

HASHTAG

JANUARY 2025

FREE

ISSUE #163

WEST VIRGINIA

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The Lewisburg Winter Music Festival Returns to Support Musicians in Need

With an exciting lineup this community-driven fundraiser, returning after a four-year disjunction, is set to be the best yet



IN REMEMBRANCE OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HIS MISSION AND HIS SACRIFICE



The 2024 march to LUMC was a snowy one last year.

Beginning at 11 a.m. on Jan. 20, 2025, people in the Greenbrier Valley and the general vicinity will come together to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. by first coming to the Greenbrier County Courthouse. It's for a celebration that has taken place in Lewisburg for well over 30 years with evolutionary changes, and its current form has been with us for at least a third of that time.

A group gathers each year on Court Street in front of the Greenbrier Valley Courthouse to hear an invocation and a MLK Week proclamation from the Lewisburg Mayor before beginning the march with the singing of a civil rights song.

Last year, the march to the Lewisburg United Methodist Church took place in a snowstorm. The large flakes are visible, and snow had ac-



Lewisburg Mayor Beverly White speaks to the crowd in 2019.

cumulated on the banner. The free community lunch after the march filled Wesley Hall at the church with the joy of joining together to promote racial harmony. Wraps, chili, and cupcakes will be on the menu again.



A group gathers on Court Street for the 2019 celebration.



In 2023, the Resurrecting Praise Community Choir performed, and they will return for another performance this year.

Lunch is followed by a program at the church. Last year, the program included a performance by the Resurrecting Praise Community Choir which will be back again in 2025. They come mostly from Greenbrier

County and Allegheny County. They are truly talented and give of themselves to come for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Say Celebration. For them, celebration is what it's all about.

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ON THE COVER



The Lewisburg Winter Music Festival Returns to Support Musicians in Need

ARTIST ON DISPLAY: WILLA SHOWALTER (PG.7)



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Digitally, we serve all 55 counties in WV (and more!) and we distribute thousands of print editions directly into area households and throughout the Greenbrier Valley region in strategic, high-traffic areas through local businesses and paper boxes.

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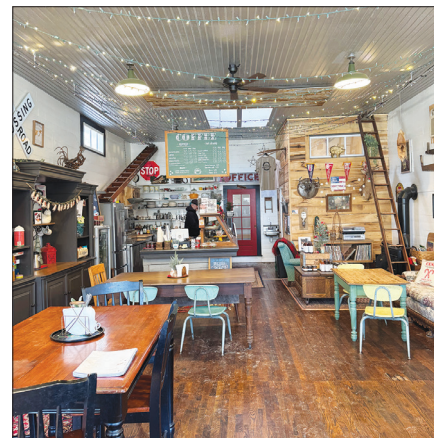
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The Hunkerdown



The Hunkerdown, a family-run coffee shop, situated in the small, unincorporated town of Sinks Grove, in Monroe County, celebrated their one-year anniversary in business in December 2024. According to owners Tammy and Guy McAninch, opening a coffee shop was not on their radar when moving to West Virginia from Idaho. After purchasing a farmstead in Sinks Grove, the couple passed by the old building daily as it was being restored. Out of curiosity, they decided to stop by one day and chat with the owner of the building. During the discussion, the owner mentioned that one of his fondest memories was visiting a farm in Pickaway to sit around a fire, chat, and play music with locals. They called this gathering the Hunkerdown.

Guy, who is a chiropractor, was looking for office space to provide care to his clients when the building became available to rent. Renting such a large building meant there were ample opportunities besides just the chiropractic office. Being coffee lovers, the McAninch's really missed the abundance of coffee shops in Idaho. It seemed there were coffee shops on every corner in their previous town, but now they had to drive a good distance to get good coffee. Coffee shops in Idaho were a place for people to gather, whether for a business meeting, to connect with friends, or just to relax and enjoy a hot—or cold—brewed coffee. Thus, they decided there was no better way to provide a social gathering place for the community than with a coffee shop called



the Hunkerdown, incorporating the fond memories of the building owner.

After opening the shop, the McAninch's thought carefully about more ideas to bring the community together. Then, the stories of the Hunkerdown gatherings from the owner sparked an idea. Why not host mountain music jams? These events, called "Jammin' at the Hunkerdown," bring the community together by sitting around with old and new friends, playing and listening to music, all while enjoying a delicious cup of coffee and the choice of a regular or vegetarian bowl of homemade soup.

On a regular basis, The Hunkerdown offers a variety of coffees, soups, sandwiches, and pastries. It provides an exquisite meal of homemade biscuits and gravy, made from scratch, on Saturday mornings from 8 a.m. to around 12 p.m. or until it is all gone. The shop also provides retail space offering local handmade goods, antique items, and sometimes candy. "It is really neat to be able to source our items from local people," said Tammy. They are planning to host more workshops, such as paint nights, wreath-making workshops, and more. "These are great ways to bring the community together. It is cool to be able to sit back and watch the connections being made—it's my favorite part of the business."

In the future, the McAninch's plan to expand the parking lot, add a fire pit and cornhole, and expand the outdoor space to create more exciting activities to enjoy, as



well as adding pop-up events such as food truck gatherings. "We would love to get more people in the community involved," said Guy. The community can also rent the shop as a venue for baby showers, parties, business meetings, and more. They also offer catering for these events if necessary.

If you are looking for an Airbnb, The Hunkerdown also offers a beautiful space in the back of the building for guests to enjoy. The space is cozy and homey, with modern décor and lots of natural light. It is a wonderful place for a comfortable stay in a small town.

The Hunkerdown is open Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., offering customers a nice cup of coffee, unique retail items, and a space to make connections with friends and family. The chiropractic office is open for appointments and provides excellent care in a relaxed, friendly environment. To schedule an appointment, contact Dr. Guy McAninch at thatchiroguy@hotmail.com.

If you are interested in booking a stay at The Hunkerdown Airbnb, hosting your handmade items for sale in the shop, booking an event, or any other inquiry related to The Hunkerdown, contact Tammy McAninch at mcaninchmail@gmail.com. Stay updated on Jammin' at the Hunkerdown events by visiting their Facebook page. It is an event you will not want to miss!

FROM THE EDITOR

Happy January Readers! I hope you all had a fantastic holiday season. As we bid farewell to 2024 and step into a fresh new year, I'm thrilled to share the exciting opportunities and activities that await us in 2025. With New Year's resolutions underway, there's so much to look forward to—from music festivals and winter adventures to food delights and beyond.

One of the most exciting events this month, in my opinion, is the Lewisburg Winter Music Festival. Taking place on January 24 and 25, this incredible festival will feature approximately 50 talented musicians from across West Virginia and neighboring states. Local venues in Lewisburg will come alive with outstanding performances, creating an atmosphere you won't want to miss. Plus, it's a wonderful opportunity to savor delicious food and drinks while supporting a great

cause.

In this month's Good Eats column, we're shining a spotlight on The Hunkerdown, a charming establishment located in Sinks Grove, Monroe County. The Hunkerdown offers an enticing menu of coffee, sandwiches, soups, and more. But that's not all—this versatile venue hosts "Jammin' at the Hunkerdown," a delightful gathering for music lovers. It also boasts an inviting Airbnb and even a chiropractic office, making it a truly unique destination.

Speaking of jammin', Hashtag had the pleasure of diving into the world of the Thomas Taylor Band. This talented group strives to keep the country music legacy alive, performing at local venues and private events. They're also set to grace the stage at the Lewisburg Winter Music Festival. For an in-depth look at the Thomas Taylor Band, be sure to check out our Unplugged column.

This month's Artist on Display is Willa Showalter, whose stunning creations are made from a variety of stones. Her artistry transforms rocks into beautiful, one-of-a-kind pieces perfect for any occasion. To learn more about her new studio location and view her incredible work, don't miss our Artist on Display column.

Additionally, January brings the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration to Lewisburg. This meaningful event honors one of the most influential leaders of the Civil Rights Movement and of-

fers an opportunity for reflection and community connection.

As we embark on this new year, I hope you take the time to explore and enjoy all the wonderful events and experiences our community has to offer. Here's to a fantastic January filled with music, art, delicious food, and meaningful moments. Cheers to 2025!

Yours sincerely,

Your Editor, Chelsea Blair



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The Lewisburg Winter Music Festival Returns to Support Musicians in Need

With an exciting lineup this community-driven fundraiser, returning after a four-year disjunction, is set to be the best yet



Cloud Bobby Photography

Alabaster Boxer

The Lewisburg Winter Music Festival (LWMF), a two-day event organized by the Southern Appalachia Musician's Association (SAMA), returns this year with an exciting lineup and a mission to support musicians in need. Based in Lewisburg, West Virginia, SAMA is a nonprofit organization that has relaunched the festival, aiming to raise funds for its ongoing initiatives to assist musicians facing crises and to promote music education. This year's festival promises not only stellar performances but also a chance to make a real difference in the lives of musicians in need.

SAMA was founded to support musicians who are struggling due to unforeseen disasters or difficult circumstances. Whether it's recovering from a house fire, medical expenses, or other crises, SAMA is dedicated to helping musicians rebuild their lives. Along with disaster relief, SAMA's mission includes fostering music education through funding and grant writing.

The nonprofit is governed by an 8-person, all-volunteer board made up of musicians and music professionals. Their goal is to extend their efforts beyond Lewisburg, holding events and festivals in other cities, allowing their efforts to reach as many people as possible including those

in Virginia, Kentucky and North Carolina. Each event helps distribute funding to musicians in those immediate areas, with the board ensuring that all allocations are approved through a vote and disclosed publicly in their annual report.

This year's festival, taking place on January 24-25 in downtown Lewisburg, is set to impress with a diverse mix of musical genres. Over 100 bands from West Virginia and surrounding states, including Kentucky and Virginia, submitted their performances for consideration. After careful evaluation of different genres, SAMA's board selected approximately 50 bands that exemplify the spirit of the festival. With 5-7 performances per venue, including genres from bluegrass and country to funk, hard rock, jam, and jazz, the festival promises something for everyone.

Josh Baldwin, President of SAMA, shared his excitement about the event, stating, "The lineup this year is absolutely stellar. We were really impressed with the caliber of bands willing to donate their time, free of charge, to help make a difference for fellow musicians in need of disaster relief."

The LWMF was established when, in 2012, Tim Pyne, a member of the band Deep State, and his family tragically



Hello June

lost their home in a devastating fire. The family lost everything, including Tim's beloved drum set. In response, the local community came together to organize a benefit concert to support the Pyne family. The success of this event inspired the creation of the Lewisburg Winter Music Festival, which has since grown into an annual celebration of music and charity until the pandemic paused its efforts.

Now, with the festival back on track, it continues its tradition of helping those in need, one concert at a time. When a musician faces hardship, SAMA's board will meet to discuss and vote on where donations should be distributed. It's important to note that committee members are disqualified from receiving assistance, ensuring that funds go directly to those in need.

The festival is also an excellent opportunity for musicians to connect, network, and show support for their peers. Musicians who perform at the festival not only gain valuable exposure but are also appreciated with special gift bags as a thank you for their participation.

Baldwin expressed an abundance of

gratitude to the initial sponsors of the event and stressed the robust need for volunteers as they are key to the success of the event. Those interested in lending a hand will receive a free two-day pass to the festival. Volunteers can register directly on the festival's website, and their support will ensure that the event runs smoothly while helping to raise funds for a great cause.

As part of the festival's fundraising efforts, a special T-shirt design created by Mary Baldwin will be available for pre-order when purchasing tickets. These shirts can also be purchased in person during the event, offering attendees a unique keepsake to remember their experience.

Ticket prices are set at an affordable rate of \$20 for a one-day pass and \$30 for a two-day pass. Tickets can be purchased online at www.lewisburgwintermusicfest.com/tickets

The Lewisburg Winter Music Festival is more than just a music event; it's an opportunity to be part of a community-driven effort to support musicians in need and to promote music education. By at-

ON THE COVER



Allan Sizemore and the Lost Souls

tending the festival, you're not only enjoying live performances from talented regional bands but also contributing to a meaningful cause that makes a real impact on the lives of musicians. Join in on a wonderful celebration of music, community, and support!

The musicians performing are as listed: Alabaster Boxer, Jared Stout Band, Hello June, Kindred Valley, Matt Mullins & The Bringdowns, Steel Pterodactyl, Deep State, Ma'am, Richard Hefner & His Fan Bass, State Birds, Lawless Brown, Allan Sizemore & The Lost Souls, Chad Nickell & Loose Change, Emmalea Deal & The Hot Mess, Chucktown Allstars, Tupelo Drive, The Heavy Hitters, Thomas

Taylor Band, Rust Kings, A Rally Cry, Jarmovers, Dan Yell Sun, Brasstaxx, Madly Backwards, The String Chiefs, A.M.D, Zona Hester, Space Freq, Caleb Carpenter, Living Room, Never Zero, CE Jone & Friends, Somber Side, Cat-head Biscuit, Buddy Allen & The Cheat River Band, Bad Keys of the Mountain, Hylomorphic, Athiotic, Great Highway, Distant Light, Kit Lindsey, Jason Jobe, Ben Luckett, Annie Wolfe, Nathan Seldomridge, Cooter Guthrie, Matthew Malinoksi, Makenna Hope, J-Mane, Hoffman, Robinson, and Miles; Purple Rose, Paul Johnson & Corey Lee McQuade, Charbelle, Verge of Madness, Whiskey & Wine, Dem Donkey Boys, Uncle Mikey



Kindred Valley



Uncle Mikey and Them

& Them, Kodie Brooks, Zach Elmore, Laura Holliday, Absolute Love Affair, DJ Lord Gnorm, and DJ Greybeard.



Kodie Brooks

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UNPLUGGED: THOMAS TAYLOR BAND



This month, Hashtag had the pleasure of learning more about Greenbrier County native, Thomas Taylor. Thomas has become a music staple in the county and surrounding areas, providing traditional country music for fans to enjoy. He and his band members have dedicated much time and effort to create music that connects to the roots of the country music era.

What do you do musically?

Thomas explained that he has a six-person traditional country band that has mastered many different instruments. While he can play just about every instrument, he mostly plays guitar when performing. Thomas is also a singer and songwriter and has been since he first picked up a guitar.

What inspired you to become a musician?

The main inspiration Thomas received was from his grandfather, who had a love for music and often played as Thomas watched. "My grandfather left me his guitar when he passed. I decided to pick it up and see where it goes," he explained. "The stars aligned, and I became a musician, eventually forming a band."

What draws you to music?

Like many other musicians, Thomas is drawn to music because of the connection it creates with others. Seeing others happy to watch his band perform and the connection music has to their lives is the best feeling he can think of.

Do you have any idols?

Thomas stated that he looks up to all the artists from the Bristol Sessions, a series of recording sessions held in 1927 in

Bristol, Tennessee, which some consider the "Big Bang" of modern country music. This marked the debut of the Carter Family, one of Thomas' biggest idols. Johnny Cash and Bob Wills are also at the top of his list of idols. When asked what it is about these musicians that inspired him, he replied, "Johnny Cash and the Carter Family were at the forefront of country music, and Bob Wills to Western Swing. I try to carry on the tradition of their music through my own."

Where do you perform?

The Thomas Taylor Band plays just about anywhere in the county and beyond and also books private shows for various occasions. He and his band will be performing at the Asylum during the Lewisburg Winter Music Festival.

Do you have any advice for aspiring musicians?

"Always be yourself. Never let anyone try to tell you what to play or what not to play."

Do you have any albums?

As of now, the Thomas Taylor Band has one album out called "Another Round," which came to life during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was difficult for the band to perform as venues were often closed and social distancing rules were in place. They used this downtime to focus on creating an album their fans were sure to enjoy. Thomas said they are in the process of releasing another album in the near future.

To learn more about the Thomas Taylor Band, see upcoming events, or book the band for events and parties, visit thomas-taylorband.com or find them on Facebook.



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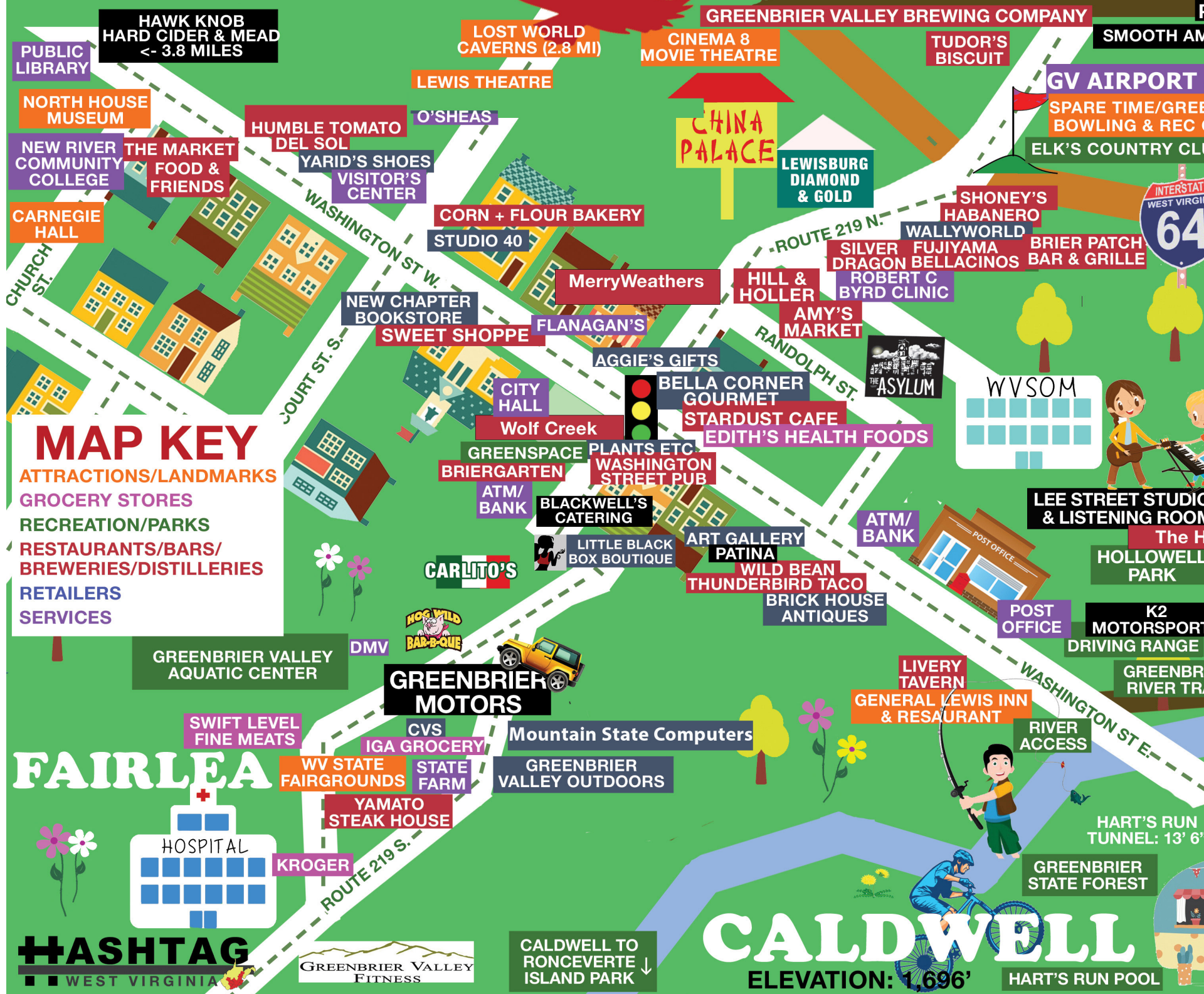
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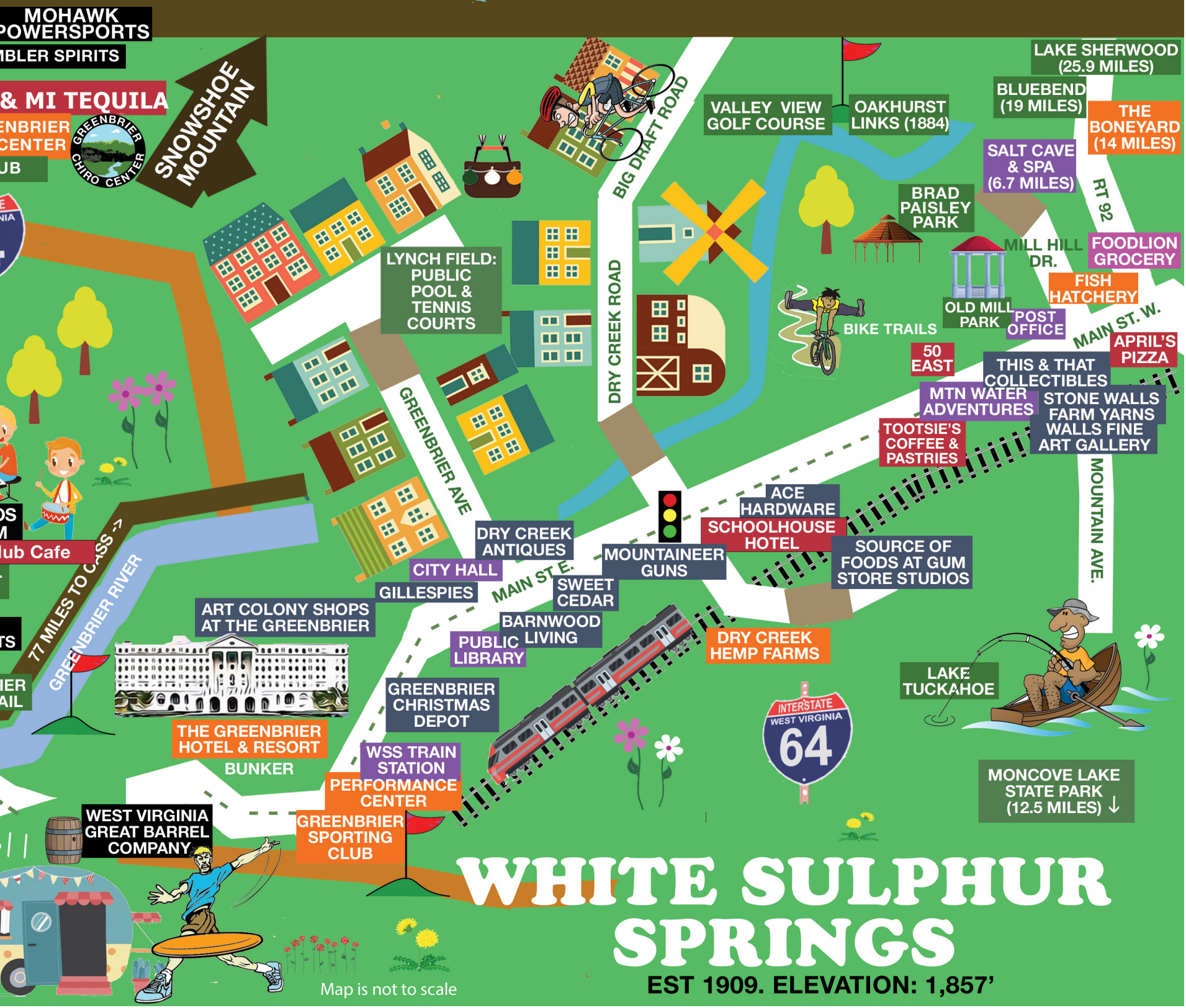
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CARNEGIE HALL ARTWALK SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY

Carnegie Hall invites the community to the Carnegie Hall Artwalk on Friday, January 10, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. ArtWalk events at Carnegie Hall are free and offer visitors the opportunity to explore a wide variety of original works by local and regional artists, all set in a world-class historical venue.

Visitors are encouraged to immerse themselves in the arts while enjoying live music by John Maddy, complimentary light refreshments, and a cash bar. Each exhibit rotation features creative collaborations and three separate galleries showcasing unique work in multiple mediums,

ranging from contemporary portraits in oil to heirloom level craft arts.

The Lobby Gallery and the Board Room will feature West Virginia artist Newman Jackson. His paintings vary from large, portrait-style paintings to smaller canvases with imagery revealing the more psychological aspects of humanness. In some of the “psychological realities” paintings, his brush and colors convey an emotional atmosphere around partially resolved body forms.

Suzan Morgan’s work will be featured in the Old Stone Room. A tex-

tile artist who has been living and creating in central WV since 1988, Morgan hand-dyes and prints all the textiles she uses, as well as most of the other fibers found in her work.

The Museum Gallery will house a curated exhibit of Carl Frederick Gaertner’s work. This collection is the first retrospective solo exhibition of Carl Frederick Gaertner (1898–1952) in over twenty years—and the very first in West Virginia. A nationally recognized painter from Cleveland, Ohio, Gaertner is celebrated for his evocative depictions of industrial landscapes, rural life, and transitional moments in art

and society.

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

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

GREEN DRINKS IS COMING TO LEWISBURG

Appalachian Headwaters is proud to announce West Virginia’s first Green Drink series. Green Drinks is a monthly meet up for anyone interested in the environment, nature and science to meet up for informal educational presentations and discussions at local bars, breweries, and beyond. Come out and learn something new, meet new people, and build a green network all while supporting WV local businesses. Everyone is welcome.

This month’s series held at the Greenbrier Valley Brewing Company in Maxwelton will include a

presentation from speaker Dr. Tom Saladyga, “What do trees tell us about fire on Appalachian landscapes.”

Our chapter will meet on the last Thursday of every month from 6-8 p.m. starting in January 2025 and will feature diverse speakers from the environmental field. Locations and speakers will be shared at the beginning of every month via email.

Contact Merri at mcollins@appheadwaters.org or Bella at iwalker@appheadwaters.org for more information.

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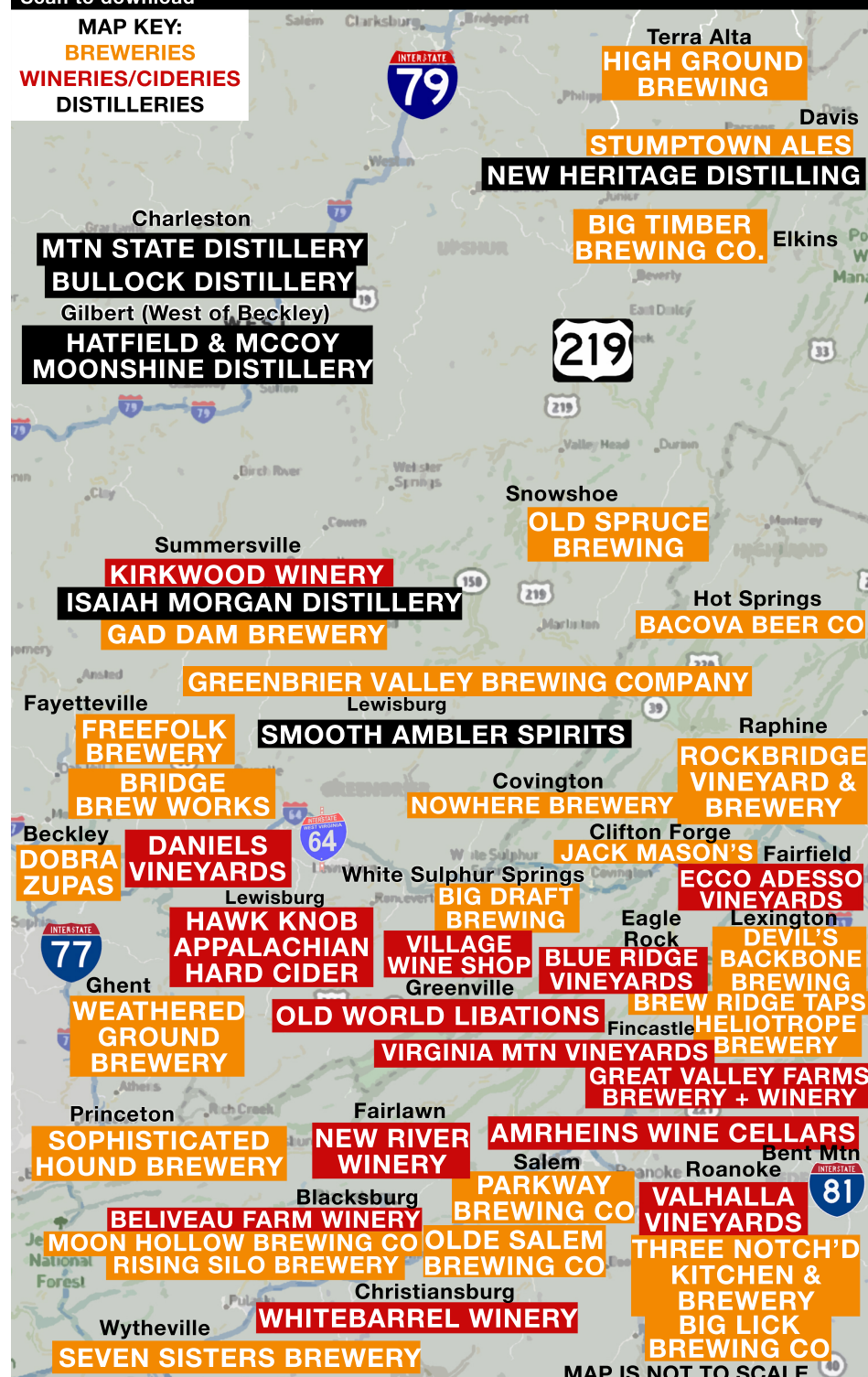
SPIRITS MAP

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MAP KEY:

BREWERIES

WINERIES/CIDERIES
DISTILLERIES

SWEET AND SPICY APPETIZERS ADD POP TO COCKTAIL PARTIES

People near and far eagerly await December 31 so they can welcome the arrival of a new year. The final day of the year is a key dates on social calendars, and most individuals gather with friends or family members to count down to midnight.

Foods and beverages are important components of New Year's Eve gatherings, no matter how many guests are in attendance. Finger foods and

easy-to-share appetizers are ideal snacks to pair with cocktails or glasses of bubbly.

This recipe
for 'Chicken
M e a t b a l l s
With Chipotle-
Honey Sauce'
from 'Crock-
Pot 365

Year-Round
Recipes' (Pub-
lications In-
ternational,
Ltd.) from

the Crock-Pot Kitchens can make for an ideal hors

d'oeuvres for New Year's Eve celebrations.

- 1/3 cup chicken broth
- 1/3 cup tomato paste
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil, divided

1. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Combine chicken, eggs, bread crumbs, cilantro, lime juice, garlic, 1 tablespoon adobo sauce, and 1 teaspoon salt in medium bowl; mix

well. Form mixture into 48 meatballs. Place meatballs in single layers on prepared baking sheets. Cover with plastic wrap; chill 1 hour.

2. Combine remaining 1½ teaspoon salt, 2 to 3 chipotle peppers, honey, chicken broth, tomato paste, lime juice, and Dijon mustard in blender or

food processor. Process until smooth. Pour sauce into slow cooker. Set aside

3. Heat 1 tablespoon oil in large skillet over medium-high heat. Working in batches, cook meatballs, turning to brown on all sides, transferring batches to slow cooker as they are finished. Add additional tablespoon of oil to skillet as needed for second and subsequent batches.

4. When all meatballs have been added to slow cooker, stir gently to coat all meatballs. Cover; cook on high 3 to 4 hours or until meatballs are no longer pink in centers.



Chicken Meatballs With Chipotle-Honey Sauce

Makes 12 servings (4 meatballs each)

- 2 pounds ground chicken
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1/3 cup plain dry bread crumbs
- 1/3 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 4-ounce can chipotle peppers in adobo sauce, divided
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt, divided
- 3/4 cup honey

OWNERS OF WAYMAKER'S MEADOWS FARM IN MONROE COUNTY ARE WINNERS OF PITCH SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA BUSINESS IDEA COMPETITION

Michelle and Derek Miller, owners of Waymaker's Meadows Farm in Monroe County, are celebrating a significant milestone as winners of the Pitch Southern West Virginia Business Idea Competition, coordinated by the West Virginia Hive Network. Their farm-to-table business, which offers fresh lamb, chicken and duck eggs, and produce, took home the first-place prize of \$2,500, awarded by a panel of expert judges.

The Millers are first generation farmers who acquired the 38-acre farm when they married in 2017. Seven years later, on March 25, 2024, they registered Waymaker's Meadows LLC as a business venture. Their winnings will be used to purchase mobile electric coolers that will allow their meat, eggs and produce to be offered to customers in a wider geographic region. The early positive customer interest in Waymaker's Meadows Farm has the Millers taking steps for expansion. They are now leasing an additional 90 acres of land and have added more farm animals.

In the past, the farm has kept about 24 laying hens; however, due to demand for eggs, the Millers recently purchased 35 six-week-old chicks. The farm has had as many as 75 sheep at a time and is currently home to 36 breeding ewes. They also raise a few guineas, two guard geese, nine ducks, five turkeys, and a pet cow, goat and dog.

Current produce includes sweet banana peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, jalapeños, hot banana peppers, bell peppers, and squash. This coming season, they plan to concentrate efforts on producing a larger number of fewer items.

Judy Moore, deputy director of the New River Gorge Regional Development Authority and executive director of the WV Hive, commended the Millers: "Derek and Michelle are a dynamic team with a popular concept of providing fresh, locally grown food from trusted sources to customers. They join several of our recent pitch competition winners who also offer safe, local sources of food in a reliable way."

Derek said, "Being chosen to pitch in person was a surprise. We are just starting our business, so it is encouraging to know people can see the future we envision in providing a sustainable food source that is local, healthy, and quality. It was rewarding to get to pitch in person to a supportive audience and offer the wholistic picture of what we are trying to do."

Michelle added, "Everyone -- including the other competitors -- were so supportive of each other, and it was such a positive atmosphere. We were pleasantly surprised

that we won. You are never sure if the plan you have in your head sounds as good to others as it does to you."

The Millers do not come from farming families; however, they both have experiences and interests that align with the mission of Waymaker's Meadows LLC. Derek

well as a joy for farming.

The Millers currently sell their meat, eggs and produce at local farmers markets and are featured on Facebook and YouTube. They hope to add area restaurants to their customer base in the future. When asked about their big-

gest business challenges, the couple said that gauging the rhythm of supply and demand and maintaining the health and well-being of the farm animals has been the most time consuming.

The Millers said the WV Hive has been instrumental in helping them deepen their local network of other businesses and organizations that can problem-solve with them. "The networking WV Hive provides is amazing," said Derek. "The folks at the WV Hive also helped us get a solid foundation for our business plan, marketing plans, and direction for our business with mentoring was a huge asset. Moving forward, the relationship with the WV Hive will be key to our success and bright future."

The Millers say they have many to thank for their early support. "Our families have been big supporters and our biggest fans," said Derek. "Our local West Virginia University Extension office (Brian Wickline) has been wonderful with state resources for the farm. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has recently been a generous resource of information for things that are coming soon. Several small businesses and other farms in our area have helped us learn a great deal. We are very appreciative of two farmer's markets where we got started this year -- Ronceverte Community Market (Ben and Melody Pester) and Covington Farmers Market (Doug Houtz and DeShawn Wooding). Derek said, "We would also like to give a shoutout to Natasha Zoe of JarHead Farm, a previous winner of the pitch competition. Natasha has been a wonderful resource of information and guided us along the way, including giving us tips for succeeding at the pitch competition."

The Millers shared that their faith has been a major factor in sustaining them, noting that the name "Waymaker" comes from the Bible. "We thank the good Lord for his blessings," said Derek. "Our faith runs deep, and we give Jesus all the honor and glory for everything we are doing."

The Millers welcome visitors to the farm at 4086 Wolfcreek Road. You can also check them out at a local farmers market or on Facebook or Youtube: Waymaker's Meadows.



has a business management degree from Concord University. "Working on and off farms over the years -- and several different jobs from retail to manufacturing -- have given me a solid amount of experience and ideas of how to address our needs and actions moving forward," he said.

Michelle worked at a veterinary hospital for several years and then co-owned a pet grooming shop for nearly 20 years. Both share a passion for caring for animals as

ASTROLOGY

Your Horoscope According to AI Let our robot overlords predict your New Year HOROSCOPE!

Aries (March 21 - April 19):

This year, embrace your adventurous spirit, Aries! The New Year encourages you to take bold leaps in both your personal and professional life. Focus on setting ambitious goals, and don't shy away from taking the lead in new projects. Your confidence will inspire those around you.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20):

2025 is a year of stability and growth for you, Taurus. As you enter the New Year, create a vision board that reflects your aspirations for financial security and emotional well-being. Your steady nature will help you cultivate lasting relationships. Invest time in self-care to keep your energy high.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20):

Communication is key in 2024, Gemini. Use the New Year to strengthen your connections with others. Whether it's starting new friendships or revitalizing existing ones, your words will have the power to heal and bring people together. Embrace opportunities for collaboration—great things are ahead!

Cancer (June 21 - July 22):

As you enter the New Year, focus on emotional healing and setting boundaries, Cancer. This is a great time to reflect on your needs and create a nurturing home environment. Find creative outlets to express your feelings—art, writing, or music—as they will bring you immense satisfaction.

Leo (July 23 - August 22):

2024 is all about finding your tribe, Leo! Focus on community and connections this year. The New Year encourages you to shine your light in social settings, so don't hesitate to share your talents. Embrace leadership roles, as your charisma will draw people in and inspire them to follow.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22):

Efficiency takes center stage for you in 2024, Virgo. Embrace organizational projects that will streamline your life. This is an excellent time to focus on health—both physical and mental. Set realistic goals for self-improvement and don't forget to celebrate your progress along the way.

Libra (September 23 - October 22):

As the New Year begins, focus on balance and harmony in your relationships, Libra. 2024 is about collaboration and partnership. Seek out projects that allow you to work with others. Prioritize emotional intelligence, as it will deepen your connections and foster mutual respect.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21):

This year, Scorpio, transformation is your theme. The New Year invites you to dive deep into your passions and let go of what no longer serves you. Focus on personal development and seek hidden truths. Embrace change and trust your intuition—you'll emerge stronger and more empowered.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21):

Adventure awaits you in 2024, Sagittarius! The New Year is a perfect time to travel or explore new philosophies. Embrace your natural curiosity and set intentions for personal growth. Allow your optimism to guide you as you pursue new experiences and create unforgettable memories.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19):

In 2024, set your sights high, Capricorn! This New Year is about building a solid foundation for your dreams. Focus on career goals and don't be afraid to take calculated risks. Dedication and hard work will pay off—stay organized, and you'll achieve remarkable milestones.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18):

2024 is about innovation and broadening your horizons, Aquarius! The New Year challenges you to think outside the box and embrace new ideas. Engage in learning opportunities that excite you, whether through travel or continued education. Your original thoughts will inspire those around you.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20):

As you enter the New Year, focus on emotional well-being and spiritual growth, Pisces. 2024 encourages you to nurture your creativity and intuition. Take time for mindfulness practices, like meditation or journaling, to connect with your inner self. Surround yourself with positivity and watch your dreams unfold.

May the New Year bring you joy, growth, and the fulfillment of your dreams!

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WEST VIRGINIA

the agenda

LISTINGS, HASHTAGWV.COM AGENDA | Jan. 1 - Jan. 31 2025

JAN.
1

Wednesday, January 1

Mystery Trivia Night, Country Roads Beer Co., White Sulphur Springs, 6 p.m.

Shanghai Parade, Lewisburg, 12 p.m.

JAN.
2

Thursday, January 2

Open Mic Night with Ben Lockett, Greenbrier Valley Brewing Company, 6 p.m.

Greenbrier Valley Pokémon League Free Play, Villain Comics, Lewisburg, 5-7 p.m.

JAN.
3

Friday, January 3

Board Game Night, The Fox & Fairy Tea House, Hinton, 6 p.m.

JAN.
4

Saturday, January 4

Building a Better Pantry-How to Start, Primitive Goods, Ronceverte, 5-6 p.m.

Cornhole Tournament, Greenbrier Valley Brewing Company, Maxwelton, 12 p.m.

Audubon Christmas Bird Count by Appalachian Headwaters, Wood Thrush Park, Lewisburg, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

JAN.
6

Monday, January 6

Volunteer Day, White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery, 1-3 p.m.

Celebrating World Float Day, Source of Force, White Sulphur Springs, 4 p.m.

JAN.
9

Thursday, January 9

Partnering for Progress: Pocahontas Co. Nonprofit Information Session, Marlinton, 3 p.m.

Greenbrier Valley Pokémon League Free Play, Villain Comics, Lewisburg, 5-7 p.m.

JAN.
10

Friday, January 10

Carnegie Hall Artwalk: Gallery Openings/Receptions, Lewisburg, 5:30-7 p.m.

Wintertime History Weekend, the Greenbrier, 1 p.m. through 11:30 a.m. on January 12th

JAN.
11

Saturday, January 11

Greenbrier Valley Pokémon League Challenge, Villain Comics, Lewisburg, 2 p.m.

Building a Better Garden-Where to Start, Primitive Goods, Ronceverte, 5-6 p.m.

Bugs and Brew, Greenbrier Valley Brewing Company, Maxwelton, 1 p.m.

New Years Splash Bash, Greenbrier Valley Aquatic Center, Lewisburg, 10 a.m.

JAN.
13

Monday, January 13

Volunteer Day, White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery, 1-3 p.m.

Grand Opening of Mindful Connections Neurofeedback therapy, Lewisburg, 9 a.m.

JAN.
16

Thursday, January 16

Second Stage Series: The Mark's Family "String Beings", Carnegie Hall, 7 p.m.

Greenbrier Valley Pokémon League Free Play, Villain Comics, Lewisburg, 5-7 p.m.

JAN.
18

Saturday, January 18

Scott Ryan LIVE, Greenbrier Valley Brewing Company, Maxwelton, 6 p.m.

Midnight Traffic LIVE, Marlinton Motor Inn, 9 p.m.

Vern's Pot O' Chili LIVE, the Wild Bean, Lewisburg, 8 p.m.

JAN.
20

Monday, January 20

Volunteer Day, White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery, 1-3 p.m.

Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, Lewisburg, 11 a.m.

JAN.
23

Thursday, January 23

Greenbrier Valley Pokémon League Free Play, Villain Comics, Lewisburg, 5-7 p.m.

Lewisburg Green Drinks by Appalachian Headwaters, GVBC, Maxwelton, 6-8 p.m.

JAN.
25

Saturday, January 25

Beethoven the Great with Pianist Barbara Nissman & WV Music Friends, Carnegie Hall, 7 p.m.

Met Live HD: Aida, Greenbrier Valley Theatre, Lewisburg, 2:30 p.m.-6:10 p.m.

JAN.
27

Monday, January 27

Volunteer Day, White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery, 1-3 p.m.

Wednesday, January 29

Smooth Ambler's Inaugural Cocktail Competition, Maxwelton, 6 p.m.

JAN.
30

Thursday, January 30

Greenbrier Valley Pokémon League Free Play, Villain Comics, Lewisburg, 5-7 p.m.

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ARTIST ON DISPLAY

Willa Showalter

By Andrea Izzo

Willa Showalter, a local artist, has had a love of rocks since childhood. She has an aunt from the Labrador region of Canada, a region that claims its fame for stones that are a cool shimmering blue and green called Labradorite. "She would send us little trinkets and things and I just became a huge rock fanatic. I absolutely loved them," said Willa. Her love of rocks continued through her teen years. She became interested in all sorts of stones including crystals and things that most other teenagers would be interested in.

In college, Willa studied Earth Sciences, geology, geography and worked at the precursor to Tamarack. A co-worker who made jewelry asked her a life-changing question, "Hey, do you know that you can take rocks and make jewelry out of them?" This inspired Willa to start making jewelry in 1992. She learned the basics from her co-worker and then it was primarily a self-taught endeavor. It was before the age of the internet, therefore, she essentially taught herself through trial and error. She had a friend who was downsizing and gave her a set of lapidary equipment for basic cutting, grinding, and polishing stones. "That's when I first started cutting and exposing the beauty inside of stones", she said.

The first stone Willa worked with was the state gemstone of West Virginia — West Virginia Coral. It is a fossilized coral that looks like a honeycomb rock, most commonly reddish in color. It is not the easiest rock to work with due to its medium high hardness. Willa also did some further studies with the people who had the gem shop at The Greenbrier. Her first craft show was at the Gauley River Festival in 1992, and she was also selling in the Student Union at Concord College. She obtained a business license and began going to craft shows up and down the East Coast. Willa estimates that she has probably worked upwards of 600 shows. She noted that it was a serious gig for about 24 years, and she absolutely loved it. When I asked what inspires her designs Willa replied, "That is absolutely up to the stones themselves." She goes to wholesale gem shows and spends a lot of time picking out stones that have



West Virginia Coral, picture raw and turned into jewelry.

beautiful colors or patterns. Willa elaborates, "I pick things I like and that I like to work with. That's my contribution to the design. Then, I spread out my inventory and let the stones say 'hey, I want to take this beautiful piece and this beautiful piece - put us together to make an exquisite piece'." Willa said she has tried to make things with more intention, like zodiac jewelry for instance. She would get zodiac pendants and the corresponding stones to make jewelry that is nice but doesn't explode with personality. Willa's favorite style is what she calls a power necklace, which is something like a breastplate that features magnificent stones and multiple layers. It's the kind of piece that you would wear to make a real statement.

"I will be gearing up in my new studio space above Patina to create these really exquisite, powerful pieces that are eye-catching and help define a person's intention and possibly their personality. They are perfect for the Renaissance Festival and other events too." Regarding her studio she notes, "After many years of not really having adequate space for creating jewelry, I



have secured a really fabulous office suite above Patina that has incredible lighting and is warm and cozy and funk It's the perfect place for creative endeavors." Willa is currently selling her jewelry at Patina at 1046 Washington Street, Lewisburg, WV on Monday through Friday from 11am - 5pm, Saturday 10am - 6pm, and Sunday 12 - 4pm. Willa will also be set up at the 2025 Renaissance Festival on June 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, 28-29. To learn more about Willa and her art visit Patinaofwv.com.

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WINTER 2025, WHERE'S THE SNOW?



Official West Virginia logos and state symbols.

By Sharon Ginsburg

I used to have to shovel my driveway, thankfully rather a short one in the suburbs of Ronceverte, to get out in the winter. I used to not necessarily be able to drive up hill on my street to get to the main road, even after the streets were plowed. True, I always have owned and driven a front wheel drive car, not the WV State vehicle, an all-wheel drive Subaru, preferably silver. Subaru as the WV state car goes with rhododendron as the state flower, cardinal as the state bird, sugar maple as the state tree, black bear as the state animal and the state motto "Mountaineers are Always Free." This is written in Latin on the WV state logo "Montani Semper Liberi" that also has the official creation date of WV as a state separated from Virginia, June 20, 1863. This occurred under President Lincoln after a complex and contentious process. The western part of VA at that time during the civil war did not support secession from the union and decided to form its own state becoming the 35th, eventu-

ally using the name West Virginia.

The deep bone chilling cold this past fall during late November and early December was such a shock after so much mild autumn weather and hot, hot summer. More extreme temperatures that are alternating faster up and down plus too dry or too wet, though at my house the soil was like concrete all summer and fall, dry and hard, despite the occasional forecast of heavy rain which generally was nowhere near my home.

The last two winters it has rained all February and March except for a bit of snow in early February only. I used to drive to Florida in the dead of winter to deal with aging elderly parents and I would always get back to WV in time for a fast trip to stock up on groceries before the blizzard arrived, closing schools and keeping me home for a week. The snowfall I photographed on December 5, 2009, buried neighborhood cars not parked in garages and piled deep on tree branches, mail-



Snow from December 5, 2009, in Ronceverte.

boxes and roof tops. My neighborhood street and main county road looked like a wagon trail buried in snow with a two-wheel track visible made by a 4-wheeler or 4-wheel drive truck that felt inclined to test its limits and survival in bad weather and bad driving conditions. Not me. I would be stocked up on good books and food ahead of time and use my phone to maintain sanity and connections. Which reminds me that for decades the electricity would go out with an ice storm or deep wet snow every winter also. I still have a telephone that does not need electricity to recharge batteries, but I have not needed it for years. Now the new extreme events are not snow but maybe a bomb cyclone, high winds with heavy

rains, not snow like we used to have.

My son started skiing at Silver Creek and Snowshoe in Pocahontas County when he was 3 years old with his father who volunteered with the adaptive program helping physically or mentally challenged skiers. So of course he started his own children skiing there very young too. I do recall being able to cross-country ski decades ago on the road where I live on the edge of Ronceverte before the plows cleared the lane. I was not skilled at stopping or turning so I had to sit down on my skis to feel safe and under control sometimes. I am sure I entertained the neighborhood back when we used to have snow in the winter, enough to ski or sled on my street before those plows showed up. Now I hardly get a chance to make or throw a snowball.

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JANUARY EVENTS


Friday, January 10, 2025
CARNEGIE HALL ART WALK
Gallery Openings/Reception

Thursday, January 16, 2025
STRING BEINGS
ERICA AND PAOLO MARKS & FAMILY
Second Stage Series

Saturday, January 25, 2025
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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY CELEBRATION

–Jan. 20, 11 AM–

Join us to march from the Courthouse
to Lewisburg United Methodist Church



Free lunch at the Church
Program in the Sanctuary at 12:30