to look away from doom and gloom scenarios. The plight of the monarch is not one to take lightly. Their beauty reigns supreme. Their role in our lives is more important than the clerk in the grocery store. Let's give the monarchs their due respect, help them to survive and pollinate, and allow the food production lines naturally chugging along to keep our planet fed.

### 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!

Honor  
UPTREE

Hinder  
MEDPIE

Resolve  
SPARE

Initiate  
CHANUL

Is it true what the neighbors are saying — that you're growing a \_\_\_\_\_?

TODAY'S WORD

### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Light is moved. 2. Shape of grille is different. 3. Belt is higher. 4. Arm is moved. 5. License plate is smaller. 6. Cap 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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## Super Crossword

POSTPRANDIAL

**ACROSS**

1 Male cats  
5 "Unto the Sons" author Gay  
11 Perp's place  
15 Overwhelm, as with humor  
19 Getting the task done  
20 Region next to Catalonia  
21 Minnesota ex-governor Carlson  
22 Something to belt out  
23 "Save As," "Print" or "Select All"  
25 Name as a source  
26 Liturgical act  
27 "Alas, it wasn't to be"  
28 Africa's Amin  
29 Destitute  
30 Sponsorship  
31 Small telescope  
34 Diner classic  
37 Ancient Celtic priest  
39 Join together in a labor group  
40 Message on a protective book cover  
45 Breastbone

49 Holds fast (to)  
50 Makes sure the task gets done  
54 Kong or Koko  
55 6/6/1944  
56 Extracts via udders  
58 Small gift for shindig guests  
61 Purported psychic skill  
62 — job on (messed up)  
63 They propel paramecia  
65 Actress Dunne  
66 Spot in a hotel to book a room  
70 Happen next  
73 South African grassland  
74 — edged pages  
75 Positive vote  
78 Certain fruit bar  
81 Sheriff's aides  
83 U.S. fort holding gold  
84 Scarfed down  
85 More restless  
87 Miserly sort  
89 Stationery store product  
92 Ping-Pong

94 Sweet snacks on sticks  
98 Cry to an attack dog  
99 Source of music to accompany silent films  
103 Big name in concert pianos  
108 Drizzles or sprinkles  
109 Dog botherer  
110 Cereal grain  
112 Guileless  
113 Verdi opera heroine  
114 Fish's respiratory structure  
115 Where the starts of eight answers in this puzzle might appear  
118 Street — (rep in the city)  
119 War god  
120 Senator Sanders  
121 Low- — diet  
122 Model Banks  
123 Heredity unit  
124 See 95-Down  
125 Kett of old comics

**DOWN**

1 Burial sites  
2 Barely ahead  
3 Like many toothpastes  
4 Attacked like a bee  
5 Confucian "way"  
6 Upper limb  
7 Antifungal brand  
8 "Good grief!"  
9 Part of SST  
10 Put a stop to  
11 British actor Derek  
12 Melodic passage  
13 While being shipped  
14 Film's Spike or Ang  
15 Person scattering seeds, say  
16 Brother of Nintendo's Mario  
17 Shenanigan  
18 "Good grief!"  
24 More chilly  
29 Play on words  
30 Wood-dressing tool  
32 Twin of Apollo  
33 Diminish  
35 Engine oil, for short  
36 — gritty  
38 Twilight time  
40 Precious green stone  
41 Tosses in  
42 British fellow  
43 Lock unlocker  
44 Alters in size, as a photo  
46 Church area with pews  
47 Resting atop  
48 Nothing more than  
51 Cut and dried soup veggie  
52 "Dynamite" singer Cruz  
53 Chimps' cousins  
57 Future pupae  
59 Clenched hand  
60 Genesis boat  
62 Low grades  
64 "— be a shame if ..."  
66 Really regret  
67 Wang of dress design  
68 Examine minutely  
69 Person voted in to a seat  
70 Cheese from Holland  
71 Statistics expert Silver  
72 Goblet part  
75 Auth. unknown  
76 Bear or Berra  
77 Past partners  
79 Seismic occurrence  
80 Being harshly criticized  
82 Balls  
83 "— Tiki"  
86 "— deal!"  
88 Actress Leah  
90 Quebecois' national anthem  
91 Butter bits  
93 Takes heed  
95 With  
124-Across, dreaded time of the year for many allergy sufferers  
96 Last words of a threat  
97 Links org.  
99 Land parcel  
100 Fur-covered  
101 Duck variety  
102 Charge-free  
104 "Twin Peaks" actor Jack  
105 Be the champion of  
106 Ward off  
107 — Buena Island  
111 Gillette razor  
114 Choke  
115 Crunchable muscles  
116 — de Janeiro  
117 Lion locale

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### PUZZLE ANSWERS PAGE 7

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Have Legals? Email them to [legalads@mountainmedianews.com](mailto:legalads@mountainmedianews.com)



# School

## WV Board of Education elects Nancy White President

The West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE) unanimously elected Nancy J. White as president during its July meeting in Charleston. White previously held the position of Vice President of the WVBE and has served on the Board since 2018 when she was appointed to fill an unexpired term. She was reappointed in January 2023.

President White retired after a 36-year career in West Virginia school business. She held the position of treasurer of Morgan County Schools and also served in Taylor,

Lewis and Jefferson County schools. An active member of the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO), International, she received the prestigious Eagle Award for lifetime achievement.

"I am humbled to be elected as president of the West Virginia Board of Education," White said. "This board is dedicated to the education of children in our public schools and the advancement of education to support our state's economy and future. We have worked earnestly to represent our edu-

cation community and the critical work that occurs every day at the hands of our educators and administrators. It is a privilege to continue to serve my state because the work ahead of us is so very important."

President White is a native of Grafton and currently resides in Bridgeport with her husband. Together they have three daughters, seven grandchildren, three step-grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Her term on the WVBE expires in 2031.

The WVBE also elected Victor L. Ga-

brief as Vice President. He retired from Harrison County Schools after serving as a teacher, administrative staff member and various positions within the county board of education.

Additionally, the WVBE approved the restructuring of offices and elected F. Scott Rotruck as Secretary and L. Paul Hardesty as Legislative Liaison. The WVBE holds elections each July to elect or re-elect officers. President White may serve two consecutive one-year terms as President.

## Manchin announces \$16M for WV Head Start programs

Earlier this month, U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (I-WV), member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced \$16,052,683 from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) for three Head Start programs operated by the North-Central West Virginia Community Action Association, the Eastern Panhandle Instructional Cooperative, and the Green-

brier County Board of Education. Head Start promotes educational growth for children from birth to age 5 through services that provide early learning and emotional development, health and safety, and promote family well-being.

Individual awards include \$1,360,810 allotted for the Greenbrier County Board of Education, \$8,823,443 for the North-Cen-

tral WV Community Action Association, and \$5.8 million for the Eastern Panhandle Instructional Cooperative.

"Every child in West Virginia deserves access to a quality education, no matter their background or where they live in our great state," said Senator Manchin. "I'm pleased that HHS is investing more than \$16 million to support these critical

Head Start programs, which will provide the children they serve with the skills and foundation they need for a brighter future. As a long-time supporter of Head Start programs and a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will continue advocating for funding to support educational opportunities for children across the Mountain State."

## Aaron Ramsey graduates from University at Buffalo

Aaron Ramsey of Ronceverte graduated from the University at Buffalo

with a bachelor's degree in history from the College of Arts and Sciences.

UB is New York State's flagship and the largest and most comprehensive institution in the State University of New York system.

Ramsey was among over 9,400 students who were celebrated in one of the 23 school-based or university-wide recognition and certificate ceremonies

held Apr. 26 through May 19.

The commencement ceremonies recognized students whose bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees were conferred by the university in August 2023, February 2024, or June 2024. Ramsey's conferral date was June 2024.

## United Way of the Greenbrier Valley selects new executive director

Following an extensive search, the board of directors of United Way of Greenbrier Valley has selected veteran nonprofit executive Lauren Rainier as executive director. Rainier is the founder and has served as the executive director for Sunday's Child Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, serving at-risk youth in the Hawaiian Islands, since 2007. Before creating Sunday's Child Foundation, Rainier served as a Director for IMG Worldwide, the largest sports marketing and management company, globally.

"Since my youth, I have enjoyed being involved in community support programs and helping children of all ages. As my career grew, I played key roles in media, film and television, and sponsorship sales for professional athletes and celebrities. In my early career, I worked as a news producer for the major networks in the

Los Angeles and San Diego markets, and also, worked in film and television for 20 years in Los Angeles," Rainier shares.

"We are delighted to have Lauren join our team. She has a great track record and is very passionate about working within our community, in which, she now calls home," states The United Way of Greenbrier Valley Board Chair Sharon Rowe.

The United Way of Greenbrier Valley was founded in 1986 and is focused on implementing strategies to successfully impact Greenbrier, Monroe and Pocahontas Valley residents in the areas of health education, and basic needs through grants and private support. The United Way of Greenbrier Valley supports local organizations serving these counties.

Lauren and her daughter, Katerina, have lived in Greenbrier County since 2022.

### LEGAL

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Greenbrier County Board of Education is seeking written proposals from qualified individuals or agencies for unarmed security guard services.

Proposals will be received at the Greenbrier County Board of Education, Attn: Jeffrey Bryant, Superintendent, 653 Church Street, Lewisburg, WV 24901 until 4 PM August 2, 2024. Proposals may be mailed via U.S. Postal Service delivered via courier. It shall be the submitting party's responsibility to ensure that proposals arrive in the Board's office prior to the scheduled opening. Late submissions will not be accepted and will remain unopened.

A committee of at least three members will be formed by the Board to review the submissions. The committee will then conduct interviews with three of the firms/individuals. The intent of the RFP is to select individuals or agencies with the highest level of specialized skill, knowledge, resources, and experience to serve as the Board's unarmed security guard services. The Board reserves the right to determine the best Proposal for the District's needs. A full version of the RFP can be obtained by contacting David McClure, CSBO.

### LEGAL

#### PUBLIC ONLINE AUCTION

Fulton BSH LBWV, LLC/Secure Store - 135 Maple Carriage Drive, Lewisburg, WV 24901, has a possessory lien on all of the goods stored in units 192, 357, 215. The auction will end on July 18, 2024 at 12 noon. All these items of personal property are being auctioned online through [lockerfox.com](https://www.lockerfox.com). This auction will run until July 18, 2024. Pictures of the units can be inspected online. Cash payments only. For more details visit [www.lockerfox.com/storage-auctions/us/](https://www.lockerfox.com/storage-auctions/us/)

### 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 follow:

	(\$) 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.

### LEGAL

#### WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Division of Highways

#### NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service ([www.bidx.com](https://www.bidx.com)) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia until August 13, 2024 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project(s):

Call Contract	State Project	Federal Project	Description
022 2023890009	U389-19-0.00 00	HSIP-0019(519)D	GUARDRAIL 2024 D9 GUARDRAIL PROJECT Upgrade Guardrail End Terminals on Greenbrier County US 219 & Fayette County US 60 COUNTY: FAYETTE, GREENBRIER

**DBE GOAL:** 3 % OF CONTRACT BID AMOUNT. BIDDER MUST PROVIDE WRITTEN ASSURANCE OF MEETING GOAL ON FORM IN PROPOSAL.

#### REMARKS:

Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractor's license is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin. Registration is required with the Department of Administration, Division of Purchasing, in accordance with Chapter 5A, Article 3, Section 12 of the West Virginia Code. All contractors submitting bids on project(s) must include one of the following forms properly executed with each proposal: Proposal Guaranty Bond, Cashier's Check, or Certified Check for \$500.00 or 5% of the total bid, whichever is greater.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways reserves the right to defer, delay or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement. The deferment, delay, postponement, and the date that proposals will be received and publicly opened will be available on [www.bidx.com](https://www.bidx.com).

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award.

### LEGAL

#### NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

Appalachian Power plans to maintain a portion of its power line rights of way in West Virginia through aerial application of registered herbicides. Weather permitting, the program will begin on or about June 1, 2024.

Questions about the program or information about sensitive areas near the power lines listed below, such as springs, wells, streams, lakes, ponds, orchards, crop areas, gardens, pastures, meadows, year-round dwellings, public recreation areas, and Christmas tree farms, may be directed to the company by calling toll-free 1-800-642-3622. Maps showing the location of rights-of-way to be maintained are available for review upon request.

Right-of-way maintenance agreements between Appalachian Power and landowners are available to landowners who prefer to accept responsibility for clearing the right-of-way crossing their property instead of the company's aerial application of herbicides. The agreement compensates the landowner by an amount equivalent to the cost of aerial herbicide application, provided the work meets Appalachian Power's specifications. Landowners desiring to enter right-of-way maintenance agreements with Appalachian Power should call the toll-free number above.

Herbicides to be used have been extensively tested and are registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the West Virginia Department of Agriculture. They are glyphosate, imazapyr, metsulfuron methyl, fosamine, triclopyr, aminocyclopyrachlor and aminopyralid. All applications are performed by certified applicators.

**Rights of way involved in the program are:**

#### GREENBRIER COUNTY

**Leivasy-McClung 69kV** - A transmission line on wood poles beginning at the McClung Station near Quinwood, running northeast, passing near Marfrance and Green Valley, and ending at the Quinwood station off Home Road in Quinwood.



## Sponsors for Hillsboro Car Show 2024

# Thank you

Smitties Auto Repair	Roy LandisPeoples Bank	Advance Auto Parts, Rainelle
Green's Auto LLC	Lantz Funeral HomeFactory	Park Center
IGA Marlinton	Tire	Mighty Shine
Roses construction	Eddie's Service CenterSatche's	Hair Design
McCoy's Farm/Firewood	Automotive	Food & Friends
Pritt Well Drilling	Back Mountain ServiceBob	Hughes Tree Service Center
Little Levels Depot	Evans	Dave's Farm Supply
Price's Auto Body Repair	Napa Marlinton219 North	Morgan Funeral Home
F & F Service Center	Jessica's Beauty	Shoney's
Mitchell Chevrolet	ShopGreenbrier Chevrolet	Jim's Drive In
Doug's body Shop	Burns Motor FreightMcDaniels	Colonial Ford
Glades Building Supply	Pre Owned Cars	Greenbrier Motors
The Pocahontas Times	Woodford OilAdkins	Future Automotive
City National Bank	Automotive	Boone Tractor
The Hillsboro Pub	Godfather's Pizza Little	Martin Jones
Loyd K. Adkins DDS Richwood	GeneralFisher Auto Parts	Wal Mart
Rayetta's Lunch Box	Bones & Cones	Cherry Lane Auto
Oreilly Auto Parts Beckley	FrankfordRogers Fairlea	Napa White Sulphur Springs
TTC Handy Man Service	Subaru	Fisher Auto Parts, Rainelle
Murphy's body Shop	Appalachian SportIGA Fairlee	Western Auto, Rainelle
Beaver Creek Auto Repair	Fisher Auto Parts	Hedrick's Custom
Barnett Cabins	ElkinsNeathawks	Auto Zone
B.J. Dean	Napa BeckleyGreenbrier Valley	Biscuit World
Jale Horner's CornerBaldwin's	Outdoors	Burger King



# STEPPIN' OUT

## Third annual Hammons Family Fiddle and Banjo Contest and World Class Jam upcoming



Logo by Eddie Spaghetti Art.

The highly anticipated third annual Hammons Family Fiddle and Banjo Contest and World Class Jam is set to take place on Saturday, July 13 at 10 a.m. in Marlinton as part of the town's beloved Pioneer Days celebrations.

This year's event promises an exciting lineup of activities and musical performances that aim to celebrate and preserve the rich tradition of Appalachian music. The event features some of the region's most talented musicians who will lead World Class Jam sessions throughout Marlinton. These sessions are scheduled to take place at various locations, including pop-up tents around town and local establishments such as Rivertown.

Among the musicians hosting the World Class Jam sessions are Danny Arthur, Mary Sue Burns, Mike Burns, Tim Corbett, Lee Dunbar, Vincent Farsetta, Richard Hefner, Trevor Hammons, Kim Johnson, Jake Krack, Andrew Kidd, Jim Martin, Chance



The annual Hammons Family Fiddle and Banjo Contest will have first, second, and third place cash prizes. (Photo by Will Price)

McCoy, Junior Loudermilk, Aunt Minney & The Hotfooters, Butch Osborne, and Robert Russell. Each of these hosts brings a unique style and infectious enthusiasm, promising a lively and engaging musical atmosphere for all attendees.

The highlight of the day will be the Hammons Family Fiddle and Banjo Contest held at Discovery Junction. The contest is divided into two main divisions: All-Style Fiddles and Traditional and Bluegrass Banjos. Contestants will compete for the largest cash prizes in West Virginia, with awards as follows: first place - \$500, second place - \$200, third place - \$100

Additionally, ribbons will be awarded up to fifth place in each category, and special accolades will be given to young talents demonstrating exceptional skill and promise. Esteemed judges for this year's contest



Contest winners from a previous year show their ribbons. (Photo by Will Price)

include: Gerry Milnes, Dave Bing, TJ Lundy, Tim Bing, Mark Delaney, and Bobby Lundy.

We are also thrilled to announce that Bobby Taylor and Kirk Judd will serve as the masters of ceremonies, bringing their expertise and charisma to guide us through this musical day.

The festivities will continue into the evening with a free grand concert that features renowned bluegrass artists including Danny Paisley & the Southern Grass, the Black Mountain Bluegrass Boys, and the Bing Brothers & Jake Krack. This concert will provide a fitting conclusion to a day filled with toe-tapping tunes, spirited competi-

tion, and memorable performances.

This event is made possible by the Pocahontas County CVB, Pocahontas County Drama, Fairs and Festivals, the Pocahontas County Family Resource Network, Glens Electric, and many more local sponsors.

Mark your calendars for this celebration of traditional Appalachian music on July 13. Join us at Discovery Junction and various locations around Marlinton for the third annual Hammons Family Fiddle and Banjo Contest and World Class Jam. Be a part of history in the making as Marlinton comes alive with music and community spirit.

For more information and to register for the contest, visit hammonsfiddlebanjo.com.

## Entertainment Calendar

### July 12-21

- 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 Appalachia: Discover Lewisburg, Downtown Lewisburg, 11 a.m.-July 14 at 5 p.m.  
 OCCC 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  
 SpongeBob SquarePants Trivia Night, Across the Board, WSS, 7 p.m.  
 Pocahontas County Farmer's Market, Discovery Junction, Marlinton, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.  
 Courthouse Farmer's Market, Robert C. Byrd parking lot, Lewisburg, 8 a.m.- 12 p.m.  
 White Sulphur Springs Farmer's Market, Midland Trail Park, 3-6 p.m.

- 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.  
 "Art in the Valley" show, Greenbrier Valley Visitor Center
- Tuesday, July 16**  
 Alderson Farmer's Market, 3-6 p.m.  
 Low and Slow BBQ, Mountain Table, 3-6 p.m.  
 Farmer's Market, Mountain Table, 4-7 p.m.  
 Ukelele Optimistics, Mountain Table, 5-7 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 17**  
 Water Wednesday, Stillwell Park, Marlinton, 10:30 a.m.  
 Pocahontas County Farmers Market, Green Bank Fire Department, 2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
 Line Dance, FREE, Active SWV, Old Stone Presbyterian Church, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, July 18**  
 4848 Festival, Noshoe Mountain, 1 p.m. runs through July 20 at 11 p.m.  
 WSS Farmer's Market, Main Street, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
- Friday, July 19**  
 Friday Night Community Market, Edgar Ave, Ronceverte, 5 p.m.  
 Tavern Night by GHS & North House Museum, Lewisburg, 5-7 p.m.
- Saturday, July 20**  
 Open Mic Center Stage Series, Encore Community Arts, WSS, 5 p.m.  
 Textile Dying with Ice with Greenbrier Valley Dyes The Hub, Lewisburg, 1-4 p.m.  
 Mushroom Foray, the Yew Mountain Center, Hillsboro, 1-9:30 p.m.  
 Skyline Bluegrass Festival, Ronceverte Island Park, 11-5 p.m.  
 A Field of Dreams, Classic Car & Antique Tractor Show, Ballard, 12-4 p.m.
- Sunday, July 21**  
 Marketfest at Sunset Farm, Alderson, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
 Pence Springs Flea Market, 8 a.m.
- To submit information to Mountain Messenger's Entertainment Calendar, email news@mountainmessenger.com. Information should be submitted two weeks in advance.*

Robert C. Byrd Clinic, Greenbrier Valley Medical Center, and the Greenbrier County Health Department are joining forces to host a series of community health forums across Greenbrier County. These forums aim to gather valuable input from residents to better understand and address local healthcare needs.

**The following questions will drive the discussion:**

- What do you need from your health care provider?
- Are there health care services that you or your family need that are not currently offered in our county?
- Have you encountered barriers to receiving care and what suggestions do you have to make your healthcare experience better?
- Are you aware of the county health needs assessment and the community health improvement plan?

All interested community members are invited to attend one of the following sessions:

- **Alderson City Hall**
  - Friday, July 19, 2024 at 5 p.m.
- **Williamsburg Community Center**
  - Tuesday, July 23, 2024 at 5 p.m.
- **Marvel Cafeteria (Rupert)**
  - Tuesday, July 30, 2024 at 5 p.m.
- **Clingman Center (Lewisburg)**
  - Tuesday, August 6, 2024 at 5 p.m.
- **Renick Community Center**
  - Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at 5 p.m.