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Carnegie Classics Series
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\$1.00

Mountain Messenger

January 11, 2025

Vol. XLII, No. 2

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



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Donations Big and Small, Together Making Change

Penny Pitch raises \$54,945 for local families

"Success is best when it's shared." —Howard Schultz
As we close down Penny Pitch for the season, we want to thank everyone who shared in making this effort successful.

Thanks to our longtime partners who conducted interviews and delivered to the families - the Jaycees, the Lewisburg Rotary, the White Sulphur Rotary, the Western Greenbrier Rotary, and the Smoot Ruritan Club. Thanks also to the numerous individuals who volunteered to help.

Thank you to the employees at Wal-Mart who worked hard to make sure that the families were able to use their awards appropriately so the children had a better Christmas.

Thank you to Cornerstone IGA in Fairlea for preparing all the food boxes and to the Spartan football team and coaches who helped us load and dispense them.

Thank you to Sarah Richardson and Mike Showell and the staff of the Mountain Messenger for donating space in the newspaper to make the applications and information available as well as recognizing our donors weekly.

And thank you to all of our donors! We have all shared in making a difference for many families in our area.

- 100.00 In honor of Clayton & Pat Tyree on 35th Anniversary and in honor of Clayton's 103rd birthday.
 - 5,000.00 In memory of Lawson & Jeanne Hamilton & George & Helen Aide
 - 500.00 In memory of Jim & Mildred Rutledge
- TOTAL: \$54,945.00

Man arrested after allegedly shooting, killing his mother

By Sarah Richardson

In the morning hours of Monday, Jan. 6, deputies with the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office responded to a 911 call for a shooting located at 894 Anderson Road in Lewisburg. Dispatchers reported that a male had called in stating that he had shot his mother "because he was angry."

Deputies arriving on the scene found Andrew Yancy Gabbert, 33, outside the residence in the front yard, where he was detained. He told officers that he had shot his mother because he was mad, as well as "the voices."

Andrew's mother, Shirley Gabbert, 72, was found deceased inside the residence from an apparent gunshot wound. The crime scene team processed the scene and located a .380 caliber handgun on a computer desk in the living room "along with large pools of blood." It was determined that the accused allegedly shot his mother and moved her body to the floor before washing up in the bathroom sink, changing clothes, and calling 911.

See "Man Arrested" Page 2

The Lewisburg Foundation named Volunteer of the Year

By Sarah Richardson

The annual announcement of the Volunteer of the Year for Lewisburg was made following the last City Council meeting of 2024. The honors were awarded to the Lewisburg Foundation, who was represented in the Shanghai Parade on Jan. 1 by Foundation President Tag Galyean and his wife Annabelle Galyean, Treasurer.

The Lewisburg Foundation is a non-profit that was founded in 1980 to help create and maintain beautification areas to attract visitors and support area businesses during the expansion of I-64.

"We collaborated with municipal government and the merchants association to identify and implement a strategy to keep downtown vibrant," states the

See "Volunteer" Page 4



Annabelle and Tag Galyean of the Lewisburg Foundation accepted the Volunteer of the Year honor of riding in the Shanghai Parade on Jan. 1.



The Post Office



Academy Park

Lewisburg author debuts new children's book, 'Jamlachia'

By RealWV staff, www.therealwv.com

On January 18, Lewisburg resident Blair Campbell will debut her first book at Love Child Toy Store from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Her children's book is called "Jamlachia: The Campbells Go Camping," and it's about a multicultural family which learns a lesson about love while taking a trip together. She envisions it as the first in a series of Jamlachia books about the convergence of Jamaican and Appalachian cultures.

Campbell will read the book at 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. In between, she will sign copies for folks who stop by Love Child, located at 933 Washington Street in downtown Lewisburg.

Ever the problem solver and bringer together of people, Momma Campbell takes you along with her loving family on a camping trip that reminds her



Author Blair Campbell will be at Love Child in downtown Lewisburg on Jan. 18 to read her new book and to sign copies.

just how precious life is. A book for kids and parents, Jamaica and Appalachia come together for a tale about love, family, and spending time together. Life is full of twists and turns and ups and downs. This story reminds you to take time and enjoy life. This book is designed to be read aloud with your child. Explore the pictures and reminisce about your own family as you take this epic trip with Momma, Poppa, Penelope, and Oliver Campbell.

Lawsuit alleges South Fork Coal violations near Cranberry Wilderness area

By Nadia Ramlagan

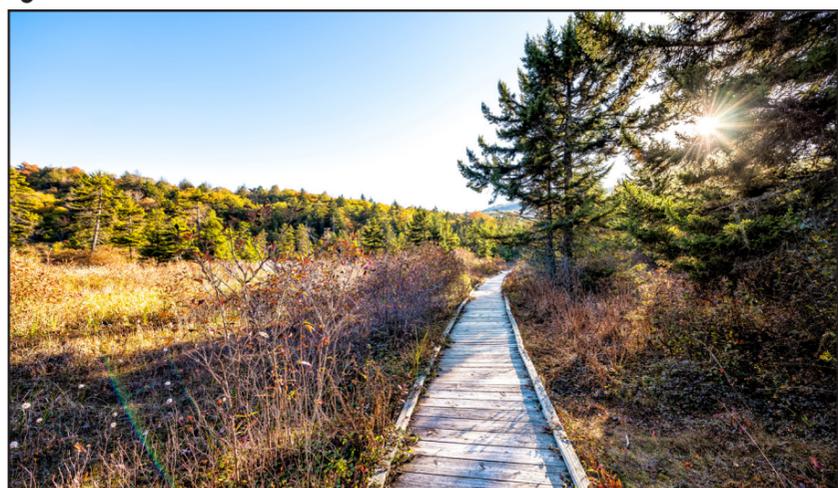
Environmental groups are suing South Fork Coal Company, alleging the company has repeatedly violated federal law in Greenbrier County.

The lawsuit said the company has continued to discharge pollutants into nearby waterways at levels exceeding legal limits. Environmental advocates said despite years of dumping pollutants, the state's environmental protection department has not taken action to stop South Fork Coal.

Andrew Young, chair of the extractive industries committee for the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, said the lawsuit is asking for an injunction to immediately stop the dumping and ensure the company properly reclaims the land.

"We noticed that South Forks' own monitoring data showed that they were often discharging pollutants like iron, manganese, in excess of their legal limits," Young pointed out. "The allegations are based largely on what the company itself is reporting."

See "Cranberry Glades" on Page 4



The Cranberry Glades, located in the Monongahela National Forest, protects the largest area of bogs or acidic wetlands in West Virginia, according to the Pocahontas County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

(Adobe Stock)

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www.mountainmessenger.com

Inside This Week

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Lewisburg Mayor Beverly White's Proclamation of Martin Luther King Jr. Week



The proclamation ceremony with Mayor Beverly White and members of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration Committee was held earlier this month. Standing: Clifford Curry (left), Dawn Roberts, Larry Davis, Kelly Kemp, Wanda Johnson, and Jie Liu. Other members of the committee who could not attend were Cindy Arbaugh, Darren Campbell, Twana Jackson, Ann Jameson, Gibbs Kinderman, Barbara Lutz, Joe Lutz, Carl Perrin, and Kayla Reed.

At a ceremony in the Lewisburg City Council Chamber, Mayor Beverly White read and signed the proclamation of Lewisburg's Martin Luther King, Jr. Week which is scheduled for the week beginning with Lewisburg's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration on Jan. 20.

Everyone pictured is lending a hand with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration which will take place on Jan. 20. It will begin with a lively 11 a.m. march

from the Greenbrier County Courthouse to the Lewisburg United Methodist Church for a free community lunch followed by a 12:30 p.m. program in the sanctuary. Before the march, Beverly White will read her Martin Luther King, Jr. Week proclamation to the people who gather at the courthouse. That will give them added inspiration for the whole event that day.

Red Cross: Help prevent shortages in 2025 by giving blood now

Donors have chance to win trip to Super Bowl LIX during National Blood Donor Month

The American Red Cross urges donors to make an appointment to give lifesaving blood in the new year to help keep the blood supply strong this winter. Type O negative blood donors and those giving platelets are especially urged to give now to keep critical blood products on the shelves for patients in need.

The start of the new year is one of the most challenging times to collect blood products as the threat of severe winter weather builds and can often lead to widespread blood drive cancellations. Additionally, an active cold and flu season may prevent people from keeping donation appointments as they rest and recover from illness. During National Blood Donor Month, the Red Cross celebrates those who generously roll up a sleeve to help save lives and urges those who are feeling well to make and keep donation appointments to help the blood supply stay on track throughout the winter.

Upcoming local blood drives include:

- Monday, Jan. 25: 12 to 6 p.m., Lewisburg United Methodist Church, 214 E. Washington Street
- Monday, Feb. 3: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., WVSOM Alumni Center, 400 Lee Street
- Tuesday, Feb. 11: 1 to 6 p.m., GV Church of the Nazarene, 167 Dawkins Drive
- Monday, Feb. 24: 12 to 6 p.m., Lewisburg United Methodist Church

See "Red Cross" Page 4

WV Department of Agriculture confirms case of avian influenza in backyard flock in Pocahontas County

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) has confirmed the presence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in a backyard flock in Pocahontas County. This marks only the second case of HPAI in domestic birds in West Virginia since the start of the global outbreak in early 2022.

The diagnosis was made following a field investigation, sample collection, and testing at WVDA's Animal Health NAHLN lab in Moorefield.

The affected premise is currently under quarantine, and the birds have been depopulated to prevent disease spread. These efforts also help to ensure the safety and integrity of the commercial food supply.

"The WVDA acted swiftly to contain the disease and remains committed to collaborating with poultry owners to prevent its spread," stated West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. "As the state's leading agricultural commodity, protecting the poultry industry is critical, and implementing emergency response plans is essential to safeguarding its future."

As part of its emergency action plan, the WVDA has notified industry partners, state health officials, and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VADACS) of its findings. The WVDA is committed to timely communication to promote heightened awareness and help mitigate the risk of virus spread.

Additionally, the WVDA will continue to follow established protocols when responding to reports of sick birds, ensuring the protection of the industry.

Avian influenza is an airborne respiratory virus that spreads easily among chickens through nasal and eye secretions, as well as manure. The virus also infects a wide variety of other birds, including wild migratory waterfowl. HPAI has been detected in various species of mammals - presumably after the animals come into contact with infected wild birds. For more information on current detections in domestic poultry, livestock, and wildlife across the U.S., please visit the U.S. Department of Agri-

culture's webpage.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the public health risk associated with avian influenza remains low. As a reminder, people should properly handle and cook all poultry and eggs.

For additional precautions against the virus, visit the CDC's Avian Influenza Guidance.

To prevent the spread of the disease, WVDA urges poultry owners to:

- Limit, monitor, and record any movement of people, vehicles, or animals on or off the farm.
- Permit only essential workers and vehicles to enter the farm.
- Avoid visiting other poultry farms or unnecessary travel off the farm.
- Disinfect equipment, vehicles, footwear, and other items in contact with flocks.
- Keep flocks away from wild or migratory birds, especially waterfowl.
- Isolate any ill animals and contact your veterinarian immediately.

Poultry owners should report unusual death loss, a drop in egg production, or any sick domestic birds to WVDA's Animal Health Division at 304-558-2214.

Man Arrested

Continued from Front Page

Andrew was taken into custody without incident, processed, and transported to Southern Regional Jail.

The Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Team responded and processed the scene. The lead investigators for the Sheriff's Office are Lt. Gary Workman and Sgt. Brandon McCormick. The investigation is ongoing at this time.

The Sheriff's office was assisted at the scene by the Lewisburg Police Department, the Lewisburg Fire Department and the Greenbrier County Emergency Ambulance Service.

PICK OF THE LITTER



JULIET
Juliet is an eight-month-old female domestic shorthair



BUSTER
Buster is a two-and-a-half year old male pit bull mix and weighs 67 pounds. He is deaf!

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.

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400 Lee Street North



Lewisburg, WV 24901

WVSOM STUDENT OSTEOPATHIC MANIPULATIVE MEDICINE CLINIC

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS DURING TWO FOUR-WEEK SESSIONS:
Jan. 15 – Feb. 5
Feb. 19 – March 12

Written referral from a health care provider (D.O., M.D., nurse practitioner or physician assistant) is required prior to making an appointment.

No open workers' compensation, disability or motor vehicle accident claims. Injuries currently or potentially involved in litigation will not be accepted.



WVSOM.edu

CALL TO SCHEDULE
304-647-6286

Briefly

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.

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.

Public Meetings

Rainelle Town Council

meetings are held every second and fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Rainelle City Hall. The public is invited to attend.

Greenbrier County Farmland Protection Board

meets on the 4th Thursday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the Greenbrier County Courthouse, 912 Court Street North, Lewisburg, WV 24901 in the County Commission Meeting Room. The public is invited to attend. Call 304-520-3221 for more information.

Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Convictions

Stelle E. Moretz, Union, driving on roadways laned for traffic, fine \$25, GP
Jason Scott Hanna, Crawley, simple possession, fine \$100, NCP

Speaker Hanshaw announces plans for upcoming 87th Legislature

House Speaker Roger Hanshaw, R-Clay, recently announced several leadership roles within the West Virginia House of Delegates and a change to the committee format for the upcoming 87th Legislature.

Hanshaw, first elected to the House in 2014, is expected to be elected House Speaker for the fifth time when the House convenes for the 87th Legislature Wednesday, Jan. 8.

"Each of the ladies and gentlemen who will come to this building to take the oath of office will do so with the confidence of the 1.8 million West Virginians who are counting on us to chart a course of leadership and progress that will improve their daily lives," Hanshaw said. "A new Legislature is an opportunity to adjust the foundation we have here to facilitate the work of the House, and we believe the lineup we've assembled will bring about new discussions, new approaches and new solutions."

Returning to the position of Majority Whip will be Delegate Marty Gearheart, R-Mercer. Delegate Matt Rohrbach, R-Cabell, will serve as Speaker Pro Tempore as well as continue to serve as Deputy Speaker, a role Delegate David Kelly, R-Tyler, will take on as well.

Delegate Pat McGeehan, R-Hancock, will serve as House Majority Leader. Several members will serve as Assistant Majority Leaders: Delegates Tom Clark, R-Webster; David Green, R-McDowell; Keith Marple, R-Harrison; Delegate-elect Dave McCormick, R-Monongalia; Erica Moore, R-Roane; Mickey Petitto, R-Harrison; and Elliott Pritt, R-Fayette.

Gearheart will be aided in his role with several Assistant Majority Whips: Delegates Jim Butler, R-Mason; Jordan Bridges, R-Logan; Eric Brooks, R-Raleigh; Dave Foggin, R-Wood; Delegate-elect Sarah Drennan, R-Putnam; and Bill Ridenour, R-Jefferson.

The Conference Chairman role will be filled by Delegate Mike Hornby, R-Berkeley, who will help facilitate majority caucus meetings and policy discussions among Republican members. Delegates John Paul Hott, R-Grant, and Doug Smith, R-Mercer, will return to their roles as Conference Vice Chairmen.

"In addition to a strong blend of new and established leadership, I'm excited to implement a new format for our committee work here in the House," Hanshaw said. "For far too long, the success rate of a legislative session has been measured by the number of bills passed, and that's just not the appropriate assessment for what should be a focus on problem-solving."

"We've seen that the low-hanging fruits, such as the elimination of the food tax and creation of an Intermediate Court of Appeals, have already been picked after 10 years of a Republican majority. What's left are the complex, complicated issues that will require a different approach to lawmaking."

The House will have six standing committees: Health and Human Resources, Energy and Public Works, Finance, Government Organization, Education and Judiciary. The Standing Committee on Finance will have four subcommittees and all other standing committees each will have three subcommittees. The committee process also will see changes.

The Speaker will refer each introduced bill to a standing committee or a subcommittee, and similar to the floor session's three-day process, a bill going through the committee process may cover three days: Introduction, with agency reviews and comments from the public on day one, markups to the bill on day two and committee votes on day three. Both the subcommittees and standing committees will follow this process.

"Not only did we want to build in specific and predictable steps with appropriate timing for the committee

Nancy L. Preston to John Preston: 3.56 acres, Lewisburg District, Map 6 Parcel 0026. Filed Dec. 11, 2024.
Raymond L. Hampton and Michelle B. Hampton to Raymond L. Hampton (joint tenant with rights of survivorship) and Robin M. Hampton: 25.00 acres less R/W, Falling Spring District, Map 67 Parcel 5. Filed Dec. 11, 2024.

Andrew H. Gwinn to Brian K. Allen: 60 acres, Blue Sulphur District, Map 36, 36 Parcel 8, 4. Filed Dec. 11, 2024.

Greenbrier Legacy Cottage Development Company II Inc. to Saratoga South LLC: unit D, White Sulphur District, Map 26 Parcel 235. Filed Dec. 11, 2024.

Kyletha W. Helper to Wesley C. O'Brien: 0.376 acres more or less, Anthony Creek District, Map 47 Parcel 0060 0003. Filed Dec. 11, 2024.

Brandon L. Bennett and Amy K. Bennett to Thistle Meadow Investments LLC: property 1 – lot 0.8 block 9 Sullivan SD no. 2, 0.375 acres, Fort Spring District, Map 9H Parcel 91. Filed Dec. 11, 2024.

Jeffrey K. Bennett to Jared W. Robertson and Erica Robertson: lot 1 OE, 2.05 acres North Henning on South side 21/2 Fence & lot 2, Frankford District, Map 15, 15 Parcel 58.2, 58.3. Filed Dec. 11, 2024.

Robert H. Bowling and Stephanie D. Bowling to Levi Masters and Brandi Masters: 0.819 acres, White Sulphur District, Map 23N Parcel 38. Filed Dec. 12, 2024.

WV Trustee Services LLC to Lakeview Loan Servicing LLC: lot 31 A East Greenbrier Avenue, from Bank of Monroe, Ronceverte District, Map 9 Parcel 0576. Filed Dec. 12, 2024.

Rudolph P. Columbo II and Beverly J. Columbo to John Bartenslager and Kelly L. Bartenslager: 1.626 acres and 20 acres, White Sulphur District, Map 25, 25 Parcel 3, 3.2. Filed Dec. 12, 2024.

Georgann H. Ruby, Elisabeth E. Ruby and Kristie W. Lipscomb to Charles D. Hoyle, Fred D. Leckie Jr., Paige L. Hoyle (trustee of Trust agreement of Paige L. Hoyle) and Stephanie S. Leckie (Trustee of Fred D. Leckie Jr. Revocable Trust): 0.379 acres, Irish Corner District, Map 5 Parcel 104. Filed Dec. 12, 2024.

process, but we also wanted to better execute our oversight role," Hanshaw said. "Not every problem is solved by enacting a new law, and we think regular discussions with Executive Branch agencies will give all of us a better understanding of the challenges, successes and resources out there in every corner of our state."

The Standing Committee on Finance will be led by Chairman Vernon Criss, R-Wood, with Delegate Clay Riley, R-Harrison, serving as Vice Chair. Its Subcommittee on Revenue will be led by Gearheart as its Chairman and Delegate Chuck Horst, R-Berkeley, as Vice Chair. Delegate Trenton Barnhart, R-Pleasants, will be Chairman of the Banking and Insurance Subcommittee and Delegate Walter Hall, R-Kanawha, will be the Vice Chair. The Investments Subcommittee will have Delegate Jarred Cannon, R-Putnam, as Chairman and Delegate-elect Ray Canterbury, R-Greenbrier, as Vice Chair. The Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman will be Hott and Roy Cooper, R-Summers, will serve as its Vice Chair.

Delegate Brandon Steele, R-Raleigh, will serve as Chairman of the Standing Committee on the Judiciary and Delegate JB Akers, R-Kanawha, will be its Vice Chair. The Courts Subcommittee will be led by Delegate Phil Mallow, R-Marion, as its Chairman and Delegate Andy Shamblyn, R-Kanawha, as Vice Chair. Delegate Buck Jennings, R-Preston, will serve as Chairman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee and Delegate Bryan Ward, R-Hardy, as its Vice Chairman. Delegate Laura Kimble, R-Harrison, will lead the Legal Services Subcommittee as its Chairman and Delegate Josh Holstein, R-Boone, will serve as its Vice Chair.

Delegate Evan Worrell, R-Cabell, will serve as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Health and Human Resources. Delegate Michael Hite, R-Berkeley, will be its Vice Chair. The Public Health Subcommittee will be led by Delegate Scot Heckert, R-Wood, and Vice Chairman Geno Chiarelli, R-Monongalia. Delegate Adam Burkhammer, R-Lewis, will be Chairman of the Human

See "87th Legislature" __Page 4

Judge Lorensen named Chief Judge of Intermediate Court of Appeals for 2025

The Intermediate Court of Appeals of West Virginia recently announced Judge Charles Lorensen has been selected to serve as the Court's chief judge during 2025.

The Intermediate Court of Appeals is a three-judge appellate court created by the West Virginia Appellate Reorganization Act of 2021 (Senate Bill 275). It officially opened July 1, 2022. The three judges currently serving on the Court are Chief Judge Lorensen, Judge Dan Greear and Judge Ryan White.

The Court's jurisdiction includes appeals of final orders or judgments in civil, family court, workers' compensation, administrative and guardianship/conservatorship cases.

The Chief Judge is chosen by members of the Court and serves a one-year term. In addition to Chief Judge Lorensen's designation for 2025, the judges have also designated Judge Greear to serve as chief judge in 2026, with Judge White serving as chief judge in 2027.

More information about the Intermediate Court of Appeals, the judges and its caseload is available here: <https://www.courtsww.gov/appellate-courts/intermediate-court-of-appeals/about-the-court>.

For the Record

Deeds

Mary A. Norris and Daniel J. Britten to Mark H. Waddell and Rebecca S. Waddell: 25,119 square feet, Lewisburg District, Map 25 Parcel 119. Filed Dec. 13, 2024.
Debra R. Allen to Katherine A. Hutspiller: 54.00 acres, Blue Sulphur Turnpike, south of SLS 33 & 33/2, Fort Spring District, Map 5 Parcel 0012. Filed Dec. 13, 2024.

Arminta I. Morgan (by AIF Stephen G. Morgan) to Stephen G. Morgan, Barry M. Morgan, and Bryan C. Morgan: 18.104 acres, resvy 3.75 acres, 5.90 acres, Irish Corner District, Map 10, 10 Parcel 121, 169, 10/170. Filed Dec. 13, 2024.

Catherine Bolt to Lawrence J. Griffith and Doris F. Griffith: 5.85 acres more or less, Blue Sulphur District, Map 37 Parcel 015. Filed Dec. 13, 2024.

Alicia D. Luckton to Peggy S. Williams and Pamela R. Witt: 23,777 square feet, Lewisburg District, Map 23B Parcel 85. Filed Dec. 13, 2024.

Brandon M. Hamilton and Emily S. Hamilton to Makayla Amy: 0.586 acres, Lewisburg District, Map 23C Parcel 20. Filed Dec. 13, 2024.

Lee H. Johnson to L&J Farm LLC: 18.102 acres, Blue Sulphur District, Map 3 Parcel 25. Filed Dec. 13, 2024.

Lee H. Johnson to L&J Farm LLC: 1.76 acres, Blue Sulphur District, Map 3 Parcel 25. Filed Dec. 13, 2024.

Lee H. Johnson to Lee H. Johnson: 5 tracts, Blue Sulphur District, Map 3 Parcel 25. Filed Dec. 13, 2024.

Lee H. Johnson to L&J Farm LLC: 5 tracts, Blue Sulphur District, Map 3 Parcel 25. Filed Dec. 13, 2024.

Daniel L. Facemire Revocable Trust (by successor trustees Anna E. Canada and Brian Facemire) to Mahnbeth Trust (by Trustees Jamie B. Gates and Wayne M. Burr): 160.5 acres, Blue Sulphur District, Map 17 Parcel 0021. Filed Dec. 16, 2024.

Mark Waddell and Rebecca Waddell to William Hevener and Carolyn S. Hevener: unit 1 Cluster A, Blackbird Way, Silo Sq., Lewisburg District, Map 21A Parcel 2. Filed Dec. 16, 2024.

Fannie Mae to New Vision Trust Company (Mary Rahall sep IRA): 35,677 square feet, Lewisburg District, Map 27 Parcel 0029. Filed Dec. 16, 2024.

Rairland Enterprises Inc. to Shermant T. McClung and Carol A. McClung: 0.622 acres, Williamsburg District, Map 55 Parcel 0062. Filed Dec. 16, 2024.

Said Raghep to Tim. R. Berry LLC: lot 2 block 3, west side, Surbaugh Addition, 11th St. 50X94 from Bel, Rainelle District, Map 1 Parcel 0234. Filed Dec. 17, 2024.

Rajesh Patel to the City of Ronceverte: 0.457 acres less R/W, Ronceverte north of Main, east of RT 219, Ronceverte District, Map 10 Parcel 124. Filed Dec. 17, 2024.

John M. Hirt to the City of Ronceverte: lots 11&12 RSVY, 192 acres, lots 9-10, Ronceverte District, Map 10 Parcel 190, 118, 118. Filed Dec. 17, 2024.

Suits

New Cases from 12/26/24 to 1/8/25

New Civil Cases

New Divorces

Bradley Matthew Sheppard and Kaitlyn Marie Sheppard

Kelly Lynn Sanford and Brenton David Sanford
Vanessa Justine Schroeder and Robert Joseph Schroeder

Jeanna Mae Nutter and Cameron Hunter Ayers

Mountain Messenger

The Weekend Newspaper for the Greenbrier Valley

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87th Legislature

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Services Subcommittee with Delegate Margitta Maz-zocchi, R-Logan, serving as its Vice Chair. The Health Care Regulation Subcommittee will have Delegate Dean Jeffries, R-Kanawha, serving as Chairman and Delegate Adam Vance, R-Wyoming, as its Vice Chair.

The Standing Committee on Government Organization will be led by Delegate Chris Phillips, R-Barbour, as its Chairman and Doug Smith, R-Mercer, as Vice Chair. Its Subcommittee on Government Administration will have Delegate Jonathan Pinson, R-Mason, as its Chairman and Delegate Mark Dean, R-Mingo, as its Vice Chair. The Subcommittee on Local Governments will be led by Chairman Dana Ferrell, R-Kanawha, and Vice Chairman Mike DeVault, R-Marion. The Agriculture, Commerce and Tourism Subcommittee will be led by Delegate Wayne Clark, R-Jefferson, as its Chairman and Delegate Patrick Lucas, R-Cabell, as its Vice Chair.

Volunteer

Continued from Front Page

Foundation's site. "40 years later we operate as a beautification organization focused on creating and maintaining a stunning environment that protects and enhances the unique qualities of our historic town. The Lewisburg Foundation is dedicated to supporting regional tourism by preservation of downtown gardens and entrances to the historic district. Visitors to Lewisburg will find a beautiful and charming downtown, enhanced by its unique history and artistic community life."

Several of the 14 sites maintained by the Lewisburg Foundation include the Green Space and the flowerbeds beside it, and the flowerbeds outside of the Visitor's Center, the Post Office, Turley Park, Academy Corner, and numerous gateways into town. They also provide support in maintaining the six "parkets," which are the mini-parks carved out of street parking along Washington Street.

The Standing Committee on Education will be led by Chairman Joe Ellington, R-Mercer, and Delegate Joe Statler, R-Monongalia, will serve as its Vice Chair. The Delegate Chris Toney, R-Raleigh, will serve as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Public Education and Delegate Jeff Campbell, R-Greenbrier, as its Vice Chair. Delegate Lori Dittman, R-Braxton, will be Chairman of the Higher Education Subcommittee with Delegate Jimmy Willis, R-Brooke, serving as its Vice Chair. Delegate Kathie Hess-Crouse will serve as Chairman of the Educational Choice Subcommittee and Delegate Mike Hornby, R-Berkeley, as its Vice Chair.

Delegate Bill Anderson, R-Wood, will be Chairman of the Standing Committee on Energy and Public Works with Delegate Mark Zatezalo, R-Hancock, serving as

Red Cross

Continued from Page 2

Don't sit on the sidelines - kick off 2025 with a blood donation. To book a time to give, visit RedCrossBlood.org, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

For the sixth year, the Red Cross and the National Football League (NFL) are partnering in January for National Blood Donor Month to invite football fans and blood donors to join our lifesaving team and score big for patients in need. As a special thank-you to donors for helping address the need for blood during the critical post-holiday time, those who come to give Jan. 1-26, 2025, will be automatically entered for a chance to win an exciting Super Bowl LIX giveaway. The trip includes access to day-of in-stadium pre-game activities, tickets to the official Super Bowl Experience, round-trip airfare, three-night hotel accommodations (Feb. 7-10, 2025), plus a \$1,000 gift card for expenses. For full details, visit RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl.

its Vice Chair. Delegate Bob Fehrenbacher, R-Wood, will serve as Chairman of the Energy and Manufacturing Subcommittee with Delegate George Street, R-Preston, as its Vice Chair. The Economic Development Subcommittee will be led by Chairman Gary Howell, R-Mineral, and Vice Chairman Jordan Maynor, R-Raleigh. Chairman Daniel Linville, R-Cabell, will lead the Environment and Infrastructure Subcommittee with Delegate Rick Hillenbrand, R-Hampshire, serving as its Vice Chair.

"We know this will be a big adjustment for a lot of us, especially our staff and the public, but we are optimistic about this approach, which we think will be easier to follow and will lead to a more solution-oriented approach to lawmaking," Hanshaw said.

Cranberry Glades

Continued from Front Page

Advocates said the five mines in the lawsuit all discharge pollutants into the Laurel Creek Watershed and/or the South Fork of the Cherry River Watershed. Both streams feed into the Gauley River, an internationally renowned destination for whitewater rafting and kayaking, and home to the endangered candy darter.

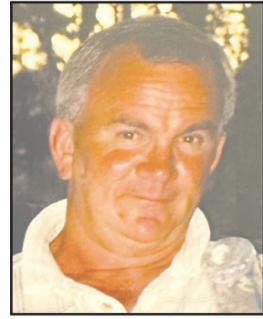
The lawsuit also highlighted the company's failure to submit required water quality assessments and reclaim unused sites. Young argued the company's neglect of water and land standards puts local communities and the outdoor recreation economy at risk.

"The mines at issue here lie adjacent to the Monongahela National Forest, and it's less than six miles from the world-renowned Cranberry glades and Cranberry Glades Wilderness Area," Young explained.

The state's tourism industry brought in nearly \$9 billion last year. According to the governor's office, more than 75 million visitors traveled to the Mountain State last year, and spent more than \$6 billion.

OBITUARIES

Donald Ray Turner



Donald Ray Turner, 75, of Lewisburg, West Virginia died on the 6th day of January 2025 at the University of Virginia Hospital in Charlottesville Virginia. He was born on December 28, 1949 in Ronceverte, West Virginia, the son of Thelma "June" Turner and Wallace Elliot Turner. He was preceded in death by his parents, and his sisters Patricia (Richard) Peek, Millie Taylor, and Mary (Mike) Isaacs.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years Janet Brown Turner, three sons, Eric (Julie) Turner, of Lewisburg, West Virginia, Ryan (Laura) Turner of Huntington, West Virginia, and Nathan (Sarah) Turner, of Princeton, West Virginia, as well as grandchildren, Ty, Andrew (Hannah), Zach, Ben, Sydney, and Jack Turner. He is also survived by his two great-grandchildren, Elizabeth and Augustine Turner and his brother, John (Shirley) Turner and sister Brenda (Rusty) Miller.

Don graduated from Greenbrier East High School in 1969. He was a first-generation college graduate and proud supporter of Marshall University. He was a commercial contractor and multigenerational owner of Brown Construction, Inc. Don was a natural athlete and while a senior at East, amassed a final batting average that stood for many years. In later years he played golf and self-reported that he always won the match. He was an avid hunter, coach to numerous youth (in his younger years), and anonymously provided jobs and funding for many disadvantaged youth, foundations and school sports programs in the area. He had an entrepreneurial spirit joining his brother John in raising

and racing harness horses. Having grown up with limited resources himself, Don never looked down on anyone based on their present situation in life. Despite his sometimes rugged exterior he would help anyone at any time without expectations. Don valued education and hard work and was extremely proud of each of his successful children and grandchildren whom he provided with the foundation, ability, and drive to succeed. While he felt very proud by his family's life successes, Don felt even more blessed to have married his high school sweetheart and the rock of his life, Janet, who kept him going and on an even keel.

He will be missed, but those that knew him are thankful to God, and smile that he existed in their lives. Interment will be private per his request. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be made to Fairlea Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, 9364 Seneca Trail, Ronceverte, WV 24970.

Veronica Mae Taylor



Veronica Mae "Sissy" Taylor, 84, of Victor is now at peace in the arms of her Savior. She died on Jan. 3, 2025.

She was born on Oct. 16, 1940 in Springfield, Illinois, the daughter of the late Clarence Edward Troxell and Helen Smith Troxell.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by sons, Donnie Wilson, Tommy Taylor and Charlie Taylor; sisters and brothers, Brenda Troxell, Patsy and Bill Hohimier, Clarence Troxell, Jr., Eddie Troxell, Ronald Lee Troxell and wife Carol Ann, grandson, Shawn Bosold.

Veronica's favorite was baby-sitting and spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was the glue that held her family together. She liked to sit on the porch with Alden and watch the hummingbirds. She was a lifelong member of Church of God, Victor. She was also a member of the Pythian Sisters and Eastern Star.

Survivors include her husband, Clarence "Alden" Taylor, Sr.; daughter, Judy Moses; son, Clarence Taylor, Jr., daughter-in-law, Tammy Bowyer; son-in-law, Mark Moses; brothers and sisters, Charles and Ruth Troxell, Johnny Bob Troxell, Carolyn and John Kuklinski, Billy and Bea Troxell, Phyllis Shaw, Wayne Troxell, David and Barb Troxell, Judy Troxell and Terry Troxell. She will be missed greatly by 12 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

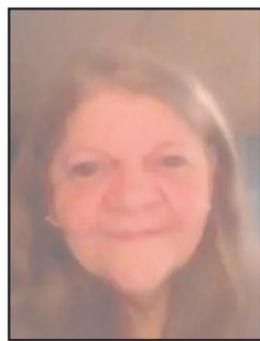
Service will be at 2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 11, at Wallace & Wallace Chapel, Ansted with Pastor Steven Oliver Smith officiating. Visitation will be from 1 p.m. until time of service at the funeral home.

"Death is nothing else but going home to God, the bond of love will be unbroken for all eternity."

—Mother Teresa

Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.wallaceand-wallacefh.com. Wallace & Wallace, Inc., of Ansted, WV is in charge of arrangements.

Elizabeth Ann Russum



Elizabeth Ann (Byer) Russum, 74, of White Sulphur Springs, went home to be with the Lord, Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025, while in hospice care.

Ann was born Jan. 7, 1950, in Alleghany Coun-

ty, VA, to the late James Lawrence and Laura Mabel Nicely Aldridge.

She was a homemaker throughout her life along with a period of working at Westvaco in Covington, VA.

In addition to her parents, Ann was preceded in death by her first and second husband, Steve Byer, Sr. and Wayne Russum, a son, Christopher Mark Byer, five brothers and two sisters, Nancy, Clayton, Bonnie, Allen, Carl, Darrell, and Alvin.

She is survived by her daughter, Lorie Byer Bostic of White Sulphur Springs, her son, Steven Byer Jr. (Lee Ann) of La Plata, MD, two sisters, Donna Brandvold, and Peggy Brady (Mel), two brothers, Charles Aldridge (Doreen) and Dennis Aldridge (Annette), four grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren.

As per her wishes, she will be cremated along with a forthcoming private service with her children and grandchildren.

Christopher Dale Roth



Christopher Dale Roth, 49, of Alderson, formerly of Aurora, WV, passed away unexpectedly at his home on Jan. 2, 2025. Born Nov. 12, 1975, in Morgantown, he was the son of Frances (Loughrie) Mayor and husband David, of Aurora, and Gary Roth of Eglon.

Chris attended Preston High School where he graduated in 1994. After graduation, he attended

Glenville State College where he ran track. He then lived in North Carolina and Colorado before settling in Morgantown. He obtained his master's degree in physical education from West Virginia University in 2008. Chris spent the majority of his teaching career at Eastern Greenbrier Middle School.

He was a beloved physical education teacher there for 16 years, helping to implement programs such as disc golf, archery, and mountain biking. He was named West Virginia Middle School Physical Education Teacher of the Year in 2016. His heart was on the football field, where Chris was an assistant coach. He was involved with other sports teams as well and enjoyed announcing for the basketball team. Coach loved his "kids."

Chris had many hobbies throughout the years. He was frequently on the disc golf course, playing a round by himself, with his dog, or in a tournament. He loved traveling to North Carolina to hang out with his lifelong best friend, Jeremy Lantz, and his family. He was an extraordinary uncle to his nieces and nephew, who brought him so much pride. Weekends spent on the river or around the campfire were some of his favorites. Summers won't be the same without him.

In addition to his parents, Chris is survived by his brother, Jason Roth, and wife Carrie, of East Aurora, NY; his sister, Lauren Peddicord, and husband, Jason, of Bruce-ton Mills, WV; his nieces Caylie Roth, Kendall Roth, Mila Peddicord, and Everly Peddicord; and his nephew Holden Peddicord; his faithful companion, his blue heeler Shay; along with countless special friends, aunts, uncles, cousins, co-workers, and students.

Chris was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Gay and Elizabeth Loughrie, his paternal grandparents, Dale Roth and Avenell Roth Parsons, and his first four-legged love, PJ.

His family received friends at the River of Life Church of God, 503 Highland Trail, Alderson, on Saturday, Jan. 4. In keeping with his wishes, cremation will follow.

Alderson Funeral Services and Smathers Funeral Chapel are honored to assist Coach Roth's family, friends, and students during this sudden and unexpected loss.

James Ronald Turner

James "Jake" Ronald Turner, 74, of Orient Hill, WV, died on Sunday, Jan. 5, 2025 in Rainelle.

He was the son of Samuel Lincoln Turner and Mary Belle Turner.

Jake was preceded in death by his parents; and siblings: Helen Brooks, Edmond Lee Turner, Joseph "Bud" Turner, Oletta Johnson, Carol Ann Turner and Norma Jean Turner.

Jake is survived by a son, Jamie Turner; sister Louisa Wines; brother, Pete Turner; and many nieces and nephews.

Services will be held on Saturday, Jan. 11, at 1 p.m. at Wallace & Wallace, Chapel in Rainelle. Burial will take place at a later time due to weather conditions.

Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.wallaceandwallacefh.com. Wallace & Wallace, Inc. of Rainelle, WV is in charge of arrangements.



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OPINION

Commentary Trump's tariffs

By Roger Vannoy

Cost of living has skyrocketed in the past few years, partly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, supply chain issues, and in my opinion, corporate greed. It has been reported by the CBC and the Washington Post, that the big frozen potato companies have allegedly formed an illegal cartel, cooperating on raising prices by 47 percent on frozen potatoes like French fries. McDonald's is suing meat packers for allegedly colluding to inflate the price of beef. Coffee prices are about to go up related to more global demand and weather extremes in areas of the world where Coffee beans are grown. On January 21, prices could potentially get higher on everything.

President-elect Donald Trump has threatened a 25 percent tariff on Mexico and Canada, on day one of his second term. A google search defines a tariff as: "a tax imposed by a government on the import or export of goods between countries." This tax will be passed on to consumers from the companies importing goods that America is unable to mine, build or grow. During the winter months, much of our fruit and vegetables are imported from Mexico, so with this tax, expect your grocery bills to inflate. The US gets much of our natural gas imported from Canada, from the "Norther border pipeline," the "Great Lakes gas Transmission" and oth-

ers. A 25 percent tariff on Canada will cause our energy bills to go up. The US imports about 4 million barrels of crude oil per day from Canada. Its estimated that with a 25 percent tariff on Canada, expect our gasoline prices at the pump to go up by 40 cents a gallon. The North American Auto industry is so intertwined, that even if the big auto makers were convinced to move all production of vehicles to the US, it would take years to complete. In the meantime, we the US citizenry would be paying thousands more for the same cars we have today.

Dread it, run from it, the second Trump presidency is inevitable. We must prepare. In order to save a little money, I recommend people fill up at the gas tank the day before President elect Trump takes office. While you are at it, make an early trip to the grocery store too. If you have been considering getting a new vehicle, make that purchase before the 25 percent tariff goes into effect.

There is one more thing we can do. Call your elected members of Congress. Ask them to speak with President-Elect Trump, to tell him to not raise costs on working families by raising tariffs on imported goods from Canada and Mexico. Senator Capito's phone number is 202-224-6472. Representative Miller's phone number is 202-225-3452. (Governor Jim Justice has not taken his seat in the Senate yet)

Roger Vannoy
Lewisburg

Commentary

West Virginia's Journey of Progress: Reflecting on the Past, Embracing the Future

By Senate President/Lieutenant Governor
Craig P. Blair

As I spent time reflecting during the holidays, I thought a great deal about how we never know what roads life will lead us down. When I was just a small business owner spending my days driving throughout the Eastern Panhandle, I didn't realize then that the voices of Hoppy Kercheval, Don Marsh, and Stephen Reed would inspire me. They'd light a fire in me that would lead me to take a different and most rewarding path in my life that would lead me from Berkeley County to our state Capitol and the House of Delegates and finish with four years as the President of the West Virginia Senate.

Their early influence shaped my approach to governance. When Don Marsh passed away, I realized the importance of hearing diverse perspectives. As a Delegate, then Senator, then later Senate President and Lieutenant Governor, I took in as many perspectives as possible which gave me a data-driven edge that focused on real, measurable outcomes and longterm success.

In my time as a member of the West Virginia Legislature, we achieved significant milestones that at the time never seemed possible: reforming the broken and failing workers' compensation system, stabilizing our state-funded pensions, and eliminating the sales tax on food.

However, the true accelerator of our success was my creation of the "flat-line budget." That concept required a steadfast commitment to fiscal discipline that would enable us to fund our core services, encourage efficiencies when exposed, and allow for targeted, strategic economic development investments.

Though there may have been some doubters, the proof is in the results. We've eliminated our workers' compensation debt of \$4.2 billion. We've created one of the healthiest pension systems in the nation. We've built up a \$1.3 billion Rainy Day fund. And, we've done all of this without sacrificing investment in the future.

In just the past decade alone, we've invested more than \$6 billion to road construction and \$2 billion toward making sure every area of our state has reliable, high-speed broadband internet – an absolute game changer in terms of unlocking economic growth and prosperity.

But that's not all! We've also provided more than

\$1 billion in tax relief to West Virginians, including a 27.25% cut in personal income tax and the elimination of personal income tax on Social Security for seniors by the end of this year as well as a 100% refundable tax credit on automobiles. We've made education and education choice a priority with charter schools, micro-schools, and the Hope Scholarship. We've also supported higher education through the Promise Scholarship, and provided pay raises for teachers and state employees while keeping PEIA premiums stable.

We've not just focused on the numbers. We've also worked hard to strengthen West Virginia's strong conservative values. On social issues, we've managed to strike a necessary balance – banning abortion with exceptions for the life of the mother, rape, and incest, protecting girls' sports and protecting religious freedoms.

As we move forward and continue with all we have done to move West Virginia into the 21st century, we know there will be challenges. The Hope Scholarship, which has opened the door to education choice for thousands of West Virginia families, will continue to grow and require more funding. We absolutely must stabilize PEIA for our hardworking public employees. And, last, but in no way least, it's time to eliminate the personal property tax on equipment and machinery for all businesses. The elimination of that tax is a key to unlock our economic potential like we've never known.

I've always said our future depends on moving at the speed of business, not speed of government. By continuing to make quick, bold decisions and fostering a business-friendly environment, we can ensure West Virginia remains a place where people want to live, work, and raise a family. It has been the honor of my life to serve the people of West Virginia. I look back on my 20 years in the Legislature, especially my last four as Senate President, and I'm just so proud of this state and the progress that we've made together. Our future is so bright, and I cannot wait to be a part of it.

This isn't goodbye for me, my role will be different as a senior advisor for the LNE Group but my mission will be the same: Make West Virginia the absolute best place for businesses to succeed and our families will as well.

This Week in WV History

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

Jan. 12, 1869: Newspaperman Herschel Coombs Ogden was born near Fairmont. In 1888, he relocated to Wheeling and entered the newspaper business.



Jan. 13, 1905: Joseph H. Diss Debar died in Philadelphia. A supporter of the movement to create West Virginia, Diss Debar was commissioned in 1863 to design the Great Seal of West Virginia.

Jan. 14, 1842: Marion County was established and named after Revolutionary War hero Francis Marion. Middletown was chosen as the county seat, but the name was changed to Fairmont the following year.

Jan. 14, 1873: The first session of the Glenville Branch of the State Normal School began in the old Gilmer County courthouse. In 1943, the legislature changed the name to Glenville State College.



Jan. 15, 1864: Frances Benjamin Johnston was born in Grafton. Johnston gained national renown as the first female press photographer and enjoyed a long and remarkable career as one of the nation's leading documentary, portrait and artistic photographers.



Jan. 16, 1850: Lawman Dan Cunningham was born in Jackson County. His remarkable career involved him in the Hatfield-McCoy Feud, the West Virginia Mine Wars, and the destruction of moonshine stills.



Jan. 16, 1869: Ephraim Franklin Morgan was born in Marion County. Morgan, a Republican, was governor during the tumultuous West Virginia Mine Wars.

Jan. 17, 1918: The War Department hired a New York engineering firm to build the DuPont munitions plant in Nitro. Within 11 months, the powder plant and a complete town with houses, a civic center and a hospital were completed.

Jan. 17, 1956: Musician Blind Alfred Reed died. He was a street singer, fiddler and songwriter from Pipestem, Summers County, and is a member of the WV Music Hall of Fame.



Church Bulletin

Worship Services and other events at Lewisburg Baptist Church

Please join us for services and events at Lewisburg Baptist Church - a Bible believing and preaching Church nestled in the heart of Greenbrier County. Worship services are offered on Sundays (11 a.m. and 6 p.m.) and on Wednesdays (7 p.m.). Sunday School for children and for adults are on Sundays (10 a.m.). Van pick up is also available on Sundays and Wednesdays. On Wednesdays, other events include Awana Clubs (age 3 to Grade 6) at 6:45 p.m. and Youth Teen Ministry at 7 p.m. Lewisburg Baptist Church is located at 246 Grand Avenue in Lewisburg, WV. Further information is available at www.lbcwv.com, on Facebook, or please call 304-645-3797.

Celebrating Recovery

Please join us for our Celebrating Recovery program at Mt. Hermon United Methodist Church in Renick. If you are dealing with any type of addiction issues, we invite you to join us each Tuesday afternoon at 5:30 p.m. Childcare is available and a meal is served prior to each meeting. For more information call 304-618-9298. We are located at 27404 Seneca Trail North, Renick, WV.

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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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WEST VIRGINIA Press
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Dear Recycle Lady



Dear Recycle Lady,

What is the difference between plastic wrap and cellophane? They look very much alike.

Puzzled

Dear Puzzled,

Both plastic wrap and cellophane are transparent. However, they are two different types of film. According to www.luening-verpackt.de/en/verpackungen-fuer-cellophane, cellophane is a natural product that is breathable, biodegradable and compostable (in a city composting facility only); while plastic wrap, also called plastic film, is a non-breathable, non-ecological product. Plastic wrap is made from polyethylene, which is made from crude oil and cellophane is made from renewable raw materials such as wood, cotton, hemp, or other plant sources. However, www.Sierraclub.org cautions that these natu-

ral products do not necessarily make cellophane the safest product to use as cellophane is also referred to as a bioplastic material that contains toxic chemicals. Plastic wrap and cellophane are both used to seal food in containers to keep them fresh. However, plastic is more often used as it is cheaper.

Dear Recycle Lady,

Kitty litter comes in boxes that have plastic handles. Can these boxes be sent to the Recycling Center without removing the plastic handles?

Love My Cats

Dear Love My Cats,

The plastic handles do not need to be removed before recycling the boxes with cardboard. Just be sure the boxes are clean and empty. Did you know kitty litter can be used when your car is stuck in snow? Just throw several handfuls under the tires to improve traction. Kitty litter can also be used on icy sidewalks and steps. One word of caution. Kitty litter will cling to shoes, so place a mat at the entryway to wipe them off.

Dear Recycle Lady,

I keep getting letters requesting donations for planting trees. Why are trees considered so important?

Nature Lover

Dear Nature Lover,

Trees are one of our serious protectors against climate change. According to greatergood.com, trees absorb and store about 30% of our carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions and they produce more than 20% of our oxygen. During a down pour of rainwater, trees act as a water filter. They slow down the pouring water before it hits the ground, thus helping to reduce the amount of runoff that could include pesticides and fertilizers. Trees also help to limit soil erosion as soil is stabilized by the trees' roots, thus

trees help prevent the soil from being washed away. The leaves of trees help protect our lungs by removing dangerous pollutants from the air and they provide habitat and shade for birds and wildlife. Trees are like natural air conditioning as their shade lowers the temperature outside our homes and can help cut the costs of air conditioning inside our homes. Old trees form a dynamic system called old-growth forests. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM.gov) defines old-growth forests according to tree size, the accumulations of large dead woody material, the number of canopy layers, the species composition and the ecosystem function. According to fs.usda.gov, "our mature and old-growth forests store massive amounts of carbon, offer biodiversity and wildlife habitat, and provide clean air and water, recreation opportunities and aesthetic beauty." The BLM and the U.S. Forest Service are charged with inventorying mature and old-growth forests, analyzing reforestation opportunities and ensuring the resilience of America's forests.

Good News: Crustaceans act as nature's cleanup crew for our oceans. They eat not only all the algae that is along the ocean floor, but also dead plants and animals, keeping marine ecosystems balanced. The crabs have a taste for variety, but algae are a go-to snack!

Bad News: Over 200 million plastic toilet cleaner bottles end up in U.S. landfills each year. These bottles are typically non-recyclable due to their material and content residue. Thus, they contribute to plastic pollution that can take centuries to break down. Fortunately, several alternative choices are now available.

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

SCRAMBLERS

solution

- Guard
- Amble;
- Power;
- Groan

Today's Word
BORROW

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

C	A	S	H	E	S	O	D	S	P	G	A	C	A	P	F	U	L			
C	I	T	A	T	O	R	E	U	T	E	R	S	A	T	E	A	S	E		
C	R	E	N	N	A	E	A	R	H	A	R	T	M	O	L	T	E	N		
I	F	A	N	A	R	B	O	R	E	A	L	R	O	D	E	N	T			
O	K	A	L	O	T	T	O	R	E	N	B	A								
W	I	T	H	A	B	U	S	H	T	A	I	L	H	A	S	B	E	E	N	
A	L	A	S	O	N	R	O	V	E	A	R	A	T							
S	S	R	E	X	T	R	E	M	E	L	Y	V	I	R	T	U	O	U	S	
T	R	A	Y	E	N	E	I	D	I	O	M									
U	T	A	H	A	D	S	E	N	S	E	R	F	K	V	A	T				
T	H	R	O	U	G	H	O	U	T	I	T	S	L	I	F	E	T	I	M	E
E	Y	E	R	O	E	S	T	A	T	E	S	E	N	I	D					
A	N	G	R	Y	R	E	A	N	C	A	A									
W	H	A	T	S	H	O	U	L	D	I	T	E	N	T	E	R	I	K	E	
H	I	R	E	L	A	O	S	R	T	E	G	I	N							
A	F	T	E	R	I	T	E	X	I	T	S	T	H	I	S	W	O	R	L	D
M	I	S	E	D	D	A	W	O	L	R	E	L								
T	H	E	S	Q	U	I	R	R	E	L	L	Y	G	A	T	E	S			
A	N	D	R	E	A	U	N	C	O	D	E	W	O	N	T	E	D			
R	E	V	E	A	L	I	T	E	M	I	Z	E	C	A	G	E	I	N		
C	A	D	E	T	S	Z	O	E	S	E	N	A	D	E	S	T	E			

A Look Back

By William "Skip" Deegans

West Virginia history students who prepped for the Golden Horseshoe competition were required to memorize the names of the State's 55 counties.

It was common to re-site them alphabetically and in a cadence. Most county names honor someone. Seven are named for United States presidents: Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Grant, Lincoln, Monroe and Taylor. Ten for governors of Virginia: Berkely, Brooke, Cabell, Harrison, McDowell, Nicholas, Pleasants, Preston, Tyler and Wood. Fourteen were named for statesmen: Braxton, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Gilmer, Hancock, Hardy, Mason, Randolph, Summers, Taylor, Tucker, Upshur and Wirt. Seven are Indian names: Kanawha, Logan, Wyoming, Mingo,

Monongalia, Ohio, and Pocahontas.

Four were prominent jurists: Barbour, Marshall, Roane, and Pendleton. Two were named for frontiersmen: Boone and Wetzel. Named for soldiers include: Fayette, Lewis, Mercer, Marion, Morgan, Putnam and Wayne. One was named for colonizer Sir. Walter Raleigh. Hampshire was named for a shire in England.

Greenbrier was named for the river that drains it. Ritchie was named for a Virginia journalist and newspaper publisher. Mineral County was named for its natural resources.

Pocahontas is the only county named to honor a woman. Shown is the only known likeness of Pocahontas - a portrait engraved in 1616 when she visited England.



Matoaka als Rebecca daughter to the mighty Prince Powhatan Emperor of Attanoughkenock als virginia converted and baptizd in the Christian faith, and wife to the war. M^r Joh Rolfe.
1616, Aug. 30. 1795. by: W. Richardson Castle St. Leicester Square.

Sources: Greenbrier Scenic Highway Markers. Independent, West Virginia Historic and National Portrait Gallery.

SCHOOL

Abigail Herndon of Crawley recognized on GSU's President's List

Georgia Southern University (GSU) recently recognized approximately 2,520 students on the Fall 2024 President's List. Abigail Herndon of Crawley was named to the list for excellence in academics. To be eligible for the President's List, a student must have at least a 4.0 grade point average and carry a minimum of 12 hours for the semester.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/R2 institution founded in 1906, offers approxi-

mately 155 different degree programs serving more than 26,100 students through 10 colleges on three campuses in Statesboro, Savannah, Hinesville and online instruction. A leader in higher education in southeast Georgia with expert faculty, the University is focused on public impact research and engaging learning opportunities through knowledge and know-how that prepare our students to take ownership of their lives, careers and communities. Visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu.

Greenbrier County students recognized for fall semester honors

Two Greenbrier County residents achieved academic honors during the Fall 2024 semester at Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College.

Earning President's List honors, which requires completing 12 or more credit hours this fall with a 4.0 grade point average, were Rebekah Brookman and Savanna Lester.

Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical Col-

lege, based in Moorefield, serves six rural counties in West Virginia's Potomac Highlands by offering affordable academic programs, including five online degrees, early enrollment courses for high school students, and a variety of flexible workforce trainings. Eastern is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. For more information, visit easternwv.edu or call 304-434-8000.

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ENTERTAINMENT



Samuel Magill (left), Barbara Nissman, and Russell Fallstad

Carnegie Classics Series with Barbara Nissman continues with More Beethoven, the Great!

Pianist Barbara Nissman returns to Carnegie Hall on Saturday, Jan. 25, at 7 p.m., for More Beethoven, the Great!, another exciting program

in the Carnegie Classics series. Nissman will welcome two musician friends as her special guests: violinist Russell Fallstad, and cellist Sam-

uel Magill who will join her in a performance of Beethoven's "Archduke" Trio for piano, violin and cello. Combining great music with informal chat, Barbara will also introduce us to some more popular piano works by the great master.

"Beethoven is the composer who always keeps me sane and focused," says Nissman. "Beethoven gives so much joy and strength to all who listen. A man of courage, his music always inspires us to go forward."

Barbara, a member of the inaugural class of Steinway "Legends" chosen from over a century of Steinway Artists, and a recent inductee into the West Virginia Music Hall

of Fame, has performed with major conductors and orchestras on nearly every continent. She recently returned to Amsterdam and appeared before a live audience of 10-12,000 and a television audience of 1.2 million to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Prinsengracht concerts that she helped initiate in 1982. These concerts have remained a popular summer tradition with audiences arriving on foot or in their boats to listen. Barbara was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Music degree from West Virginia University in May 2024, and in 2020 received the Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020

Cellist Samuel Magill is the former Associate Principal Cello with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and a former member of both the Houston and Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestras. He has appeared as soloist in concerts throughout France, Bel-

gium, Japan and the U.S. and has recorded over 20 CDs. He now resides in Greensboro, NC.

Russell Fallstad has played his violin all over the world, in 20 countries and has given concerts in 40 states here in America. He is known locally as the owner of HeartStrings Academy where he teaches violin in a studio above Carnegie Hall and to students online. He has come out of retirement to perform Beethoven with Barbara and Sam.

Carnegie Classics now in its third season is a three-part concert series hosted by Barbara Nissman designed to introduce classical music to new audiences, as well as inspiring and entertaining all music enthusiasts.

"What a joy it has been for me to return for another season of great music performed on the beautiful Steinway at our wonderful Carnegie Hall! With this series we are expanding the audience for classical

music, and it is so gratifying for me to share with my community the music that I love so much. We all need more joy in our lives these days, and music has the power to transport us into a magical world."

Tickets are \$25/adult. Thanks to the Carnegie Cardinal Fund, Greenbrier County Students attend for free, but still must reserve a seat.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.carnegiehallwv.org, call 304-645-7917, or stop by 611 Church Street, Lewisburg.

The Carnegie Classics Series is made possible with support from the James F.B. Peyton Fund, the National Endowment for the Arts and the WV Division of Culture and History, with approval from the WV Commission on the Arts. Additional funding is also provided by Eugene and Annie Jeffus.

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

Greenbrier Artisans Group to showcase work at Alderson Artisans Gallery

The Alderson Artisans Gallery is pleased to announce the showing of creative works of local artists from the Greenbrier Artisans Group.

Please join us at the opening on Saturday, Jan. 11, from 2 to 4 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. The show will run from Jan. 11 to May 23.

Gallery hours are posted online at www.aldersongallery.com. The Alderson Artisans Gallery is a cooperative non-profit organization that supports local artists and is located at 100 Railroad Avenue, Alderson.

Jammin' at the Sportsman Tavern Sunday, January 19

On Sunday, Jan. 19, Mary Dailey and Cheryl Mansley of the Appalachian duo Little Maggie will hold the first of their 2025 Old-Time Mountain Music Jams at The Sportsman Tavern in downtown Ronceverte. The jam focuses on traditional Appalachian and Celtic tunes and songs, as well as jam-friendly original material. So, if you play an instrument or love to sing, come join in! Acoustic instruments only, please. If you don't play, come spend the evening with us, have some dinner, and enjoy the music!

The jam will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. The Sportsman Tavern, located at 683 Edgar Avenue W. in Ronceverte, and is family-friendly and offers food and drinks. It is one of the oldest bars in West Virginia and often features live music, trivia nights, paint-and-sip parties, and other events.

For more information about the jam, contact Cheryl Mansley at cherylmansley@gmail.com or 304-702-0554, or visit ArtBeat of the Mountains on Facebook.

The Met: Live in HD - Aida to be shown at GVT

The Met: Live in HD, the Metropolitan Opera's award-winning series of live performance transmissions, continues at Greenbrier Valley Theatre (GVT) - a range of bold new stagings and beloved classics. Experience extraordinary opera and special behind-the-scenes features live from the comfort of our local theatre!

The Met: Live in HD - Aida will be shown on Saturday, Jan. 25, at 12:30 p.m.

American soprano Angel Blue headlines as the Ethiopian princess torn between love and country in a new production of Verdi's Aida by Michael Mayer

that brings audiences inside the towering pyramids and gilded tombs of ancient Egypt with intricate projections and dazzling animations. Romanian-Hungarian mezzo-soprano Judit Kutasi also stars as Aida's rival, Amneris, alongside Polish tenor Piotr Beczala as the soldier Radames - completing opera's greatest love triangle. Met Music Director Yannick Nezet-Seguin takes the podium to conduct the Jan. 25 performance, which will be transmitted live from the Metropolitan Opera stage to cinemas worldwide.

Buy tickets online at www.gvtheatre.org.



Aida will be broadcast Saturday, Jan. 25, at 12:30 p.m.

ArtWalk rescheduled for February 8

Due to the inclement weather, the ArtWalk scheduled for this Friday has been rescheduled for Saturday, Feb. 8. However, Erin Gaertner, the curator of the Carl Frederick Gaertner exhibit, will be on hand on Friday, Jan. 10, during the original ArtWalk hours.

Carnegie Hall invites the community to the Carnegie Hall Artwalk on Saturday, Feb. 8, 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 textile 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 20 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.

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) 434, 362, 344, 261. The auction will end on January 16, 2025 at 12 noon. All these items of personal property are being auctioned online through lockerfox.com. These auctions will run until January 16, 2025. Pictures of the units can be inspected online. Cash payments only. For more details visit www.lockerfox.com/storage-auctions/us/

LEGAL

PUBLIC ONLINE AUCTION

Secure Store - 1367 Maplewood Avenue, Ronceverte, WV 24970, has a possessory lien on all of the goods stored in unit(s) 231,228, 220. The auction will end on January 16, 2025 at 12 noon. All these items of personal property are being auctioned online through lockerfox.com. These auctions will run until January 16, 2025. 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 WSSWV, LLC/Secure Store - 38515 Midland Trail E, White Sulphur Springs, WV 2492, has a possessory lien on all of the goods stored in unit 127. The auction will end on January 16, 2025 at 12 noon. All these items of personal property are being auctioned online through lockerfox.com. These auctions will run until January 16, 2025. Pictures of the unit can be inspected online. Cash payments only. For more details visit www.lockerfox.com/storage-auctions/us/

LEGAL

Legal Notice

The filing period for the City of White Sulphur Springs upcoming election of June 10, 2025 will be from Monday, January 13, 2025 through Saturday, January 25, 2025.

The filing will be for Mayor, Recorder and five (5) Councilpersons. You may file for your office at White Sulphur Springs City Hall during the above dates. You may file between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and between 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. (noon) Saturday, January 25, 2025 only or postmarked by U.S. Postal Service by 12:00 a.m. (midnight) Saturday, January 25, 2025.

David Dillon
Recorder

ENTERTAINMENT

Carnegie Hall Calendar of Events

Thursday, Jan. 16: String Beings - Second Stage Performance on Thursday, January 16, at 7 p.m. featuring the String Beings, the family group of Erica and Paolo Marks. Playing classical, folk, and original music, their repertoire includes Mozart and Haydn string quartets, arrangements of movie and pop songs, and tunes that they have written and arranged. The Second Stage Series takes place in the Old Stone Room and is first come first served seating. Tickets are \$20/adult. Thanks to the Carnegie Cardinal Fund, Greenbrier County Students attend for free, but still must reserve a seat.

Saturday, Jan. 25: More Beethoven, The Great! - The Carnegie Classics Series continues in the Hamilton Auditorium with More Beethoven, The Great! featuring Barbara Nissman and special guests violinist Russell Fallstad, and cellist Samuel Magill, on Saturday, January 25, at 7 p.m. Individual performance tickets are \$25/adults. Thanks to the Carnegie Cardinal Fund, Greenbrier County Students attend for free, but still must reserve a seat.

Friday, Feb. 7: Naturally 7 - Mainstage Performance on Friday, February 7, at 7p.m. featuring acapella group

Naturally 7 in the Hamilton Auditorium. Tickets start at \$35/adults and \$20/student. Enjoy Club Carnegie in the Board Room before the concert from 6 to 6:45 p.m. Free admission. Cash bar and snacks available.

Saturday, Feb. 8: Carnegie Hall ArtWalk - Join Carnegie Hall for the Carnegie Hall Artwalk on Friday, February 8, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., featuring new exhibits by Carl Gaertner, Newman Jackson, and Suzan Morgan. The event will also feature live music by John Maddy, refreshments, and a cash bar. The Carnegie Hall Artwalk is free and open to the public. (Originally scheduled for January 10)

Friday, Mar. 7: Tartan Terrors - Mainstage Performance on Friday, March 7, at 7p.m. the Tartan Terrors in the Hamilton Auditorium. Tartan Terrors bring their Celtic Invasion to festivals and shows across North America, blending the energy of a rock show with humor and stepdance. Tickets start at \$35/adults and \$20/student. Enjoy Club Carnegie in the Board Room before the concert from 6 to 6:45 p.m. Free admission. Cash bar and snacks available.

Thursday, Mar. 13: One Night Only: Celebrating

Young Musicians of the Greenbrier Valley - Special Performance showcasing talented young musicians in grade 6-12 on Thursday, Mar. 13, at 7 p.m. in the Hamilton Auditorium. Stay tuned for ticket information.

Rotating Galleries:

Old Stone Room Gallery - Textile artist Suzan Morgan exhibit. The exhibit runs through the end of February.

Museum Gallery - Curated exhibit featuring the works of Carl Gaertner. The exhibit runs through the end of February.

Lobby Gallery/Board Room - Artist Newman Jackson exhibit. The exhibit runs through the end of February.

Permanent Exhibit:

Arts from the Ashes: The History of Carnegie Hall - The exhibit features memorabilia, photographs, artifacts and more of Carnegie Hall since its construction in 1901. Located on the second floor. Free admission

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

SPORTS

Tickets on sale for 2025 Battle for the Springhouse at The Greenbrier

One of the most anticipated high school basketball events of the season will return to The Greenbrier later this month, and advance tickets are now on sale.

Since its beginnings in 2022, the Battle for the Springhouse at America's Resort has brought the best girls and boys basketball teams from across West Virginia inside the resort's largest ballroom, Colonial Hall, for two days filled with exciting basketball. The ballroom recently hosted the inaugural Greenbrier Tip-Off, with college basketball teams from power conferences.

This year, The Battle for the Springhouse has gone across the state's borders, adding a talented Virginia squad to the intriguing mix of teams competing for the Springhouse Trophy Jan. 31 and Feb. 1. Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased by visiting Greenbrier.com/Springhouse. Tickets are sold on a game-by-game basis and are \$5 for each contest. The arena will be cleared at the conclusion of each game. Past games have sold out, so advanced purchase is recommended.

The Battle for the Springhouse offers experiences that cannot be found at other tourna-



The Battle for the Springhouse at The Greenbrier basketball tournament will be held Friday, Jan. 31 and Saturday, Feb. 3.

ments. Players and coaches will not only have the opportunity to face a high level of competition, but they will also learn about the incredible legacy of America's Resort, sample the world-class cuisine and experience the incomparable accommodations. The Greenbrier invests in the future of the participating student-athletes by providing an unforgettable experience that they will remember for a lifetime. It also awards one player from each participating team with a scholarship to be used toward his or her future education.

One of the event's premier partners, GameChanger, will once

again be a major part of the weekend, educating the student-athletes about the dangers of substance misuse and the value of a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

Every game will be broadcast live by MetroNews Television, in association with Video Productions, with experienced announcers and high-quality video. MetroNews Television can be found on Roku, iPhone, Apple TV, fireTV and other streaming platforms, as well as online at wvmetronewstv.com, providing maximum exposure to both athletes and sponsors.

The 2025 boys' field

features the top two teams in Class AAAA, Spring Mills and Morgantown, as well local power Greenbrier East and the first Virginia school to play in the tournament, Virginia Episcopal School. Spring Mills, last year's Class AAAA runner-up, is off to a 6-0 start, while Morgantown, the defending Class AAAA champion and the defending Battle for the Springhouse champion, is 5-0. Greenbrier East, a Class AAA squad, is 3-2 and coming off a impressive come-from-behind win over Princeton. Virginia Episcopal, out of Lynchburg, competes in the hotly contested VISAA, and the Bishops

have won four of their last seven contests.

The girls' field features 10-0 Greenbrier East, tied for the top spot in Class AAA, along with Class AA No. 7 Charleston Catholic, Class AAAA Huntington, a state semifinalist last year, and defending Battle for the Springhouse champion North Marion, a perennial power in Class AAA. All four teams began the season ranked in their respective classes.

Games begin Friday, Jan. 31. For the latest updates, follow Battle for the Springhouse on Facebook and X.

2025 Schedule

Friday, Jan. 31

2 p.m. - North Marion Girls vs. Charleston Catholic Girls

4 p.m. - Morgantown Boys vs. Virginia Episcopal Boys

6 p.m. - Greenbrier East Boys vs. Spring Mills Boys

8 p.m. - Greenbrier East Girls vs. Huntington Girls

Saturday, Feb. 3

1 p.m. to Boys Consolation Game

3 p.m. - Girls Consolation Game

5 p.m. - Boys Championship Game

7 p.m. - Girls Championship Game



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McKinney helps Vassar rugby team to victory

Mette McKinney, the granddaughter of Dr. Douglas McKinney and Sue Tuckwiller McKinney of Lewisburg and the younger daughter of Bill and Amy McKinney of Minneapolis, MN, was a valued member of the women's rugby team of Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, NY, which defeated University of Wisconsin Eau Claire for the Division II National Championship in Houston, TX by a score of 24-5. Mette helped avenge the 2023 finals loss to the same school. Vassar handily defeated William and Mary in the semifinals. Vassar won the 2022 championship by defeating the US Coast Guard Academy but Mette was unable to play in that game due to injury.

Playing every minute of both the semifinal and the final matches, Mette was described by her coach as, "the best rugby player I have seen in 30 years of coaching." She made more than twenty tackles and had numerous long runs in the championship match

Mette is a junior majoring in Spanish and international studies and will soon leave to spend the spring semester in Argentina. In addition to playing rugby at Vassar, she was a high school varsity swimmer, lacrosse player, and cross country skier. She was also valedictorian of her class at Washburn High School and a national Merit Scholar.



Mette McKinney (center)

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