



A Look Back
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The Magic
Flute at GVT
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\$1.00

Mountain messenger

December 14, 2024

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



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Donations Big and Small, Together Making Change

Penny Pitch nears \$20K in donations, needs \$40K more to make goal

“Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it’s Christmas.”

— Dale Evans

There’s not a lot of time before it really is Christmas, and Penny Pitch is still well below our goal and far from the funding we need to serve all of our families. Please reach in your hearts and put love into action by donating today. We need you all.

You can mail a donation to 383 Alderson Street in Lewisburg, or drop your donation off at the Mountain Messenger at 860 Court Street North in Lewisburg. If you prefer to give online, you can give through the PayPal button on our Facebook page, “Penny Pitch, Greenbrier County WV.”

We are deeply grateful for the donations we have received so far.

146.39	Josh Polan
100.00	In memory of Mollie
100.00	Jim & Jeane Fullen
50.00	Genevieve Taylor
100.00	Edward & Karen Lemons
100.00	In memory of Calvin & Delphia Lemons
200.00	David & Beverly Johnson
100.00	James C. Crews
100.00	In memory of Onyx by Curtis & Doris Scruggs
200.00	Greenbrier Better Living & Thrift Store (Ronceverte)
10.61	Anonymous
25.00	In memory of Edgar W. & Dorothy R. Napier
300.00	Mount Vernon M E Church (Ronceverte)
100.00	Tim Holbrook
50.00	In memory of Kendall Baker
100.00	Paul & Mary Lindquist
100.00	Mary Edgar Bobbitt
500.00	Julian & Martha Meadows
500.00	George W Little
5,000.00	Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation
200.00	In memory of Steve King from Sue
30.00	Shirley Sexton
206.46	Robert Harris

TOTAL \$19,948.46

Superintendent recommends keeping Crichton Elementary open

At the Dec. 10 meeting of the Greenbrier County Board of Education, Superintendent Jeff Bryant announced his recommendation that Crichton Elementary School remain open for the 2025-26 academic year. This recommendation follows a comprehensive impact study prompted by an unanticipated enrollment decline in the county of 160

students resulting in the loss of over \$1,000,000 in revenue for the 2025-2026 school year.

While affirming the continuation of Crichton Elementary operations, Superintendent Bryant shared that significant personnel reductions across all programmatic levels will be necessary to address an unanticipated \$1 million budget shortfall. He reiterated that the funding gap stems from a substantial decline in student enrollment, which directly

See “Crichton Elementary” ____ Page 3

Kram the Kennel returns to Greenbrier Humane Society

By Chelsea Blair

The holidays are a time for giving, and what better way to spread some cheer than by helping our furry friends? Kram the Kennel is back for its seventh year at the Greenbrier Humane Society (GHS), and they need your help to make this season a little brighter for dogs and cats in need.

This beloved event is all about filling GHS kennels with necessities to keep their animals happy, healthy, and well cared for as they await their forever homes. Whether it’s a big gift or something small, every donation makes a huge difference!

Items most needed include 13-gallon garbage bags, slip leads, chat Churu, dog toys, bleach, HE laundry detergent, non-clumping cat litter, contractor garbage bags, adult dry dog food, adult dry cat food, small bites dry dog food, quart and gallon sized Ziplock bags, and stainless-steel bowls of all sizes. They could also

See “Kram the Kennel” ____ Page 11



Sheriff Bruce Sloan to retire after nearly 40 years of service

After nearly four decades of dedicated service to the state and Greenbrier County, Sheriff Bruce Sloan will retire on Dec. 31. His retirement marks the end of an era of exceptional law enforcement leadership, professionalism, and a commitment to his community.

Sloan began his law enforcement career almost 40 years ago, and for the past 12 years, he has served Greenbrier County, first as Chief Deputy and then as Sheriff for two terms.

“Your work, professionalism, and dedication to this community have been greatly appreciated. Your commitment has been significant, and you’ve truly left your mark on this county - for the better,” said Commissioner Tammy Shifflett-Tincher at the latest meeting of the County Commission.

In recognition of his service, Chief Deputy and Sheriff-Elect Bart Baker requested that Sheriff Sloan be awarded his service pistol upon retirement, a tradition that is customary for retiring officers in West Virginia and most states. “I believe the sheriff has more than earned this honor, and it would be a meaningful way for the county and its citizens to show their gratitude,” Baker said.

The County Commission unanimously supported the motion to award Sheriff Sloan his service weapon, with Commissioner Lowell Rose adding, “We appreciate everything Bruce has done for the county. His leadership has helped transform the sheriff’s office into a more professional and effective organization. As a first-time commissioner in 2002, I’ve seen



Sheriff Bruce Sloan (middle), pictured with Chief Deputy Baker (right), and Prosecuting Attorney Pat Via (left), as they celebrate Sloan’s retirement and Via’s new journey as a Circuit Court Judge.

firsthand how much this office has changed for the better under his leadership. Bruce has been an excellent sheriff and a great friend.”

Commissioner Richie Holliday echoed Rose’s comments, adding, “Thank you for being such a great friend and for your commitment to our county.”

As Sheriff Sloan prepares for retirement, the Greenbrier County Commission and residents express their deep appreciation for his decades of service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to making Greenbrier County a safer place. He will be missed, but his legacy will continue to inspire those who follow in his footsteps.

On behalf of the entire county, the commissioners thanked Sheriff Sloan for his years of dedication to the community. “We wish you nothing but the best in your retirement, Bruce,” Commissioner Tincher concluded. “You’ve been a great asset to this county, and we’re grateful for everything you’ve done.”

Sheriff Sloan’s retirement is well-earned, and the county bids him farewell with respect, gratitude, and best wishes for the future.

Christine Stump appointed City Attorney for White Sulphur Springs

By Sarah Richardson

At the December meeting of the White Sulphur Springs City Council, Commissioner Ryan Lockhart reports that the general revenue account for the City has an excess revenue of \$42,750.97, with a general fund year-to-date revenue of 168,965.75. “Considering the fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30, this is phenomenal,” said Lockhart. “We are on track to be really fiscally conservative this year.”

The water fund month-to-date excess revenue shows \$28,993.67, and year-to-date excess revenue of \$224,634.28. The sewer fund month-to-date revenue is \$25,820.40, and \$94,867.43 year-to-date.

Mayor Kathy Glover reports, “We have a lot of projects pending, and some that are ongoing.” She

reports that the Route 60 Sewer Project is “unfortunately one of the most major projects that we’ve had to undertake,” adding that the project is being funded by grant money, and that they have no control over the schedule. After the project started in July 2023, she reports they are currently “back on track” and will be finishing up their work near April’s Pizza and Homegrown at the head of Rt. 92.

“Unfortunately, it is an inconvenience,” she said, and that “timing could have been better,” but noted she has been in touch with the project’s engineering firm, and they reported that they are 60-some percent complete with the project overall. She advises the public to try and use alternate roads when construction is ongoing to keep traffic moving. See “Christine Stump” ____ Page 11

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Medicaid expansion critical for ensuring WV dental care access

By Nadia Ramlagan

West Virginia’s adult Medicaid dental benefit plays a critical role in helping to reduce oral health disparities, experts said.

Expansion changes including the dental benefit went into effect in 2021.

Gina Sharps, executive director of the West Virginia Oral Health Coalition, said given the state’s severe shortage of dental providers, it will take more time to see the benefit’s effect. She added tooth decay and gum disease are linked to a host of chronic diseases.

“When we look at the science, there are clear associations between oral health in various systemic diseases such as diabetes

and heart disease,” Sharps pointed out. “Even down to 8% of cases of infective endocarditis are caused by oral infections.”

According to a 2023 report, more than 24% of dental practices in West Virginia were no longer accepting new patients, or average wait times for the first available appointment were months away.

Sharps added before the Medicaid adult dental benefit, folks would resort to using the emergency room if they had a toothache and end up saddled with medical debt.

“You would go from a from an \$87 toothache to a \$1,800 toothache,” Sharps observed.

Organizations like the West Virginia Dental Hy-

gienist Association want to expand the scope of practice for hygienists to help fill care gaps as the state continues to lose providers. Sharps said policymakers could take action to increase the odds people with tooth trouble can see a dentist.

“Fifty-two out of our 55 counties are Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas,” Sharps explained. “Which means they are areas designated as having shortages of dentists.”

According to the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health, in 2021, the nation’s poorest households paid more than seven times more for dental care than higher-income and insured households.

Attorney General Morrisey advises caution with holiday online shopping

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey urges consumers to be extra cautious as they shop online during the holiday season.

The advice comes as part of the Attorney General’s Holiday Consumer Protection Week.

“Online shopping makes it so easy to find the perfect gifts for those we love with just the click of a mouse or the tap of the screen,” Attorney General Morrisey said. “Consumers need to exercise extra caution when shopping online because this is the time of year when scammers try to take advantage of increased consumer activity.”

“Shoppers need to keep a few things in mind as they buy gifts online for family and friends.”

One of the first things consumers need to do is check to make sure that the online retailer is legitimate. A little research goes a long way. Read reviews for not only the item but also the company and how they handle customer service. Look for reviews to ensure the retailer is reputable.

Consumers need to double-check the delivery date before checking out. If no date is provided, the retailer has 30 days to ship. If consumers are notified about a delay in shipping, you have the right to cancel the order for a full refund. Cancel your order quickly so you won’t be billed or so you can be refunded sooner. Use credit cards rather than debit

cards when possible. Credit cards provide protection for consumers if goods or services do not arrive as promised and debit cards do not; they are no different than cash and provide no special protection.

Consumers should rely upon secure payment systems and make sure any payment website starts with “https://” as the “s” indicates a secure page.

Track your package until it is in your possession. Keep your receipt in case the item is damaged or does not arrive as promised. Consider having your package held at the post office or delivered to your workplace or a trusted family member or friend’s house if you know you will not be home when your package is delivered. The holidays are prime time for “porch pirates” who steal packages from consumer’s porches, stoops, and mailboxes.

Some companies offer their own secure locations where you can have your merchandise delivered. This protects you from having some Grinch steal your holiday cheer from your doorstep.

These tips will help consumers put a bow on their holiday shopping and have a safer, more secure experience.

Anyone who believes they have been the victim of a scam should contact the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division at 800-368-8808 or file a complaint online at www.ago.wv.gov.



The funding supports activities to improve stream and river health, educate community members about their watershed, and engage volunteers in watershed protection, recreation, and restoration activities

WVDEP’s Stream Partners Program awards nearly \$92,000 in grant funding to 20 watershed groups for water quality projects

The Greenbrier River Watershed Association was awarded \$5,000

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection’s (WVDEP) Stream Partners Program announced last week that 20 community watershed groups across the state will receive grant funds totaling nearly \$92,000 to conduct water quality improvement and education projects in 2025. The funding supports activities to improve stream and river health, educate community members about their watershed, and engage volunteers in watershed protection, recreation, and restoration activities.

Watershed groups each applied for grant awards of up to \$5,000 to support stream cleanups, riparian plantings, water monitoring, outreach events, water treatment from acid mine drainage, recreational opportunities, and more.

The grant awardees include:

- Buckhannon River Watershed Association: \$5,000
- Coal River Group: \$5,000
- Davis Creek Watershed Association: \$3,242
- Fourpole Creek Watershed Association: \$1,810
- Friends of Blackwater, Inc.: \$5,000
- Friends of Mill Creek: \$2,500
- Friends of Cacapon River: \$5,000
- Friends of the Cheat, Inc.: \$5,000
- Friends of the Tug Fork River: \$5,000
- Greenbrier River Watershed Association: \$5,000
- Guardians of the West Fork: \$4,972
- Morris Creek Watershed Association: \$5,000
- Paint Creek Watershed Association: \$5,000
- Piney Creek Watershed Association: \$5,000
- Save the Tygart Wa-

tershed Association, Inc.: \$5,000

- Sleepy Creek Watershed Association: \$4,525
- Town Run Watershed Group: \$5,000
- Twelvepole Rising: \$4,901.98
- Warm Springs Run Watershed Association: \$5,000
- Wheeling Creek Watershed Alliance: \$5,000

Total amount awarded: \$91,950.98

These funds will support watershed groups to improve the water quality of streams and rivers throughout the state via direct remediation projects and through increased public awareness regarding the need to keep state waterways healthy and productive. By enhancing and promoting the state’s water resources, West Virginia communities attract visitors and new residents.

See “WVDEP” ____ Page 3

Sheriff’s Office seeks missing person

The Greenbrier County Sheriff’s Office is seeking assistance from the public in locating a missing person.

Audie (AJ) Sloan was last seen walking in the Quinwood area of Greenbrier County on Nov. 29, 2024. He was wearing jeans and a dark colored hooded sweatshirt. AJ, as he is commonly known by, is described as 5’10” tall and approximately 180 pounds. He is 40 years of age.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Greenbrier County Sheriff’s Office at the following numbers, or the Greenbrier County 911 Center at the number listed below.

- Lewisburg Sheriff’s Office: 681-318-3492
 - Rupert Sheriff’s Office: 304-392-6320
 - Greenbrier County 911 Center: 304-647-7911 (Non-emergency number)
- Captain K. L. Sawyers is the investigating officer.



Audie (AJ) Sloan was last seen in the Quinwood area on Nov. 29.

PICK OF THE LITTER



CINCH
Cinch is a 1.5 year old male coonhound and weighs 41 pounds



TREVOR
Trevor is a 1.5 year old male domestic shorthair

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

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

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

Call 304-645-4775 for more information.

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

DON’T SHOP • ADOPT!

Briefly

Veteran’s Memorial Museum
of Southern West Virginia, 419 Ballangee Street, Hinton, WV, is open Saturdays 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.. Call 304-466-4443 for more information or to schedule a tour.

Committee on Aging to require appointments for donations
Due to limited storage space, the Greenbrier County Committee on Aging will accept donations of medical items by appointment only. Items must be clean and in working order, some items still remain available for those who need them. Please call with any questions and before delivering or picking up, Lewisburg/Fairlea area is 304-645-1978 and the Western site in Rupert is 304-392-5138.

Marriages

Suzanne Grace Black and Ronald Bart Baker
Deborah Ann Rowan and Douglas Dewayne Thompson

Suits

New Cases from 11/20/24 to 12/9/24

New Civil Cases
American Express National Bank C/O Lloyd & McDaniel, PLC v. Tommy D Bittinger
Wells Fargo Bank, NA v. Amber Roehrig
David W Morgan v. Karen C Hammonds
Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC v. Mark T Petro

New Divorces
Brandon Lee Piner and Alexis Paige Piner
Jordan Cierra Long and Travis Lee Frame
Erin Haley Hurst and Isaac Kenneth Hurst
Tara Lynn Waugh and Gregory E. Waugh

Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Convictions

Donald W. Dorsey, Rainelle, 1) hunting on another's property without written permission, fine \$100; 2) illegal possession of wildlife, fine \$75, NCP
Steven Lee Garris, Pensacola, FL, domestic assault, jail 120 days credit for 10 days served remainder suspended and placed on 12 months unsupervised probation, NCP
Daniel Michael Bennett, Lewisburg, false report to officer, fine \$100, jail 21 days - suspended and placed on 12 months unsupervised probation, NCP
Amber Lynn Lopez, Lewisburg, DUI, fine \$100, jail 1 day, GP
Donovan Wade England, Lewisburg, violation of Protective Order, fine \$250, jail 9 months - suspended and placed on 19 months unsupervised probation, NCP
Makayla S. Jackson, Huber Heights, OH, speeding, fine \$40, GP
Thomas Dean Butler, Alderson, hunting without permission, fine \$100, NCP
Jamey Dewayne Redden, Clintonville, 1) failure to check/tag 8 point, fine \$40; 2)possession of wildlife, fine \$75, GP
Jessica Loraine Trivett, Ronceverte, illegal possession, fine \$50, GP

WVDEP

Continued from Page 2

and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation.
Established in 1996, the Stream Partners Program is a four-agency cooperative administered by the WVDEP, State Division of Forestry, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, and the State Conservation Agency.
Grant applications are due Sept. 15 of each year. To be eligible, organizations must be a local watershed group and new applicants must reach out to the program’s Regional Basin Coordinator at least six months in advance of the application deadline. To learn more, visit the West Virginia Stream Partners webpage.

Crichton Elementary Cont. from Front Page

affects state funding allocations for public schools in the county.
“Keeping Crichton Elementary open at this time is the right decision for our students and the Crichton community,” said Superintendent Bryant. “However, to manage the financial challenges we face, difficult decisions regarding staffing will need to be made. These changes are essential to maintaining the district’s fiscal stability while ensuring the highest quality education possible.”
Superintendent Bryant further emphasized the importance of public education and the critical role of the community in boosting enrollment. “Our schools and our communities thrive when families choose public education,” he stated. “A county-wide effort to promote enrollment is vital, as state funding is directly tied to the number of students attending our public schools.”
The Board of Education acknowledged the superintendent’s recommendation and pledged its support in working collaboratively with the community and state leaders to address these challenges.

THANK YOU FOR READING
THE MOUNTAIN MESSENGER

For the Record

Deeds

Lapied Incorporated A West Virginia Corporation to Scott E. Beard and Stacey L. Beard: plo lot 1 & all of lot 3 McGraw Addition, Falling Spring District, Map 6 Parcel 131, 130.1. Filed Nov. 20, 2024.
Rhonda Mitchell (successor trustee of the Mitchell Family living trust) to Mark W. Mitchell: lot 32 section 2, Lewisburg District, Map 13 Parcel 80. Filed Nov. 21, 2024.
Greenbrier Legacy Cottage Development Company I Inc to Victor Hamilton and Patricia Hamilton: unit 3 Rhododendron Cottages Spring Row, White Sulphur District, Map 26 Parcel 212. Filed Nov. 21, 2024.
Donald M. Huber and Susan Huber to Greenbrier Sanctuary LLC: waiver of right of first refusal, lot 464 Redan Neighborhood, White Sulphur District, Map 22N Parcel 10. Filed Nov. 21, 2024.
Ream Interests Inc. A Delaware Corporation to Michael L. Renner and Fabreahnna C. Renner: lot E-8, Lewisburg District, Map 29 Parcel 0146. Filed Nov. 21, 2024.
Kala N. Dameron to Crystal G. Gwinn and Kenneth E. Gwinn, Jr.: 2.24 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 67 Parcel 23. Filed Nov. 21, 2024.
Kenneth E. Gwinn Jr. to Jason M. Rudd and Ashley E. Rudd: 5.368 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 61 Parcel 105. Filed Nov. 21, 2024.
Henry H. Chambers Jr., Jeanette A. Chambers, and Nathaniel J. Chambers to Henrey H. Chambers, Jeanette A. Chambers, and Nathaniel J. Chambers: 4.24 acres, Lewisburg District, Map 25 Parcel 44. Filed Nov. 21, 2024.
Lou E. Lewis to Mary K. Lewis, Erin E. Lewis, and Charles W. Lewis: lot 24, sub 3, Lewisburg District, Map 5 Parcel 0002. Filed Nov. 22, 2024.
Sandra W. Sharp Revocable Trust (by trustee) to Hartigan Family Trust (by trustee Michael Hartigan): lot 7 Trout Run SD, Blue Sulphur District, Map 17 Parcel 40. Filed Nov. 22, 2024.

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
The Board will next meet Thursday, Dec. 12 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.

Lewisburg City Council
will meet in regular session Tuesday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. in Paul R. Cooley Council Chambers, 942 Washington Street West. On the agenda:

- Resolutions
 - Resolution 572 - Water System Improvement Project Pay Request 31
 - Resolution 573 - Lewisburg Feamster Road Sidewalk Funding Match
- State Project U313-LEW/IS-5 .00 Federal Project: TEA-2204(132)D (CONSTRUCTION)
- Communication from Mayor White
- Communication from City Manager Hill
 - Contract with Retiring Chief Water Operator Randy Johnson
 - South Lafayette and Randolph Streets Stormwater Improvement Bid Approval
 - Wayfinding Kiosk
- Communications from Boards and Commissions
 - Planning Commission
- Communications from Council Members
- Communications from Police Chief Chris Teubert
- Communications from Fire Chief Joseph Thomas
 - Fire Engine Lease Purchase Agreement
- Communications from Council Committee
 - Finance Committee Report
 - Contract for Generator Service (Water Plant, and New Intake)
 - Lost Trail Studio Video Training for Belt Press
 - Lost Trail Studio New Water Plant Video
 - Greenbrier County Library Painting Bid Approval
 - Pay Scale Update
 - Promotion of Interim Chief Water Plant Operator with related salary increase
- Public Works Department Report from Director
- Approval of minutes - November 19, 2024
- Visitors Report: (3-minute limit per subject on the agenda)

Greenbrier Public Service District #1
will meet Friday, Dec. 20 at 8 a.m. in regular session at the District Office, 9035 Seneca Trail South, Fairlea. On the agenda:

- Approval of Minutes - Nov. 15, 2024
- Financial Report
- Manager Report
- Field Report
- Engineering Report
- Phase B extension project:
 - Payment Resolutions
 - Other Phase B project-related business brought before the Board
- Phase C extension project:
 - Payment Resolutions
 - Other Phase C project-related business brought before the Board
- Meadowbrook Estates project:
 - Payment Resolutions
 - Other Meadowbrook project-related business brought before the Board
- Other business brought before the Board

Sandra W. Sharp Revocable Trust (by trustee) to Hartigan Family Trust (by trustee Michael Hartigan): lot 6 Trout Run SD, Blue Sulphur District, Map 17 Parcel 34. Filed Nov. 22, 2024.
Ralph E. Muhs and Martha K. Muhs to Cody R. Crutcher and Mary B. Crutcher: lot 6, Falling Spring District, Map 2 Parcel 94. Filed 22, 2024.
April Crowe to David A. Crowe and Autumn L. Crowe: 108 acres, Williamsburg District, Map 30 Parcel 001,0002,0003. Filed Nov. 22, 2024.
Johnie F. Morrison Jr., Victoria D. Zeiner, James W. Morrison, and Jason E. Morrison to Brett H. Johnston and Melanie B. Johnston: 29.20 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 58G Parcel 0031, 0001. Filed Nov. 22, 2024.
Kathy B. Patterson to Logan M. Halderman and Kately R. Halderman: tracts 3 & 4, White Sulphur District, Map 11D-0012.000. Filed Nov. 25, 2024.
Bradley S. McClung and Terri L. Jackson to Bradley S. McClung: 1.36 acres, Lewisburg District, Map 25 Parcel 42. Filed Nov. 25, 2024.
James Seaman and Betty Seaman to Mark A. Fooce Jr. and Joyce White: 0.87 acres (cons three tracts), 215 190 215 175, Rt 92 Neola, Anthony Creek District, Map 25E Parcel 6. Filed Nov. 25, 2024.
Alison T. Martinez to Alison T. Martinez and Juan G. Martinez-Hernandez: lot 16, Anthony Creek District, Map 35J Parcel 2. Filed Nov. 25, 2024.
Richard K. Forren and Tina V. Forren to David G. Bailey and Virginia A. Bailey: 20.43 acres, (D) north of RT 42 Forren, 1.3 miles NE of Grassy, Blue Sulphur District, Map 20-0027.0000. Filed Nov. 26, 2024.
Campsite LLC to Rajesh Patel: lot 48, 0.552 acres Lamplighter Valley from Hall, Lewisburg District, Map 21 Parcel 187. Filed Nov. 26, 2024.
Kellie E. Martin to Andrea Erickson and Salvatore Lannitto: 0.39 acres, Fort Spring District, Map 10 Parcel 2. Filed Nov. 26, 2024.
Barbara J. Moschella to Barbara J. Moschella Revocable Trust: 36.65 and 10.28 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 70, 70 Parcel 0018, 0025. Filed Nov. 26, 2024.
Robert B. Holstein and Jean A. Holstein to Robert and Jean Holstein Living Trust: 11.863 acres, Falling Spring District, Map 62 Parcel 6. Filed Nov. 27, 2024.
Dana L. Renick to Elena L. Thompson: 0.344 acres more or less, Alderson District, Map 2 Parcel 0133.0000. Filed Nov. 27, 2024.
Lori Gledhill and David Gledhill to Brian T. Dougherty and John R. Patterson: 1.480 acres, Fort Spring District, Map 9 Parcel 0007. Filed Nov. 27, 2024.
Lois P. Hanna to Paris R. Wiley: 0.32 acres lot 15 block 1, Lewisburg District, Map 13G Parcel 0015.0000. Filed Nov. 27, 2024.
PRL Title Trust II (by UMB Bank as Legal Trustee) to Paul Hunter: 1,795 square feet, Fort Spring District, Map NOMP Parcel 344. Filed Dec. 2, 2024.
Rosa Graybeal to CKJS Investment Trust LLC: 14.33 & 1.744 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 77 Parcel 0022, 0001, 0000. Filed Dec. 2, 2024.
Charles C. McClung II and Lori A. McClung to McClung Rentals LLC: lots 5-6 & 9, block 3 Sullivan SD, Fort Spring District, Map 9H, 77, 78 Parcel 222, 223, 224. Filed Dec. 2, 2024.
Brandon Clark to AXA Properties LLC: 82 X 129 X 37 X 107, Irish Corner District, Map 10C Parcel 0029, 0033. Filed Dec. 2, 2024.

Mountain Messenger

The Weekend Newspaper for the Greenbrier Valley

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Strengthening Community and Promoting Diversity in the Greenbrier Valley

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“You may participate in a private telemedicine conference with someone on the ISS [International Space Station], meet with engineers to consult on the health require-



“Everyone in our current group of residents comes from different backgrounds and specialties - family practice, emergency medicine, internal medicine, pulmonary and critical care, undersea and hyperbaric (diving) medicine,

“You do not generally hear about the medical professionals taking care of pilots and astronauts, which is a good thing because the crew are the focus,” he said. “I think more information is being presented to medical students and residents about this career due to a higher emphasis on space travel in recent years. It is a growing career option that I believe will continue to expand.”

Justice McGraw was elected to the state Supreme Court in 1976, where he served a 12-year term that included service as Chief Justice in 1987. He was later

“Darrell McGraw’s legacy is an indelible mark on West Virginia’s legal landscape,” said Justice Bill Wooton. “His leadership was evident at an early age; he served as Student Body President at West Virginia University and devoted most of the remainder of his life to public service across all three branches of government. He was a key figure in the administration of Gov. Hulett Smith, a counsel to the Legislature, a former Justice of our Supreme Court and West Virginia’s longest-serving Attorney General. A hallmark of his public service was his love of the state of West Virginia and its people. He will be remembered by those who knew him as an inordinately kind and good man.”

Justice Darrell McGraw is survived by his wife, former state Superintendent of Schools Jorea Marple, and four children.

Dolores worked at South Florida State Hospital and South Florida Evaluation and Treatment Center for over 30 years as a Unit Supervisor caring for the mentally ill. She eventually retired from Children and Family ser-

She was preceded in death by her parents, former husband and grandson Derek Hollinger. Dolores leaves to cherish her loving memory, four children Diane Paramore, Reginald Berry III, Dawn Houston, and Roderick Berry Sr. (Kendra); grandchildren, John Hollinger, Jerel Hol-

She is survived by a host
of nieces and nephews.
Graveside service will

Charlie spent years in the mining industry, running a D11 on strip mines throughout the state. He retired in 2012 when his illness began but never stopped reminiscing about his days on the mountain with friends he held dear. After retirement, he enjoyed his days on his Sewell Mountain property, surrounded by wild-

Charlie is survived by his wife of 53 years, Judy Fleshman; son, Wayne Fleshman; daughter, Tracy Martin; daughter-in-law, Melissa Fleshman; son-in-law, TC Martin; brothers Ron, Kerry (Wife, Pam), Ken (wife, Sheila), and Doug (wife, Kathy) Fleshman; sisters Barbara Walker (husband, Randy) and Karen McAlexander (husband, Vince); nieces, Johanna, Christina, Stephanie, Teresa and Maria, and nephews, Jimmy, Matthew, Kerry-Allen, Eric, Micheal, Vincent Lee, Tony, Donnie, Rodney, and Jonathan; many great nieces and nephews.

Services will be privat



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Club & Church

Lewisburg House and Garden Club meets to decorate Carnegie for the holidays

The Lewisburg House and Garden Club met on Nov. 20 at Carnegie Hall to “Decorate the Hall for the Holidays.” Suzanne Perilli and her mother, Martha Perilli, coordinated the event.

Using the decorations purchased by the club last holiday season, the talented Perillis worked with club members to make the Hall merry and bright. When the decorating was completed, the members joined together for a dutch-treat lunch. The club will not meet again until March 2025.



Suzanne and Martha Perilli coordinated the decorating event.



Members participating in decorating the Hall were Martha Perilli, Suzanne Perilli, Karen McClung, Judy Deegans, Debbie Floyd, Joan Montgomery, Mary Lindquist, Carol Olson, Sue McKinney, Suzanne Cronquist, and Sharon Holaday. They were assisted by Michael Kincaid, Facilities Manager, and John Arnold, Custodian.

Bluebells raise funds for Penny Pitch, Samaritan’s Purse



The Bluebell Garden Club held its annual Penny Pitch Silent Auction for club members in October at The Clingman Center. This year \$2,000 was raised to support area families through the activities of Penny Pitch, and an additional \$1,000 was donated to Samaritan’s Purse North Carolina disaster relief initiative.

Williamsburg CEOS are Celebrating and Sharing

The Williamsburg Community Educational Outreach Service (CEOS)/WVU Extension Club gathered at the Dutch Haus Restaurant on Tuesday, Dec. 10 for their monthly meeting.

Members were reminded of the lesson Sensational Soup as each received jars of homemade instant potato soup. Each member also received jars of apple butter which is a sample of “Appalachian Products We Love,” the lesson that will be shared at the club’s March meeting.

The club’s service project this fall includes donating Christmas presents to the children at the Greenbrier Valley Children’s Home.

Each member also received a Poinsettia to brighten their homes this winter.

Due to weather conditions in the months of January and February the club will not be gathering together in person but they will continue to be active in the many opportunities offered in the community and through the WVU Extension Service such as Purposeful Reading-Reading With a Purpose, and preparing for the Creative Writing Contest, and Poetry Contest (information may be found on the <https://pm.extension.wvu.edu/community-business-safety/community-educational-outreach-service#members> website).

Check out the club’s Facebook page to learn more about the club.

Members of the CEOS are people like you! So come and join us!



Lyne Jones (left), Lara Zevy, Loretta Shirley, Burl Post, Shela McComsey, Linda Spencer, Patty Post, and LauraAnn Tiller.



To conclude the meeting members celebrated Loretta Shirley’s 81st (18th!) birthday with delicious cake and ice cream.

Church Bulletin

Two Christmas Cantata performances

A Christmas Cantata will be held on Saturday, Dec. 21 at 8:30 p.m. in the chapel of The Greenbrier. Shuttle service will be available to and from the Depot between 7:45 and 8 p.m. On Sunday, Dec. 22 there will be a 7:30 p.m. cantata performance at First Baptist Fairlea. Nursery provided for children three and under at the church performance only.

Scholarship Bazaar to be held in Caldwell

Come and do your Christmas shopping at a bazaar at the Caldwell Pentecostal Holiness Church on Saturday, Dec. 14, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be other vendors in addition to the church. The money raised by the church will be for senior scholarships, and the youth will have a concession stand with BBQ and hot dogs. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you have any questions about the bazaar or would like to be a vendor, contact Margaret Dodd on Facebook.

Grace Baptist Church Christmas Program

On Sunday, Dec. 15 at 6:30 p.m., Grace Baptist Church in White Sulphur Springs will present their Christmas program entitled “A Christmas To Remember.” Everyone is invited to attend and share fellowship. Bring a friend!

Ronceverte Baptist plans Christmas programs

The Ronceverte Baptist Church (RBC) has planned some Christmas programs and we would like to invite the community to come and worship with us, especially if you do not have a church home this Christmas season. The RBC choir will present a Christmas cantata on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 10:30 a.m. during the morning worship service. There will be no Sunday School classes that morning in order to have a longer worship service. The name of the cantata is “Christmas . . . The Story of His Love.” The choir will present the cantata again on Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. There will also be a Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve at 6 p.m. The church is located at the corner of Main Street and Locust Street. For further information, please call the church office at 304-647-4067.

‘Hope Service’ set at GV Nazarene December 22

A special worship service designed for those who find the Christmas season challenging due to grief and other emotional pain is set for Sunday, Dec. 22, at 5 p.m., at Greenbrier Valley Church of the Nazarene in Fairlea. According to Pastor Terry Simpkins, “Our hope service seeks to help those who struggle through the holiday season. It could be for the one who finds Christmas difficult due to the loss of loved ones. We believe Christmas was uniquely placed at the time of the shortest days to signify the anticipation of better and brighter days coming.” The service will feature communion (open to all), candlelight, and seasonal music. Attendees are asked to park in the upper lot of the church campus and enter through the main (west) entrance into the sanctuary. Greenbrier Valley Church of the Nazarene is located at 167 Dawkins Drive, one-half mile south of CAMC Greenbrier Valley Medical Center, just off Davis Stuart Road, in Fairlea.



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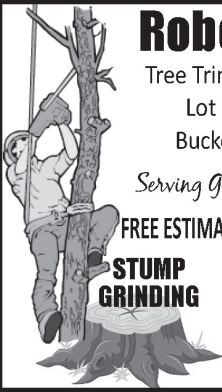
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This is a non-exempt position.
A valid driver's license is required. All resumes can be delivered in person to City Hall, mailed to City Hall at 589 Main Street East, White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986, or emailed to blafon@whitesulphurspringswv.org. Please provide a copy of your WVOP certificate with your resume.

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Dear Recycle Lady,
Christmas time brings with it lots of tissue paper. Can it be recycled with newspapers?

Christmas Wrapper
Dear Christmas Wrapper,

Tissue paper is one of the few papers that cannot be recycled at the Recycling Center. Tissue paper is considered a low-grade material and is difficult to recycle as much of it is already made from recycled paper. According to www.citizensustainable.com when paper is recycled, the fibers are shredded and chopped, making them shorter each time they are recycled. Since tissue paper is probably already made of recycled newspaper, the fibers are so short that they can't be recycled again. According to www.theroundup.org/is-tissue-paper, new tissue paper is made from virgin tree pulp, and has been described as "flushing forests down the toilet" as it takes a heavy toll on the environment. The good news is that white tissue paper that doesn't glitter on it is biodegradable. It will break down in your compost pile in a little more than four weeks and enrich your soil. Tearing the tissue paper in small pieces will speed up the process. Tissue paper that ends up in a landfill can

take as long as five years to decompose as it may be buried under all kinds of other waste. Today there is a biodegradable tissue paper available that is made from plant fibers such as bamboo, hemp, and sugar cane. It is generally softer and stronger than regular tissue paper and requires less water and energy to produce. Thus, it is more environmentally friendly. It may cost a little more, but well worth it. Reusing tissue paper and gift bags is also environmentally friendly, as well as economical and acceptable.

Dear Recycle Lady,
What about Christmas cards? Can they be recycled?

Love Christmas Cards

Dear Love Christmas Cards,

Yes, Christmas cards can be recycled, but some decisions must be made first. Any glitter, ribbons, foil, or felt must be removed as these items do not recycle. Glossy cards go in the magazine/slicks bin and plain paper cards go in the office paper bin. There are other options to recycling Christmas cards that you might consider. Two websites, <https://earthfriendlytips.com/epic-ideas-to-recycle-christmas-cards> and <https://www.shelterness.com/ideas-to-recycle->

christmas-cards have some wonderful ideas for repurposing/recycling Christmas cards. When choosing cards for next year, consider using seeded Christmas cards that have wildflower seeds embedded in 100% recycled paper. The cards can be soaked in water, torn up and planted in a thin layer of soil. A great start for summer wildflowers! These seeded cards are eco-friendly, zero waste Christmas cards and can be purchased at www.FTO.com. Other eco-friendly cards made from recycled paper are available.

Recycle Facts: Each year, approximately 700 million plastic laundry detergent jugs end up in landfills in the United States. While many of these jugs are recyclable, they often aren't - due to contamination, lack of recycling facilities, or improper disposal. Have you tried the new eco-friendly sheets of laundry detergent? Not only are they effective at cleaning, but so much easier to carry and store, and their paper-board packaging recycles. Various brands are available online and locally at Kroger.

Have questions about recycling, or interesting information about recycling? Send questions or requests to recyclelady@greenbrier-swa.com. Dear Recycle Lady is sponsored jointly by the Greenbrier Recycling Center and Greenworks Recycling.

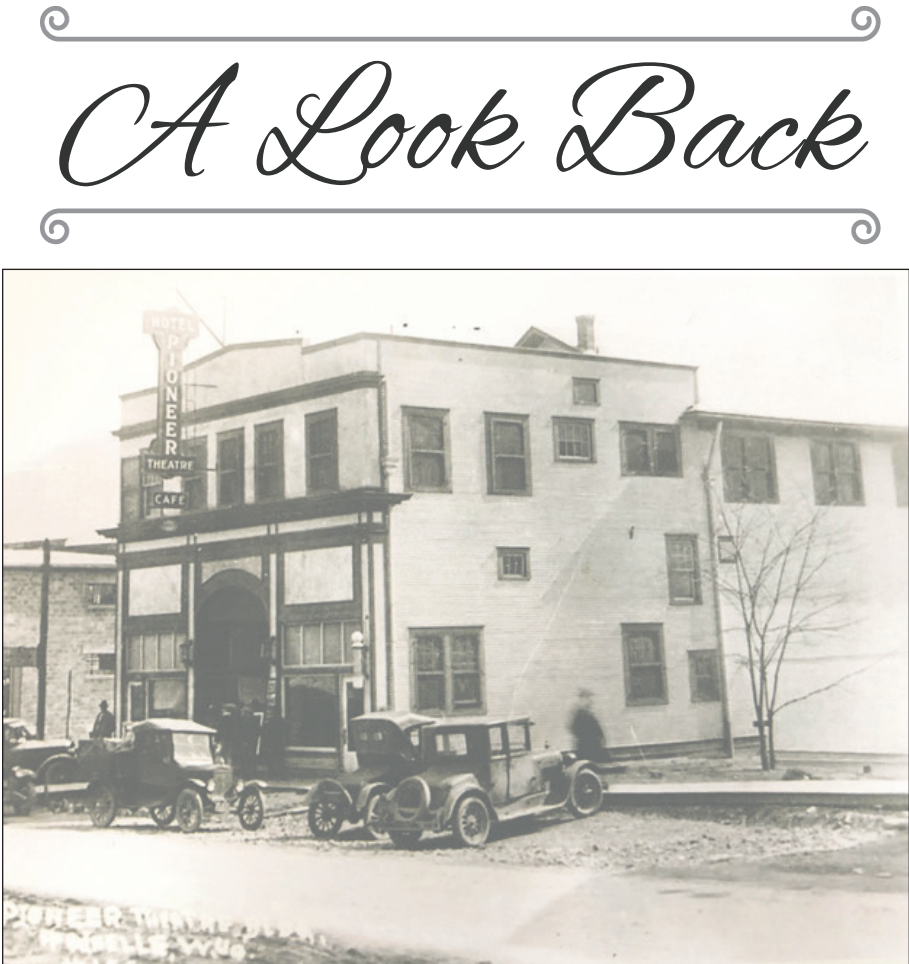


Photo: Courtesy of the Greenbrier Historical Society.

By William "Skip" Deegans

Residents of western Greenbrier County received a special Christmas holiday treat in 1924 when R. O. Raine and H.L. Gray, Meadow River Lumber Company executives, opened the Pioneer Movie Theatre in Rainelle. Built at a cost of \$50,000 (about \$900,000 in today's dollars), the 500-seat theatre had the most modern projection equipment and a Gardner screen that eliminated eye-strain and glare. The theatre was advertised as "Southern West Virginia's Finest." In addition to a theatre, the building included a hotel "of very elaborate appointments" on the upper floor, a cafe, and barber shop.

The theatre opened on Christmas Day with three showings of the silent film, The Covered Wagon, a western film that was

described by the New York Tribune as the "first real American epic of the screen." Produced by James Cruze, it was filmed on location in Nevada, Utah, California, and Arizona and, at a budget of \$750,000, was the most expensive film to date. The film had a cast of 3,000, including 1,000 Native Americans from five tribes in Wyoming and Arizona. Wagons were borrowed from homesteaders, and 150 steers were secured and trained to be attached to yokes. One-thousand horses, 200 mules, 100 cow ponies, and 500

buffalo were used in the film. The whole studio crew and cast were camped in tents for three months, 80 miles from the nearest railroad. Temperatures ranged from 90s during the day to freezing at night.

Based on a novel by Emerson Hough and described when it opened by the New York Commercial newspaper as "American's greatest motion picture," the film is available on some streaming services.

Sources: *The West Virginia News*, *The Silent Film Still Archive*, *Brigham Young University*.

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Swap 2. Arise;
3. Creamy; 4. Cavort

Today's Word

EMPTY

3	4	9	1	5	7	2	8	6
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8	1	4	6	7	3	5	9	2
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Answers														
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ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

Brewing Company, Maxwellton, 9 a.m.

Christmas at the Fair
Drive Thru, State Fair of
WV, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 22

W V, 5.50-8.50 p.m.

tion should be submitted two weeks in advance.

Super Crossword				TEEPEES
ACROSS				
1 The United States' landmass, with "the"	16 Pie — mode	30 Inherent hanging-down position?	6 Indian dish	83 Festivity
9 Rafter's challenge	49 Abbr. on a road map	36 SeaWorld whale, once	7 Height: Prefix	84 Pigeon perch
15 Shul scroll	50 With 44-Down, decay of building timbers	100 Fake identity	8 The whole —	45 High degree
20 Another similar thing	51 Colon part	101 Fuels (up)	9 King, in Caen	47 Falsification
21 Barack and Michelle	52 Communist Joseph	102 "It won't hurt to snoop a little!"?	10 Belly muscles	48 Cookout pest
22 Give the slip	55 Egyptian god of the dead	107 Body of eau	11 Jean — (perfume brand)	52 BBQ rod
23 Like babies who throw tantrums when you try to put diapers on them?	57 Declaration while pointing at a group of workers on strike?	108 Kind of acid in vinegar	12 Windows ad catchphrase	53 Mosaic piece
25 News outlets	62 Scent sensor	109 Debt note	13 Language of Copenhagen, to locals	54 On the go
26 RBI or ERA	63 George at Gettysburg	110 Architect Saarinen	14 New jet in '68	56 Withdraw
27 Film lead-in to "Cop"	64 Airy melody	112 "Slung" food	15 Worked as an office sub	57 — Aviv
28 Photo —	65 Statement when you're nearly ready to complete a collage?	116 St. — (Caribbean getaway)	16 Carry too far	58 Deli meat
29 More nimble	72 The "A" of "A-Rod"	117 Hassle of tracking down a missing retirement payment?	17 Howard Stern's area	59 Foofaraw
30 Trellis climber	73 Depart	121 Vintage song	18 "Bye, Brigitte"	60 Model S car
32 Having a sore mouth from working long hours at a kissing booth?	74 Air out	122 Stress	19 Bodily pump	61 Otherwise
36 Joint a sock often covers	77 Mesmerizing horse movement?	123 Spiritual self	24 Conductor Georg	63 Long skirt
39 Chipped in, in poker	83 Limb-bending muscle	124 Foundations	29 "Every seat sold" abbr.	66 Balm plant
40 Beckett title character	85 Is theatrical	125 Peanut butter cup brand	31 "La Traviata" composer	67 Meshes
41 Intense fire used as an energy source?	86 Pod item	126 Bread browners	33 Spy novelist Deighton	68 A fifth of fifty
	87 Color grade		34 Shareable PC file	69 D.C. donor
	88 Actress Gasteyer		35 Vainglory	70 Abbr. on a road map
	89 Tangle of hair		36 Chef's tie-on	71 Dallasites or Houstonians
			37 "Untrue!"	75 — word (single-occasion coinage)
			38 Maryland congressman — Mfume	76 Plate holders
			39 Even a bit of	77 Skirt edge
			42 Taxing gp.	78 Diva Sumac
			43 Mag bigwigs	79 Broken bits of ceramic material
				80 Tax doc. pro
				81 House animal
				82 Novelist Santha Rama —
				83 Festivity
				84 Pigeon perch
				87 Males
				90 Rapa — (Easter Island)
				91 Solar beam
				92 Frazier foe
				93 Sheet fabric
				94 Website visit unit
				95 Pilot Amelia
				97 Actress McDaniell of "Gone With the Wind"
				98 Comes up
				99 Nero's 2,100
				102 Bigwig
				103 Florida city
				104 "Uncle!" crier, perhaps
				105 Explorer — de León
				106 Stratagems
				107 Disney film of 2016
				111 Nevada city
				113 Highest point
				114 — -Pei
				115 Mama birds
				117 Golf average
				118 Ending for opal
				119 Extra NBA periods
				120 — Plaines

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Pillow is larger. 2. Picture on wall is moved.
3. Mouth is different. 4. Necklace is added. 5. Apron is different.
6. Wristwatch is added.

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PUZZLE ANSWERS PAGE 7

ENTERTAINMENT

Greenbrier Valley Brewing Company to release new brew in collaboration with WV State Parks

On Saturday, Dec. 14, Greenbrier Valley Brewing Company will be releasing a new beer in collaboration with West

Virginia State Parks and Smooth Ambler Spirits.

3 Rails Trail Barrel Aged Brown Ale will be released simultaneously

at Pipestem State Park and the GVBC Taproom at 2 p.m. This beer will be featured at WV State Parks throughout winter

on draft. This traditional brown recipe is curated by GVBC Head Brewer Dave Barron and brewed on their small batch system, and was aged for two months post fermentation in a Smooth Ambler Barrel selected by WV State Park Employees. On Dec. 14, GVBC will have Kitchen 304 on site for the taproom release at 2 p.m., and live music from the Goodson Boys from 5 to 9 p.m.

The event at Pipestem State Park will be held at The McKeever Lodge from 2 to 4 p.m.



The Magic Flute to be aired at GVT

The Met made history in December 2006 when in presented its first Live in HD transmission to cinemas worldwide: the abridged English-language version of Mozart’s The Magic Flute. Julie Taymor’s whimsical production features a winning ensemble, including tenor Matthew Polenzani, baritone Nathan Gunn, and bass Rene Pape. The opera returns to select movie theaters for a special presentation this holiday season.

The Greenbrier Valley Theatre (GVT) will present Mozart’s The Magic Flute on Dec. 15 transmitted live from the Met stage in New York City. The performance begins at 2 p.m.

The opera is the perfect performance to introduce younger audiences to the theatre. With dazzling puppets and a colorful setting, The Magic Flute is a seasonal sensation for family audiences.



The Met: Live in HD will perform The Magic Flute on Dec. 15. (Photo: Ken Howard / Met Opera)

Fish and Wildlife Service proposes Endangered Species Act Protection for Monarch Butterfly; urges increased public engagement to help save the species

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing protection for one of the nation’s most beloved species - the monarch butterfly - and is encouraging the public to be part of its recovery. The Service is seeking public input on a proposal to list the species as threatened with species-specific protections and flexibilities to encourage conservation under section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Public comments will be accepted on the proposal until Mar. 12, 2025. The Service will then evaluate the comments and any additional information on the species and determine whether to list the monarch butterfly.

“The iconic monarch butterfly is cherished across North America, captivating children and adults throughout its fascinating lifecycle. Despite its fragility, it is remarkably resilient, like many things in nature when we just give them a chance,” said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Martha Williams. “Science shows that the monarch needs that chance, and this proposed listing invites and builds on unprecedented public participation in shaping monarch conservation efforts. Providing monarchs with enough milkweed and nectar plants, even in small areas, can help put them on the road to recovery. Working together, we can help make this extraordinary species a legacy for our children and generations to come.”

For more than 50 years, the ESA has been an effective catalyst for on-the-ground collaborative conservation, promoting the recovery of wildlife and conserving the habitats upon which they depend. This proposed rule will

help build on and enhance monarch conservation efforts while balancing activities in support of economic growth.

With its notable orange and black markings, the monarch butterfly is one of the most recognizable insects in the world. In North America, monarchs are grouped into two long-distance migratory populations. The eastern migratory population is the largest and overwinters in the mountains of central Mexico. The western migratory population primarily overwinters in coastal California. In the 1980s, over 4.5 million western monarchs flocked to overwintering grounds in coastal California. In the mid-1990s, an estimated 380 million eastern monarchs made the long-distance journey to overwintering grounds in Mexico, completing one of the longest insect migrations in the world.

Today, the eastern migratory population is estimated to have declined by approximately 80%. The western migratory population has declined by more than 95% since the 1980s, putting the western populations at greater than 99% chance of extinction by 2080. During this same period, the probability of extinction for eastern monarchs ranges from 56 to 74%, according to the Service’s most recent species status assessment.

Threats to monarchs include loss and degradation of breeding, migratory and overwintering habitat; exposure to insecticides; and the effects of climate change. Although many people have already helped conserve the butterfly, additional habitat and protections are needed to ensure the species is conserved for future generations.

To assist with monarch conservation efforts, the Service is also proposing critical habitat for the species at a portion of its overwintering sites in coastal California. Overwintering habitat provides an essential resting place for monarchs during the cold winter months and helps them prepare for breeding in the early spring. In total, the Service is proposing 4,395 acres of critical habitat for the western migratory monarch population across Alameda, Marin, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz and Ventura counties in California. A critical habitat designation imposes no requirements on state or private land unless the action involves federal funding, permits or approvals.

The Service collaborates closely with Tribes, federal and state agencies, academic institutions and non-government organizations to carry out conservation efforts for the monarch butterfly. Many partners across the monarch’s range are involved in surveys, monitoring and habitat improvements. Much of this work takes place on private lands with the support of local landowners.

The proposal to list the monarch butterfly, and designate critical habitat, will publish in the Federal Register on Dec. 12, 2024. A 90-day comment period will open on Dec. 12, 2024, and will close on Mar. 12, 2025. Information about how to submit comments can be found on regulations.gov by searching for docket number FWS-R3-ES-2024-0137. This docket also includes information about how to attend two virtual public information meetings, and associated public hearings, about this listing

proposal.

Everyone can play a role in saving the monarch butterfly. Because of the species’ general habitat use and wide distribution, all sectors of society have an opportunity to participate in a broad range of conservation efforts throughout the butterfly’s range. For more information about the monarch listing proposal, and how to help conserve monarch butterflies, please visit: <https://www.fws.gov/monarch>.



LEGAL

PUBLIC ONLINE AUCTION
SecureStore - 1367 Maplewood Ave., Ronceverte, WV 24970, has a possessory lien on all of the goods stored in unit 381. The auction will end on December 19, 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 December 19, 2024. Pictures of the unit can be inspected online. Cash payments only. For more details visit www.lockerfox.com/storage-auctions/us/

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 unit(s) 268, 404. The auction will end on December 19, 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 December 19, 2024. Pictures of the units can be inspected online. Cash payments only. For more details visit www.lockerfox.com/storage-auctions/us/

LEGAL

POSITION AVAILABLE
The Pocahontas County Commission is accepting applications for the following part-time and full-time positions for Pocahontas County Ambulance:
• WV Certified EMTs
• WV Certified Medics
Please contact Commissioner John Rebinski at 304-456-3244 or the Pocahontas County Clerk’s Office at 304-799-4549 for an application. The deadline to receive applications will be December 31, 2024.
EOE

LEGAL

On November 26, 2024, a duly noticed public hearing was conducted by the County Commission of Greenbrier County, West Virginia (the “Commission”) on Petitions for Demolition Orders filed by the Building Code Official of Greenbrier County, West Virginia with regard to previously condemned structures on the following properties:
316 and/or 751 Riverside Drive, Rainell, WV (Parcel ID: 11-47R-26), 502 and/or 366 Tenth Street, Rainelle, WV (Parcel ID: 11-54P-66), 1601 and/or 133 Riverside Drive, Rainelle, WV (Parcel ID: 11-54C-48), 164 Old Pike Road, Smoot, WV (Parcel ID: 11-82-12), 131 Harper Road, Lewisburg, WV (Parcel ID: 9-14-45), 137 Coalfield Trail, Charmco, WV (Parcel ID: 11-47H-74), 3380 and/or 3378 Coalfield Trail, Leslie, WV (Parcel ID: 11-31K-20), 3392 Coalfield Trail, Leslie, WV (Parcel ID: 11-31K-21), 1652 and/or 5150 Midland Trail, West, Charmco, WV (Parcel ID: 11-47H-147), 11525 and/or 15053 Midland Trail, West, Crawley, WV (Parcel ID: 11-77-62), 3482 Coalfield Trail, Leslie, WV (Parcel ID: 11-31F-97), 3742 Anthony Road, Frankford, WV (Parcel ID: 7-20C-7).
Upon conduct of the public hearings and a review of the file in each matter, the Commission determined that the condition of the condemned structures located on each of the properties poses a hazard to public health and safety, and therefore, in accordance with W.Va. Code §7-1-3kk issued a Demolition Order for each of the properties, a copy of which will be posted on the property, and which may be requested via email: Mary.Ingles@Greenbriercounty.net or reviewed in person at the Greenbrier County Courthouse, 912 Court Street N, Lewisburg, WV.

LEGAL

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA CHARLESTON

CASE NO. 24-0854-E-42T
APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY and WHEELING POWER COMPANY
Rule 42T tariff filing to increase rates and charges.
PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGE IN RATES WITH PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATES

Notice is hereby given that Appalachian Power Company and Wheeling Power Company (the Companies), public utilities, have filed with the Public Service Commission of West Virginia a tariff containing increased rates, tolls and charges for furnishing electric service to approximately 460,921 customers in their service territories in the counties of Boone, Brooke, Cabell, Clay, Fayette, Greenbrier, Jackson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monroe, Nicholas, Ohio, Putnam, Raleigh, Roane, Summers, Wayne, Wetzel, and Wyoming. This filing is a replacement of Case No. 24-0669-E-42T that was dismissed by the Commission on September 18, 2024. The rates, tolls, and charges proposed in this filing are in lieu of, and NOT in addition to, those proposed in the dismissed Case No. 24-0669-E-42T. The proposed increased rates and charges will become effective December 1, 2024, unless otherwise ordered by the Public Service Commission and will produce approximately \$250,493,835 annually in additional revenue, an increase of 14.12 percent. The average monthly bill for the various classes of customers will be changed as follows:

	(\$) INCREASE	(%) INCREASE
Residential	\$27.15	16.16%
Commercial	\$57.09	14.04%
Industrial	\$32,385	11.63%
Resale	N/A	N/A
Other	\$1.33	12.01%

A residential customer using 1,000 kWh would experience a monthly increase over current rates of \$23.74 or 13.54%.
Resale customers of Appalachian Power Company include Old Dominion Electric Cooperative, City of Radford, Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative, City of Salem, Kingsport Power Company, Black Diamond Power Company and Virginia Tech Electric. Resale rates are subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and are not affected by this West Virginia jurisdictional rate filing. The increases shown are based on the averages of 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. Any increase in rates and charges will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Public Service Commission. If a hearing is scheduled, notice will be given of the time and place of hearing.
Anyone desiring to intervene should file a written petition to intervene prior to January 31, 2025. Failure to timely intervene can affect your right to participate in the proceedings. Requests to intervene must comply with the Commission’s rules on intervention. Anyone desiring to protest should file a written or electronic protest at any time prior to the start of the evidentiary hearing. Customers may also make verbal protest at a public comment hearing scheduled in this case. Notice of the evidentiary hearing and public comment hearing dates and locations will appear in future newspaper publications. All protests or requests to intervene should briefly state the reason for the protest or intervention. All protests and interventions should be addressed to:
The Executive Secretary,
Public Service Commission of West Virginia
P.O. Box 812
Charleston, West Virginia 25323
A complete copy of the tariff, as well as a representative of the Companies to provide any information requested concerning it, is available to all customers, prospective customers, or their agents at the following office of the Companies: 200 Association Drive, Charleston, WV 25311. A copy of the tariff is also available to all customers, prospective customers, or their agents on the website of the Companies www.appalachian-power.com/account/bills/rates/APCORatesTariffsWV.aspx.
Any customer wishing to receive a reduced-size copy of the tariff can telephone toll-free 800-982-4237, request such a copy and provide the necessary mailing information, and a copy will be mailed to the customer. A copy of the tariff is also available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Secretary of the Public Service Commission at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia.
APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY and WHEELING POWER COMPANY



BUSINESS



WV Secretary of State offers update on federal reporting requirement for beneficial ownership information from business owners

A new federal law took effect in 2024 that requires many new and existing businesses to report their ownership information to the federal government.

As mandated by the Corporate Transparency Act passed by Congress, businesses registered prior to Jan. 1, 2024, have until Jan. 1, 2025, to file a Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) Report with the U.S. Department of Treasury’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN).

The federal BOI Report is designed to increase transparency in company ownership by identifying the individuals who ultimately control or benefit from

a business. The federal government believes these filings help combat money laundering, fraud, and other illicit activities by making it harder to hide behind complex ownership structures. BOI Reports are not public information and are only accessible to authorized agencies for purposes such as investigating potential criminal activity related to business ownership.

As of Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024, a federal court in Texas issued an amended injunction preventing FinCEN from enforcing its beneficial ownership information reporting requirements nationwide. FinCEN has since appealed the injunction

and issued the following guidance to businesses in response:

“In light of a recent federal court order, reporting companies are not currently required to file beneficial ownership information with FinCEN and are not subject to liability if they fail to do so while the order remains in force. However, reporting companies may continue to voluntarily submit beneficial ownership information reports.”

Currently, 23 exemptions exist for specific business structures. In the event that the injunction is lifted, businesses not falling under one of these exemptions must file by the deadline or face federal penalties of up to \$500 per day.

While the WV Secretary of State’s Office has no role in collecting Beneficial Ownership Information or enforcing penalties prescribed by federal law, the Office has sent several notices to business

owners to ensure they are aware of this new requirement.

“Even though our Office has no authority in this process, we understand and appreciate that many of our registered businesses are impacted by the new federal law,” said Sarah Carey, Business Director for the WV Secretary of State’s Office. “That is why we are repeatedly communicating with West Virginia businesses, informing them of this critical deadline. It is important for businesses to know that all questions regarding reporting and compliance should be directed to FinCEN.

Filing a Beneficial Ownership Information Report is free and will only be required once unless ownership information needs corrected or updated in the future. For more information on how to file voluntarily, visit [FinCEN.gov/boi](https://www.fincen.gov/boi).

Waymaker’s Meadows Farm winners of Pitch Southern West Virginia Business Idea Competition

Farm-to-Table Business Expansion Underway

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 amount 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 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 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 biggest 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.



Derek and Michelle Miller, owners of Waymaker’s Meadows Farm in Monroe County, are winners of the recent 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. (Photo courtesy of WV Hive)

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 and YouTube.

WV Hive is the entrepreneurship program of the New River Gorge Regional Development Authority. Its 13-county service area includes Raleigh, Fayette, Summers, Nicholas, Webster, Greenbrier, Pocahontas, Monroe, Mercer, McDowell, Wyoming, Logan, and Mingo counties. More information about the WV Hive can be found at <https://wvhive.com/>

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Join Us for Our
COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS Cantata

Saturday, December 21 • 8:30 PM
in the chapel of The Greenbrier
Shuttle Service Provided to and from the Depot

Sunday, December 22 • 7:30 PM
at First Baptist Fairlea
Nursery provided for children three and under at the church performance only.

SCHOOL

This event was made possible thanks to numerous Partners in Education.

WSS Elementary students participate in Santa’s Workshop

All students at White Sulphur Springs Elementary will experience the “gift of giving” this holiday season thanks to Santa’s Workshop organized by WSSE PTO. This week, every student will get to choose gifts for four loved ones at no cost to them. This event was made possible by 20 Partners in Education who graciously donated all the gifts, FreeUp Storage for allowing us to use and decorate two storage units, and to our volunteers who have spent weeks planning and coordinating this special opportunity.

The following Partners in Education who made this event possible: Beards & Bangs, Dr. Kirk, Detail Freakz, Encore Dance, Dorothy Draper & Co., First Citizens Bank, FreeUp Storage, Gillespie’s, Lynch’s Construction, Master’s Towing and Recovery, Mountain Steer, Napa Auto Parts, People’s Bank, Pyramid Counseling, The Greenbrier, and The Sporting Club.

Students shopped for four gifts at the event.

Christine Stump

from front page

The Ridges Project, another grant-funded project, is awaiting an attorney to complete his work, along with a federal report, before it can continue. The stormwater project is “moving forward,” and Glover said they will be appointing someone to be in charge of obtaining the roughly 60 right-of-way permits that must be obtained before the project can get started in the early part of 2025. The wastewater chemical building will go out to bid in January 2025.

Commissioner Lockhart said that there are discussions for “a small increase” to the police fee, which has not been increased since 2012. “We have not made any decision,” he noted. “We’re still examining what the expenses are and the total revenue.” Lockhart later explained that the police budget is \$733,000 to run the department with eight full-time officers. This includes police vehicles, safety equipment, insurance, salaries, and more. He reports that the police fee built onto the water bill expects to raise \$92,000.

Councilmember Audrey Van Buren reports that Falcon Football has ended for the year, and noted that City maintenance crews have done a great job with maintenance for the sports seasons.

Councilmember G.P. Parker said that his son asked why the city doesn’t have a statue recognizing Katherine Coleman Johnson, and he floated the idea of starting this project. “I could start [that conversation] and see if there is interest,” he said. Mayor Glover agreed.

In other news, Glover introduced Christine Stump as the new City Attorney.

Councilmember Thomas Taylor noted that the Mayor can appoint the attorney, and the council must then approve the hire, citing State Code. Thomas also said that an advisory opinion from the Ethics Commission cites the same sentiments. Council met in executive session to discuss this item before reconvening in regular session and approving her appointment as City Attorney.

In other news, Council approved \$300 to go toward GEHS Project Graduation 2025, a payment for the Route 60 East Sewer project for \$21,103.01, and an estimate for parts totaling \$1,057.30 and heavy-duty tires for \$1,193.88 for the city’s Bobcat Skid Steer totaling \$2,251.18. Council also approved a request from the Fire Department for a plaque for a Berkeley County firefighter Jeremy Taylor, who passed away recently and helped the City of White Sulphur following the 2016 floods. The council approved the request. A change request was for roughly \$21,103.01 was also approved for additional services by E.L. Robinson Engineering, and council amended the original motion to include this amount.

Municipal elections will be held on Tuesday, June 10. Positions for Mayor, Recorder, and five councilpersons will be on the ballot. Candidates must be at least 18 years of age, be a resident of the municipality, and not be under conviction of a felony or other disqualification. The candidate filing period is Jan. 13, 2025 through Jan. 25, 2025. Contact White Sulphur Springs City Hall for more information.

Kram the Kennel

from front page

use collars and clip-on leashes. Every donation helps the Humane Society continue its mission to #SaveThemAll.

“It is a great opportunity during the holiday season for people to give back locally. A lot of the items that are donated are not only used in our facility but are pushed back into the community as well” said Kirsten Cole, Community Liaison at the GHS. All animals get a consistent diet at the GHS therefore all food donated is bagged up for the local food pantries in Greenbrier County.

Two local businesses are partnering with the GHS as drop off locations. Jim’s Drive In and The Asylum. At Jim’s Drive In if you bring 1 to 5 items you will receive a free cone, 6 to 10 items you will receive a free milkshake, 11 items or more you will receive a Jim’s hotdog meal. At The Asylum for every item you bring you receive one entry into a drawing to win a \$100 gift card.

“It is really awesome to have local businesses participate in urging our community to come out and donate to GHS. Come out and help us Kram the Kennel this holiday season.”

You can also drop off your donations at the Greenbrier Humane Society from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. If you cannot make it during those hours, you can leave your items on the front porch. And while you’re there, why not meet some of the adorable cats and dogs waiting for homes? Adopting a furry friend is the ultimate holiday gift - for them and for you.

Just this week, GHS has again hit full capacity, taking in 17 dogs in just one day. Please reach out to their adoption specialist at 304-645-4775 if you are interested in adopting or fostering this holiday season!

County Commission approves funds for numerous projects

By Chelsea Blair

The regular County Commission meeting on Dec. 10 began with the approval of \$132,091.90 in Arts and Recreation transfers from savings to checking. \$114,957 was approved for the Phase III of the Meadow River Trail, which is an AML grant reimbursement; \$5,734.90 for the 2024-25 grant for the Greenbrier Aquatic Center to cover bleachers, first aid gear, and lifeguard tubes; and \$11,400 to the Alderson 4th of July for 2024-25 grant for festival, entertainment, restaurants and security.

The first item of new business on the agenda was the consideration of a resolution designating the Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation (GVEDC) as the lead economic development organization for Greenbrier County. Amy Trusdale, representing the GVEDC, presented the resolution. She explained that this application is submitted annually to the West Virginia Economic Development Office to request a matching grant for operational funding. A resolution from the commission naming the GVEDC as the lead economic development authority for the county is required for the submission of this application. The assessment is based on the most recent census, conducted in 2020, which recorded a population of 32,977 individuals, resulting in a total assessment of \$41,221.25. These funds support the operations of the GVEDC. The resolution was approved unanimously, with the funds already accounted for in the current budget.

Next, the commission considered a resolution for the purchase of a conservation easement on property offered by Remington and Mary Perkins. The property, consisting of 407.29 acres in the Frankford

district, is to be purchased by the Greenbrier County Farmland Protection Program (FPP) for \$774,000. Amy Maloney of the FPP presented the resolution, reminding the commissioners that the purpose of the FPP is to protect land, primarily agricultural soil, and prevent subdivision. Currently, 3,325 acres are protected through the program. The FPP will contribute \$387,000, with the USDA NRCS matching this amount with an additional \$387,000. The resolution was approved unanimously.

The commission then considered Resolution #7 for the Greenbrier County PSD #2 Waterline Extension Project. A request for \$64,912.93 was made to cover project expenses. The city had already approved the draw request, and the funds will be deducted from the American Rescue Plan funds allocated to this project. The commission also reviewed Draw Request #6 for the Greenbrier County GigReady Project, which included the payment of invoices for planning and technical services totaling \$257,052. This amount includes \$137,802 to CityNet, and two payments to Thompson and Litton, one for \$81,000 and the other for \$38,250. These funds, drawn from the TIF fund, were approved unanimously.

Three items related to the White Sulphur Springs TIF project were next on the agenda. The first was the consideration of Resolution #8 for the Route 60 East Sewer Project. This resolution authorized payments of \$258,870.93 to Vicro Contracting for video contracting reimbursement and \$21,103.01 to E.L. Robinson for engineering services to date. The resolution was approved unanimously. Members of Region 4 reported that the project is progressing well, with hopes to complete it by the end of March 2025, weather permitting.

The next item was the consideration of Change Order #2 for the Route 60 East Sewer Project. This change order involves the construction of approximately 2,300 linear feet (half a mile) of additional sewer line following an agreement with the Department of Highways. Due to discrepancies in the amounts presented, the change order was approved, pending the revision of paperwork to align with the expenditure schedule.

The final item concerning the White Sulphur Springs TIF project was an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Disinfection System Improvement Project. Region 4 reported that they are ready to advertise the project, as the city has reviewed the plans, and all necessary permits have been obtained. A pre-bidding meeting will be held on Jan. 7, and bids will be opened

on Jan. 21, 2025.

The next item of business was the consideration to award the bid for the new EPDM roof project at the Greenbrier County Home Confinement building, located at 673 Edgar Avenue, Ronceverte (bids opened Nov. 26). Richard Wood, Construction Consultant, reported that two bids were received, one from H&H Developers and another from Adam Whanger Contracting. Wood explained that H&H Developers did not submit several required documents, did not meet the 20-year warranty requirement, and required a 50 percent deposit upfront. As a result, he did not recommend this bid. Adam Whanger Contracting, on the other hand, provided all the required documentation, specified a 20-year manufacturer warranty, a two-year labor warranty, and confirmed the use

of the specified materials. The commission approved the bid from Adam Whanger Contracting, as recommended by Wood.

Before adjourning, the commissioners recognized Patrick Via for his service as Greenbrier County Prosecuting Attorney, as he prepares to begin his new role as a judge in 2025. Via's tenure with the county began in January 2009. Commissioners Tammy Shifflett-Tincher, Richie Holliday, and Lowell Rose expressed their gratitude for his professionalism, dedication, and friendship. Tincher noted that while he would be missed as Prosecuting Attorney, she was excited to continue working with him in his new judicial capacity.

Due to the holidays, the next Greenbrier County Commission meeting will be held on Dec. 18 at 12 noon.

Ronceverte City Council holds December meeting

By Dakota Baker

Ronceverte City Council held their monthly meeting on Monday night at City Hall. Council members in attendance were Mark Trent, Gail White, Tanya Hazelwood, and Leah Smith. Smith led the meeting as Mayor Deena Pack was under the weather and unable to attend.

During this meeting council reviewed and approved invoices related to Resolution # 6 - resolution of the City of Ronceverte, invoices related to the design and construction of the water upgrade phase number four project and authorization payment thereof.

Kara Dense, president and CEO of the Greenbrier County Convention and Visitors Bureau also gave a presentation. Their mission is to positively impact the area's economy by marketing the region as a premier tourist destination. During her presentation, Dense reported West Virginia had 75 million visitors, which is the most on record the state has ever been able to track, as well as \$6.3 billion in direct spending in the state, 60,000 tourism jobs, \$2.1 billion in labor, and \$1 billion in state and local taxes generated, which has all been record numbers for the state of West Virginia. Greenbrier County alone brought in \$39.4 million

in direct spending, 2,908 direct jobs, \$123 million in employment earnings, and \$41.73 million in state and local taxes. If it weren't for tourism it would cost each household in Greenbrier County an additional \$2834 just to keep services where they are currently. She mentioned some exciting events are in the near future such as the Wild Trails Festival and the 100th West Virginia State Fair to name a couple.

In other news, Jamie Baker with Region 4 Planning & Development will be working on an application for funding to demolish the old elementary school, the application is due by Jan. 31. They opened the floor to comment and questions from community members, but none were presented. Additionally, there was some discussion on off leash dogs in city limits and the potential to find a location to house any dogs found off-leash and penalize the owner per day until the dog is picked up in an attempt to prevent any incidents and prioritize public safety. This was not voted on by council as of yet.

Lastly, Pam Mentz mentions they are applying for some more grants to fix more of the sidewalks and lights in town. Next city council meeting will be held on Jan. 6 at 7 p.m.

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