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Mountain messenger

Vol. XLII, No. 9

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

March 1, 2025

Candidates announced for Lewisburg Municipal Election

The City of Lewisburg has announced the list of citizens who have filed to run as candidates for the City of Lewisburg City Council in the June 2025 city election. This list is presented by office and is listed alphabetically.

There are three candidates running for three City Council positions: Franklin Johnson, Valerie Pritt, and Arron Seams

The deadline for any candidate to withdraw from the ballot for the June 2025 election is Tuesday Mar. 18, 2025.

Citizens may file as a write-in candidate for City Council for the June election, write-in candidates are required to file a certificate of announcement with the City Clerk at city hall located at 942 Washington St., West, at least 49 days before the general elections to have votes for the candidate to count (Tuesday, Apr. 22, 2025). Write-in candidates are also required to file campaign financial statements. Only votes for certified write-in candidates will be counted.

The last day to register to vote in the city election with the Greenbrier County Clerk's office is May 20, 2025. Early voting will occur from May 28 through June 7, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Lewisburg City Hall.

The election for City Council will be held at City Hall located at 942 Washington St., West on Tuesday, Jun. 10, 2025.

Magistrate Court, Family Court relocate to courthouse

By Sarah Richardson

Renovations to the Greenbrier County Courthouse are nearing completion, and now the Greenbrier County Magistrate Court and Family Court are relocated to their new offices in the updated courthouse.

Magistrate Court was previously located on Green Lane, across the street from the courthouse, and Family Court was located in a separate building at 650 Court Street. Magistrate Court will now be housed alongside the Greenbrier County Circuit Court, both of which will operate out of the original Courthouse building through the main double doors off of Court Street. The locations of the two circuit courtrooms remain unchanged, however, upgrades have been made to both rooms regarding security and functionality. The magistrate court now has two brand new, separate, courtrooms inside of the



The main circuit courtroom has received a facelift and security upgrades as part of the courthouse renovation project.

courthouse as well, both on the main floor.

The basement of the original section of the courthouse now houses the sheriff's department and family court. The first floor houses the magistrate court offices and

See "Courthouse Renovation" Page 5

Greenbrier County Commission hears presentations from Humane Society, Off-Road Biking Association

By Dakota Baker

During the latest Greenbrier County Commission meeting, two presentations were made: one from the Greenbrier Humane Society and another from the Greenbrier Valley Off-Road Biking Association (GVORBA). Jennifer Runyon represented the Greenbrier Humane Society as the Volunteer Board President. Runyon reviewed the 2024 statistics for the shelter, stating that 623 dogs and 668 cats were surrendered to the facility in Greenbrier County last year (including both owner and stray surrenders; however, the majority were owner surrenders). The total number of animals in GHS's care for 2024 was 1,408. 745 were adopted, 416 were adopted through rescue partnerships, and 80 dogs and two cats were returned to their owners. Despite the facility's efforts to keep these animals' average length of stay below 30 days, they have struggled to achieve that goal in

2024. From 2009 to 2024, 27,534 dogs and cats have been surrendered to GHS. Their main goal is to rescue as many animals as possible through adoptions or rescue programs, and 12,996 dogs and cats were adopted or sent to rescue between 2009 and 2024. Things have improved positively for GHS in the last 11 years, and they have celebrated anniversaries for not euthanizing animals due to space constraints. Unfortunately, there are still instances when an animal must be euthanized. In 2024, 42 cats and 23 dogs were euthanized due to severe cases of aggression or illness.

GHS also continues to operate under the veterinary license of Dr. Pat McHale. Runyon also noted that she likes to reiterate that GHS always aims to put itself out of business. By offering a spay and neuter program they have a goal to reduce the number of unwanted animals in this county, ultimately decreasing the number of surren-

ders received. Between 2009 and 2024, the spay and neuter program was utilized on 21,240 dogs and cats. In 2024 alone, 1,276 surgeries were performed at reduced or no cost to the animal owner (courtesy of a highly generous donor, no county money is used for the spay and neuter programs). GHS continues working with the community, law enforcement, and food pantries to help people and animals in need. Additionally, GHS began a new program called the Responsible Pet Rehoming program in 2024. The program allows individuals to utilize GHS's social media to rehome a pet they may no longer be able to care for without that animal having to enter the GHS facility. In 2023, GHS also reimplemented its foster-to-adopt program for any animals needing special care to be taken care of in a home setting. In 2023, the doggie day out program also began, allowing the approved dogs out of

See "County Commission" Page 3

The Decline and Revival of Lewisburg: Second Installment

By Hanno Kirk

In the first installment of this series of articles (published in the Mountain Messenger on Feb. 15, 2025), I detailed how the presence of the Greenbrier Military Academy, (GMS) and the Greenbrier Women's College benefited the economic and cultural well-being of Lewisburg. Both institutions had operated under various names since 1812. As recounted in the first article, in 1922 both institutions separated from their beginnings in being under the guidance and sponsorship of the Greenbrier Area Presbytery.

The Moore family, which had long had an active involvement in the Greenbrier Presbyterial Military School, bought the land and buildings in 1920s. They renamed it and incorporated as the Greenbrier Military School in 1922. Successive generations of the Moore

family operated the school over the next 50 years. Under the Moores, GMS focused on providing a combination of "academic training with military discipline." Starting in 1921, it offered ROTC which allowed them to receive US Army military equipment, and an active-duty Sergeant on campus to teach and oversee the program. Thus, began a 40 year association with the federal government. When World War II broke out, the US Army supplied more instructors, as well as financial support for expanding the military training facilities. The federal support continued until the school ran afoul of the civil rights mandate to integrate schools. GMS had never accepted students of color, as H.B Moore Jr. had refused to do so. As a result, in 1966, the US Army withdrew its ROTC faculty members from GMS. The school lost all federal funding, including scholarship support.

This was a serious financial blow. It was aggravated by the rising antiwar movement of the Vietnam conflict. Enrollment plummeted. By the end of 1971, it became clear to the Moore family that the drastic drop in applications for the 1972 school year meant that they would not cover expenses. Camp Shaw-Mi-Del-Ica, which had been designed to provide a year-round experience for the cadets, as well as provide full time employment for faculty, had seen a parallel decline in attendance. So, in 1972, the Moore family decided to close both GMS and Shaw-Mi-Del-Ica.

The Women's College across town had also seen steep declines in enrollment. As previously stated, the simultaneous shuttering of both schools had a significant negative impact on the Lewisburg downtown business

See "Decline and Revival" Page 2

This Week in the House of Delegates

For the week ending February 28, 2025

As members of the West Virginia House of Delegates continue to implement their new, two-day committee process for deliberating potential bills, many passed the full body with nearly universal, unanimous support.

A total of 11 bills passed the full House this week, with fewer than half a dozen "nay" votes against any of them.

Members of the House voted to move some food additives out of reach with their approval of House Bill 2354. The measure would eliminate certain food additives from school nutrition programs starting Aug. 1 and would prohibit the sale of food products containing seven specific color additives or food dyes within the state after Jan. 1, 2027.

"We live in a state where many of our elementary school kids are medicated dealing with ADHD or some type of autism symptoms and what the studies have begun to show is that these additives that add no value to the nutritional value, only appearance to it, are

See "House of Delegates" Page 2



West Virginia Legislature March 3, 2025

(Photo by Perry Bennett)

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Decline and Revival

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community. Sales fell for the upscale Yarid’s clothing store, the mid-level-priced Leggett’s department store, as well as the low cost Federated Store. By 1978 there were eight empty storefronts in the three blocks of Washington Street downtown.

Facing a further decline, merchants who were members of the Lewisburg Chamber of Commerce started to meet and discuss ways to halt the deteriorating situation. However, Chamber members were divided on how to remedy the situation. One faction proposed tearing down some closed businesses to create more parking spaces, and also widen the street. They believed this would bring in more shoppers in cars.

The other faction, headed by Chamber President Paul Detch, believed this would be a mistake, thinking the widened street and emphasis on parking would discourage sidewalk foot traffic. He and other members believed that they had to concentrate their effort on making Lewisburg an attractive tourist/shopping destination. The two factions could not reach consensus on which option to pursue. Each meeting turned into bitter shouting matches.

Detch, with the agreement of like-minded members, decided not to schedule any more meetings, and to let the Lewisburg Chamber of Commerce die. In the meanwhile, he and 11 other members decided to form a separate organization, which became the Lewisburg Foundation.

One of the first decisions was to solicit some expert advice on ways to restore Lewisburg. They approached a Charlottesville architectural firm, Griggs, Wood, and Browne, about doing a feasibility study “on the immediate and future needs for the restoration of historic Lewisburg.” Paul Detch and Phil Gainer, the mayor, also connected with the Director of West Virginia Travel and Tourism and Development, Joseph Fowler. He was fully supportive of their plans, and he put in a good word with Jay Rockefeller, then Governor of West Virginia.

The cost for the study by the architectural firm was \$15,000. The Foundation members collectively donated \$5,000. That left a gap of \$10,000. With the encouragement of Fowler, Detch decided to go to Charleston to see the Governor. He had to wait over two hours before he was admitted to the Governor’s office. It was way past business hours, however, Rockefeller received him graciously and apologized for the delay. He had already been briefed by Fowler. He inquired about some details on the group that was spearheading the campaign for the restoration of Lewisburg. Then he reached down into the lowest right-hand drawer on his desk and pulled out what appeared to be a large checkbook. He wrote a government draft order for the Treasurer’s office for \$10,000 and handed it to Detch. “Here young man, I commend you what you are doing. I wish you all success in your project.” With the \$15,000 in hand, the group could now finalize the contract with the architectural firm in Charlottesville.

In November 1978, Henry Browne used a slide presentation to show the proposed recommendations of the feasibility study at a crowded meeting in the Lewisburg firehouse. In visual format it showed what the downtown area looked like, and what it would look like if the specific suggestions for the revival of Lewisburg were followed. Indeed, the renderings of the future downtown area that were shown to the crowd is what Lewisburg looks like today. The presentation was warmly received. The plans became the blueprint for the work of the Lewisburg Foundation.

The next installment will describe in detail the recommendations made by the architectural firm. It will also tell the story of how the Lewisburg Foundation had to structure itself to implement the blueprint. How the Foundation raised a lot of money and succeeded in reinvigorating the downtown is part of that story.

Hanno Kirk has been a resident of Lewisburg for 35 years. Before he and his wife retired, they had a private practice in counseling and neurofeedback. Dr. Kirk has been active in the neuroscience community, giving presentations at national and international conferences. His publications include “Restoring the Brain: Neurofeedback as an Integrative Approach to Health” (2014, 2020), “Psychosocial Aspects of Medicine” (2002), as well as multiple articles on a variety of topics. For several years he conducted all day seminars throughout the United States on two topics of special interest to him: “Is it ADHD or Pediatric Disorder, Differential Diagnosis and Effective Treatment” and “End of Life Care, Best Practices and Applied Ethics.”

House of Delegates

Continued from Front Page

actually feeding into hyperactivity and ADHD,” said Adam Burkhammer, R-Lewis, and lead sponsor of HB2354. “So as we consider bills on down our list, and one of them has been a really hot topic when we talk about elementary school behavior and how we’re going to tackle this, we’re tackling it right now: Better foods, better ingredients, better behavior, better for everybody.”

Delegates this week also voted to increase the criminal penalties on parents or guardians convicted of child abuse or neglect resulting in injury with House Bill 2123, and House Bill 2047, to largely prohibit cameras or recording devices in the bedrooms and bathrooms of foster children.

“We have to do everything we can to protect our kids,” said Delegate Doug Smith, R-Mercer, and lead sponsor of HB2123, which has unanimously passed the full House five out of the past six years.

Members of the Energy and Public Works Committee dug deep this week for an intense discussion on utility services and the establishment of microgrids in West Virginia. Their work across two meetings lasted nearly five hours with no legislation

on the table.

Various representatives from the energy industry spoke to the economics and other aspects of microgrids in the state during the meeting, allowing the committee to go in-depth on the key question of how West Virginia can continue to lead in energy generation and economic development.

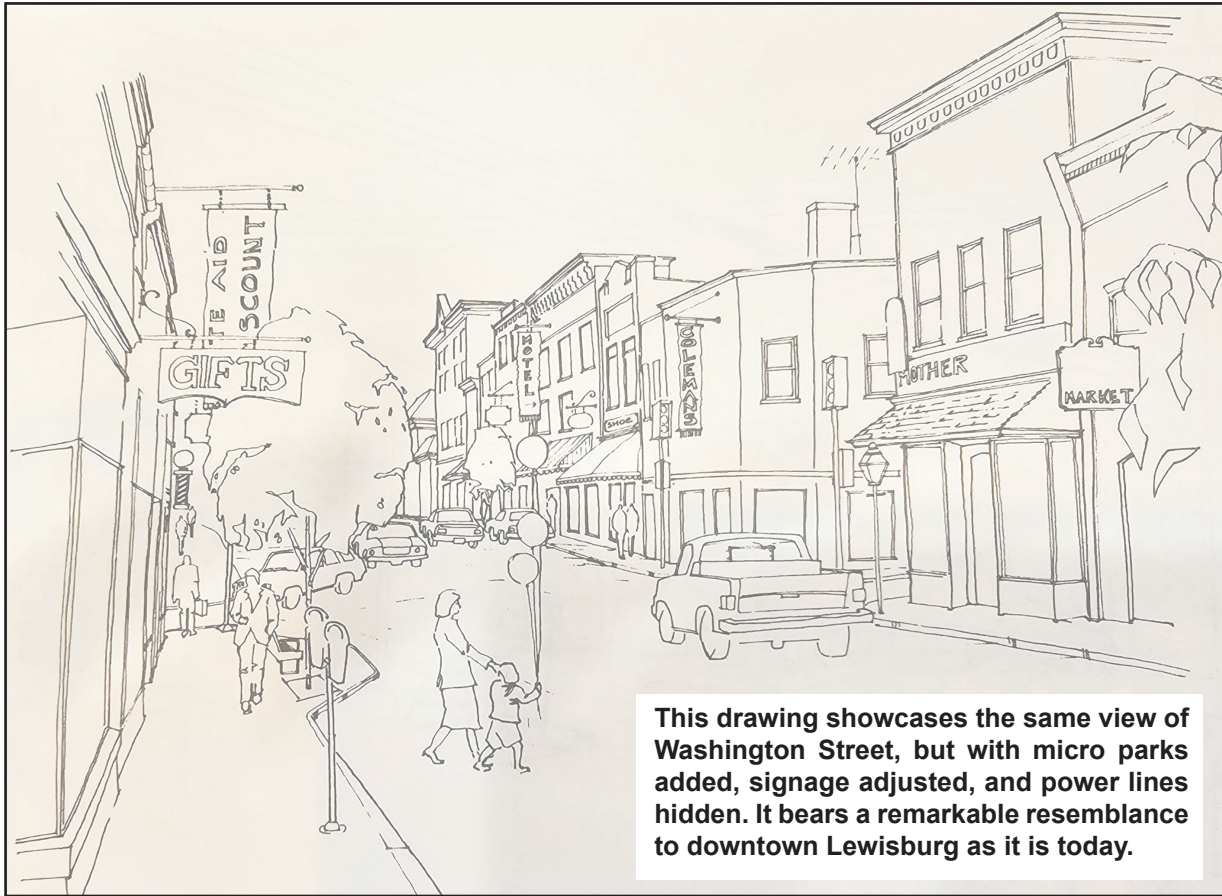
“When we’re able to talk through a problem, a concept or an opportunity without anyone in the room trying to defend or fight any specifics of a bill, we have the latitude to learn,” said Delegate Clay Riley, R-Harrison. “We got a wholistic view of microgrids in just one meeting, hearing from fuel sources, coal, natural gas, renewables, from the regulated utilities, the merchant utilities and the end users.”

Riley said the format lends itself to gaining perspective rather than being pigeonholed.

“It helps us all to understand the ‘why’ behind what someone believes without feeling like we must line up behind one bill or another,” he said.

A total of 1,051 bills have been introduced in the House; the last day to introduce bills is Mar. 18. The 60-day, regular legislative session ends at midnight Apr. 12.

This drawing from the Architectural Evaluation of Historic Lewisburg, Dec. 15, 1978, depicts a view of Washington Street as it existed in 1978.



This drawing showcases the same view of Washington Street, but with micro parks added, signage adjusted, and power lines hidden. It bears a remarkable resemblance to downtown Lewisburg as it is today.

PICK OF THE LITTER



KYA

Kya is a three-and-a-half year old female domestic shorthair



OAKLEY

Oakley is a four-year-old male Labrador retriever mix and weighs 62 pounds

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

Burning Season Guidelines

Burning season dates are from Mar. 1 through May 31 and Oct. 1 through Dec. 31. Burning is prohibited during burning season from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. If burning has occurred during permitted hours (5 p.m. to 7 a.m.), the fire must be completely extinguished by 7 a.m. Burning season prohibitions exclude small fires for the purpose of food preparation, warmth or light around which all grass, brush, stubble or debris has been removed for at least 10 feet from the fire and burning which is conducted at any time when the ground surrounding the burning site is covered by one inch of snow or more.

Corned Beef and Cabbage Benefit Dinner

Welcome to our annual Saint Patrick’s Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner, to be held this year on Mar. 15. Serving time will be from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Williamsburg Community Building, 6571 Shoestring Trail in Williamsburg. The dinner will benefit the Williamsburg Food Pantry which provides for more than 70 families. It will feature our famous corn pone, served with corned beef, cabbage, carrots, potatoes, corn-pone or rolls, a variety of desserts and tea or coffee. The cost is \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for the children under 12 years, children under 6 years are free. This event is sponsored by the Williamsburg Food Pantry. Call 304-392-5537 with any questions.

Williamsburg Shooting Match

Daylight savings time! We hope. Join us for the Williamsburg Shooting Match that will be held on Mar. 15. The Shooting Match will begin at 7 p.m. Come early! Come Hungry! Delicious hot food and refreshments will be available starting at 6 p.m. Families welcomed; you don’t have to shoot to come get a meal! The Match will be eight rounds, 12-gauge guns only. Full choke, .660 inch minimum. Screw in chokes must be from a recognized supplier (patented) and extend no more than 3 inches beyond original barrel. Barrel length 34” maximum. First Seven rounds @ \$2.50 per shot, eighth round 50/50 @\$7.50 per shot. Shooters must compete in the first 7 rounds in order to compete in the 8th round. 50/50 splatter match is \$1 per chance between rounds - Cash prizes will be awarded. You do not need to be a shooter to win! The match will be held at the Community Building 6571 Shoestring, Trail, Williamsburg, WV. We hope to see you all there. Sponsored by a joint effort of the Williamsburg Community Action. For more information and directions visit our website: www.williamsburgwv.com or Bill Jarvis, 304-645-3690.

A Celebration of Nine Decades

Please join us to honor Cleve Benedict as he turns 90! There will be a party held on Friday, Mar. 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Dutch Haus Restaurant in Lewisburg. This will be an evening of stories, laughter, and celebration. Your presence is the only gift he needs! Together, let’s toast to 90 remarkable years!

Lewisburg County Commission

the facility for the day, positively impacting the dogs and the people while also promoting the dogs on social media.

Although 2024 was an excellent year for GHS, it was not without challenges. Like any animal facility across the country, GHS faces the challenge of overpopulation. It is difficult to keep up with all the animals coming into the facility, and GHS continues to seek innovative ways to promote the animals. For example, appointment-only intakes allow them to know which animals are arriving on specific days, enabling them to ensure they have the appropriate animal care staff and minimize surprises. As GHS moves into 2025, it plans to continue its programs, such as ongoing education and responsible pet ownership. The ultimate goal is to keep pets in home environments and out of shelters. The commission showed gratitude to GHS for its ongoing efforts, as well as all the volunteers.

The Greenbrier Valley Off-Road Biking Association (GVORBA) also presented to the Commission. Two board members, Josh Edwards and Ben Eisenberg, represented GVORBA during this presentation. They are a non-profit organization affiliated with the International Mountain Biking Association, and its purpose is to get adults, kids, and community members on bikes. GVORBA is currently in the process of trying to expand the opportunities available for biking in the Greenbrier Valley, as we have some of the best terrain available for mountain biking. They aim to capitalize on this terrain and provide biking trails suitable for all levels, bringing visitors to Greenbrier Valley to ride our trails, eat at our restaurants, and shop at our businesses.

Additionally, these trails will not only be for biking but also hiking, walking, and family outings, and they will be all-around community-friendly. GVORBA has secured \$2.6 million in funding to develop a new bike park in White Sulphur Springs. They have also worked with the International Mountain Biking Association and the Greenbrier State Forrest to design 20-plus new miles of trail, as the current trails we have now lack various difficulty levels. GVORBA plans to host some community rides this spring to increase community engagement and encourages the community to be on the lookout for those.

Just as exciting, GVORBA is working with White Sulphur to try and get new lights for the ball fields in Hope Village, as that is also where the bike park will be; GVORBA would also like to try and connect the bike park to downtown to make it easily accessible. GVORBA is interested in these projects because they love bikes and the Greenbrier Valley and want to see us grow economically and recreationally.

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 Board of Education

will meet in Special Session Monday, Mar. 10, at 1 p.m. in the Kyle & Ann Fort Arts & Science Building, 653 Church St., Lewisburg, WV 24901. On the agenda:

- Executive Session - Student Hearing per WV Code §18a-5-1A
 - Student A - GWHS
- Approval of Schedule of Proposed Levy Order and Rate Sheet for Fiscal Year 2026
- Consideration of and Possible Action
- Work Session

Lewisburg Finance Committee

will meet in regular session Tuesday, Mar. 11 and Wednesday, Mar. 12, at 7 p.m. in the Paul R. Cooley Council Chambers, 942 Washington St. W, Lewisburg. The following topics are scheduled for discussion:

- Resolution 577 - Water System Improvement Project Pay Request 35
- Water System Improvements Project Change Orders:
 - Hayslett Construction Co. Change Order No. 4 to Contract No. 8
 - Orders Construction Co. Change Order No. 9 to Contract No. BA
- Chapman Technical Group, Ltd Amendment No. 3 to Task Order No. 32. S Lafayette/Randolph Street Storm Sewer Improvements
- Election Poll Worker Approval with related pay
- Fire Department - Bid approval for roof repair
- Police Department - Promotion of Jonathan Cosby from Patrolman to Corporal with related wage increase
- Merit Pay Approval
- Department Heads Capital Budget Request Fiscal Year 2026
- Coal Severance Fund Budget Approval Fiscal Year 2026
- General Fund Budget Approval Fiscal Year 2026
- Communications from Members
- Communications from City Manager
- Approval of Minutes - February 11, 2025

Renick Town Meetings

The March town meeting for the Town of Renick will be held Monday, Mar. 24. The 2025-2026 Budget Meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and will be followed by the regular monthly meeting. The agenda for the regular monthly meeting includes:

- Community comments
- Approval of Minutes and Financial Reports
- Old and New Business
- Committee reports

Continued from Front Page

In other news, regular Commission business included no arts and recreation transfers at this meeting. On the agenda were eight items to be considered. The first was the consideration of a resolution urging Greenbrier County lawmakers to support the Certificate of Need in West Virginia. Becky Harless, CEO of CAMC GVMC, spoke on this matter strongly, urging lawmakers to oppose any attempt to repeal West Virginia’s Certificate of Need program as it would have detrimental effects on the access to healthcare in our rural community. A motion was made for the Greenbrier County Commission to write a letter to regional lawmakers in support of the Certificate of Need.

Commissioners also considered closing out the documents for the Greenbrier County Quinwood Broadband Project, as the project became obsolete before it even came to the point of being billed and did not make it past the project design. Funds remaining from this project will be given back to the state. The commission will move forward with the closeout documents.

Next on the agenda was the consideration of payment of Resolution # 9 for the Greenbrier County PSD #2 – Phase 2 Waterline extension project, invoices for The Thrasher Group. The amount was \$160,084.90, and the commission approved this payment. The commission then considered the payment for Draw Request #7 for the Greenbrier County GigReady Broadband Project. The total amount for the project is \$134,976.91. However, the Greenbrier County Commission is only obligated to pay 25 percent; \$33,744.23 would be the commission’s portion, with the rest will be paid by the GigReady Project. The motion to consider this payment was approved.

The commission considered two separations of employment: Shelly Ott (effective Feb. 12) from the Greenbrier County Sherriff’s Tax Office and Timothy Wilson (effective Feb. 20) from the Greenbrier County 911 Office. The commission approved both separations of employment.

The last item on the agenda was the consideration of a Professional Service Agreement for three + one for cash Vest Liquidity and Treasury Analysis. They would assess the commission’s accounts and provide information on the best ways for the commission to maximize the available funds. Commissioners also considered a Remediation Reimbursement Agreement for the Cost of Demolition of Commercial Property located at 11525 Midland Trail, Crawley (the old Exxon station). Exxon would like the commission to go ahead and perform the demolition, and Exxon will reimburse the commission for the full amount. A motion was made to approve both considerations.

For the Record

Deeds

Joshua J. Martin and Stevi L. Martin to Martins HD LLC: 0.126 acres & R/W, Rainelle District, Map 4 Parcel 0039.

Barbara J. Boggs to Barbara J. Boggs: lots 22-30, Fort Spring District, Map 14G Parcel 45, 52-55.

Hillcroft Properties LLC to Rudolph P. Colombo II and Beverly J. Colombo: 200 acres, Lewisburg District, Map 18 Parcel 18.

Molly C. Hundley McCloud Estate to Johnny E. Hundley and Teresa R. Hundley: 2 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 39 Parcel 0025 0001.

JNL Properties LLC to McClintic Properties LLC: 0.50 acres, White Sulphur District, Map 2 Parcel 3.

Gregory N. Estep and Debra S. Estep to Vincent G. Oliviera and Heather D. Oliviera: 18.90 acres, Frankford District, Map 15 Parcel 6.

Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Convictions

Jacques Uwitonze, Shelby ville, KY, speeding, fine \$32, GP

Trinaty A. Forren, Lewisburg, possession of tobacco, vape on school property, fine \$1,GP

Carrie L. Jeffries, Scott Depot, speeding, fine \$10, GP

James Felty, Rush, KY, speeding, fine \$10, NCP

Thi Nguyen, Monroe Township, NJ, failure to obey traffic signals, fine \$10, NCP

Colby R. Crookshanks, Meadow Bridge, failure to yield at intersection, fine \$10, GP

Anthony Brown, Rainelle, 1) improper turning, fine \$15; 2) passing with oncoming traffic, fine \$15; 3) driving without valid driver’s license, fine \$25; 4) failure to maintain vehicle insurance, fine \$200; 5)defective equipment, fine \$15; 6) expired inspection sticker, fine \$10, GP

Brian Peeples, Statesboro, GA, speeding, fine \$32, GP

Caleb I. Humen, Hadesville, WV, 1) speeding, fine \$38; 2) reckless driving, fine \$50, NCP

Rodnay Farrell Leech, White Sulphur Springs, DUI, fine \$100, jail 10 days - suspended and placed on 18 months unsupervised probation

Marriages

Haley Nicole Durham and Jacob Scott Nutter

Miranda Brooke Lehmilller and Jonathan Michael Dunbar

Suits

New Cases from 2/26/25 to 3/5/25

New Civil Cases

American Express National Bank v. Wren Kennedy Credit Acceptance Corporation v. Charles A Hazard III

State of West Virginia v. Kevin Peter Kipp

New Divorces

Melissa Dawn Thorton and Matthew Charles Thorton

Cameron Felty and Julia Felty

Staran Lee Fox and Jeanett Sue Fox

Ashley Hanna Morgan and Trenton W Morgan

Ronnie Dewayne Killion and Alexandria Hope Dowdy

Thomas Eric Stalnaker and Laretta Renia Spence Stalnaker

Mountain Messenger

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Courthouse Renovation

Continued from Front Page

courtrooms, as well as the circuit clerk’s office, adult probation department, and one circuit courtroom, and the second floor houses the circuit court offices, juvenile probation department, and the prosecuting attorney’s office.

The new annex, located on the north end of the Courthouse, now houses the Sheriff’s Tax Office and Assessor’s Office on the ground floor, and the county commission, planning and permits division, county clerk, voter registration office, and fiduciary offices are on the second floor.

Please note that the new courthouse annex is not directly accessible to the public from the original courthouse section, even though the two are connected by hallways. To visit the offices in the annex, the public must enter through the annex’s new front door located off of Court Street. To attend court sessions (family, magistrate, and circuit) or visit the juvenile and adult probation departments, visitors must enter through the main Court Street door of the original courthouse that was previously the only public access door.

Call the Greenbrier County Courthouse at 304-647-6689 with any questions.



Jury box for the main circuit courtroom received new padded chairs.



Boosting community health: Red Cross offers free A1C testing for blood donors in March

The American Red Cross of Allegheny Highlands is helping to bridge access to health care for blood donors by providing free A1C testing, commonly used to screen for diabetes and prediabetes, on all successful blood, platelet and plasma donations in March.

One-third of people lack access to regular primary care in the U.S., where diabetes affects 1 in 10 people and nearly a quarter of those living with it have been undiagnosed, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The free A1C screening aims to help address this gap by empowering blood donors with valuable information to maintain their health and well-being. This new offering is among the longtime work of the Red Cross to support the health of communities, which also includes disaster relief efforts such as basic disaster health and mental health services among other assistance.

Visit RedCrossBlood.org, use the Red Cross Blood Donor App or call 1-800-RED CROSS to book a time to give in March and learn more about your health. Additionally, all who come to give blood, platelets or plasma March 1-31 will receive a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. See RedCrossBlood.org/March for details on both offers.

Upcoming blood drives in the Lewisburg area include one on Monday, Mar. 10 at Lewisburg United Methodist Church from 12 noon to 6 p.m., one on Thursday, Mar. 13 at the Clingman Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and one on Tuesday, Mar. 18 at Robert C. Byrd Clinic from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Advocates: WV tourism gains threatened by federal job cuts

By Brett Peveto

With West Virginia’s tourism industry seeing dramatic growth in recent years, conservation groups are sounding the alarm about layoffs of federal land-management workers.

Reports indicate 3,400 U.S. Forest Service employees and 1,000 National Park Service workers have been fired nationwide, representing a 10% force reduction for the Forest Service and 5% at the Park Service.

Olivia Miller, program director for the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, said the cutbacks will affect the state’s economy.

“Public lands have an enormous economic impact in our state, bringing in around \$9 billion annually and supporting about 91,000 jobs,” Miller pointed out. “Many communities are built around outdoor recreation and tourism.”

The Park Service reported West Virginia saw more than 2 million visitors to its national parks in 2023, with park visitors spending more than \$120 million in the state.

In 2023, West Virginia saw a 17% increase in visitor spending in the state compared with a national increase around 1%. The state Department of Tourism forecasts continued visitor spending will create 21,000 jobs annually through 2030.

Advocates are pointing to the preexisting staffing problems at national forests including Monongahela, which is described as chronically understaffed. Miller noted understaffed national parks and forests will have a slower response to invasive species and sees the likelihood of an overall decline in the quality of visitor experiences.

“Trail maintenance will likely become harder,” Miller observed. “Cleaning up campsites and opening them up for people over the summer is going to become more and more difficult for these agencies to sustain.”

National parks nationwide saw more than 325 million visits in 2023, a 4% increase over the year prior.

You can also make a financial donation at redcross.org/GivingDay on Mar. 26 to support people with disaster services such as emergency shelter, food, relief supplies, basic health care, emotional support and financial assistance. Both efforts are part of its Red Cross Month activities in March.

Supporting the health of communities has long been part of the American Red Cross and traces its roots to its founder, Clara Barton. A lifelong humanitarian and pioneer in the nursing field, Barton first led the organization to deliver relief and care after disasters more than 140 years ago.

As part of disaster relief efforts, disaster health and mental health services are as important as ever in the face of intensifying extreme weather across the country. The Red Cross is responding to nearly twice as many major disasters than it did a decade ago across the country - on top of everyday crises like home fires and flooding in our area. After disasters of all sizes, the Red Cross also provides emergency lodging, food and financial assistance.

Red Cross health and mental health support may include replacing lost prescription medications and medical equipment, helping people in its shelters cope with chronic illnesses aggravated by the disaster, and providing emotional support and referrals to community health and mental health professionals for additional care.

So far this year, the Red Cross has helped people affected by large disasters such as the record-breaking wildfires in California. This came on the heels of 2024 having the second-highest number of billion-dollar disasters in a single year, due to major events like hurricanes, floods and tornadoes, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The American Red Cross of the Central Appalachia Region is responding to the devastating flooding that impacted parts of our area with over 50 Red Cross disaster responders assisting in relief efforts. Teams have been delivering emergency supplies including over 850 clean-up kits and more than 2,000 other items such as bleach, shovels, trash bags, gloves, etc. to the impacted area. Red Cross damage assessment teams have been out in communities assessing the impacts and conducting door-to-door external residential damage assessments to help determine how many homes have been affected and the extent of damage. Caseworkers are conducting direct outreach and meeting with families whose homes were determined to be destroyed or with major damage to help support their recovery.

Chocolate Festival tickets on sale now, both in-person and online

Lewisburg Chocolate Festival tickets are now on sale both online and in-person at the Greenbrier County Visitor’s Center. Visit visitlewisburgwv.com/lewisburg-chocolate-festival to purchase tickets online. This year there is an added the option of delivery for your tickets! Just choose shipping at checkout and skip the will call line. Orders after Mar. 21 will not have the option for shipping and must be picked up at Will Call. Thanks to our nonprofit partner Greenbrier Historical Society and North House Museum for making this option possible.

Tickets come in packs of five for \$5 each, with most visitors buy around 25 tickets.

The Lewisburg Chocolate Festival will be Apr. 12 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Will Call will be open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at City National Bank.

Tickets are still available for purchase in person at the Visitors Center in downtown Lewisburg. Cash preferred.

Church Bulletin

Tilapia Benefit Dinners return to the area for the Fridays of Lent

The annual Tilapia dinners, consisting of a large portion of Tilapia, cole slaw, scalloped potatoes, hard rolls, drink and dessert, will be served on Mar. 7, 14, 21, and 28, as well as Apr. 4 and 11 in the Community Hall of the Schoolhouse Hotel, directly behind the Emmanuel United Methodist Church on Dry Creek Road in downtown White Sulphur Springs. Serving time will be 4:30 to 7 p.m. and the sponsors, the Greenbrier Valley Council 8689 Knights of Columbus, will use the proceeds for various community, youth, church and council projects. Dinners may be purchased for eating in or as take outs.

“Because of the highly successful 2024 dinners, we were able to provide every elementary school in Greenbrier, Monroe, Pocahontas, and the town of Meadow Bridge with 12 brand new winter coats as well as 12 to the Monroe County Family Resource Network, the Pocahontas County Family Resource Network, and Wellspring of Western Greenbrier which serves western Greenbrier and eastern Fayette counties,” noted Andrew Wrzoawk of Waiteville, grand knight of Council 8689. He added “We were able to give \$500 grants each to two food pantries, to two college students from our area and to two seminarians from southern West Virginia. And this does not include all the donations to various local charities including donations to the five public high schools in the Greenbrier and Meadow River Valleys for the after prom/after graduation drug free/alcohol free parties.”

Cost of the dinners this year will be \$18 with an extra \$7 for an extra piece of Tilapia or a child portion for children 6-12. Children under 6 are free. The all volunteer culinary staff is again made up of some current and/or retired from The Greenbrier and from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine and the wait staff are all volunteers from the area who support the projects of the Knights Council. For further information, telephone the office of the Catholic Churches of the Greenbrier Valley 304-536-1813 or the Knights of Columbus 304-645-1373.

Greenbrier County teen reading program offers rewards

Calling all kids in grades 6 through 12! The Greenbrier County Public Library, Eastern Greenbrier Middle School, and the White Sulphur Springs Public Library are partnering for a teen reading program that rewards kids for writing reviews of books they read. Register online for the program at greenbrier.beanstack.org and enter your reviews of age-appropriate books you are reading on the Beanstack website or app. This will give you chances to get gift certificates from Mar. 7 to Apr. 11 at local stores. Win gift certificates to Across the Board, Cinema 8, and much more. Call 304-536-1171 or 304-647-7568 for more information.

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Applications must be received at WSS City Hall no later than Wednesday, April 30, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

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Dear Recycle Lady,

In one of your former columns, you mentioned paper being made from a number of different sources. However, you left out a few. Lemongrass, bamboo, and coconut are three sources that I know of. [Htps://www.ehow.com/how_5887274_make-paper-out-coconut-fiber.html](https://www.ehow.com/how_5887274_make-paper-out-coconut-fiber.html), has an interesting article entitled “How to Make Paper Out of Coconut Fiber.” How to make paper out of lemongrass is on the website, <https://bluecatpaper.com/lemongrass-paper>,and <https://www.bamboogrove.com/bamboo-paper.html> tells about making paper out of bamboo.

Paper Maker

Dear Paper Maker,

Thanks so much for adding coconut fiber, lemongrass and bamboo to the list of materials used to make paper in place of wood from trees. The websites are excellent.

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Chagrin 2. Scamp;
3. Propel; 4. Divine

Today’s Word

SHOPPING

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Answers

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Dear Recycle Lady,

What is the difference between corrugated cardboard and paperboard? Are they both recycled with cardboard?

Wants to Know

Dear Wants to Know,

Corrugated cardboard is made of three layers of paper; an outside liner and an inside liner with a ruffled shape running between the two. These three layers are glued together to make a very durable and strong box. Today, approximately 95% of products in North America are shipped in corrugated cardboard boxes. Paperboard is thinner than cardboard, and thicker and more rigid than paper. While it is lighter weight than cardboard, it is also strong and used in packaging. Cereal boxes are an example of paperboard. According to Wikipedia, cardboard was first made in France in 1751 to reinforce playing cards, whereas paperboard was first produced in England in the 1860s to save space when shipping packages. Both corrugated cardboard and paperboard packaging are sustainable, renewable, and recyclable in the cardboard bin. One ton of recycled cardboard used to make new cardboard saves 3 tons of trees and 9 cubic yards of landfill space.

Dear Recycle Lady,

Can milk cartons be recycled?

Milk Drinker

A Look Back

Photo from Wikipedia.

By William “Skip” Deegans

So long No. 614.

The final piece of the ill-fated Greenbrier Resort’s private train is about to leave our area. The Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad 614 is the last mainline steam locomotive built in the United States, and has been on display at the C&O Railway Heritage Center in Clifton Forge, Virginia. Built in 1948 by the Lima-Hamilton Corporation, the 5,000-horsepower locomotive was designed to haul C&O’s flagship passenger trains through the Allegheny Mountains. The locomotive was retired from active service in 1952 and donated to the B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore in 1976. Ross Rowland, a former New York commodities broker and railroad preservationist, acquired the locomotive in 1979 and undertook a \$1.5 million restoration.

In 2009, Jim Justice, owner of The Greenbrier, invested \$15 million and together with Rowland, Paul Nichini, Pennsylvania railroad owner, and John Hankins, Huntington, WV lawyer and grandson of a C&O engineer, organized the Greenbrier Express Company to develop a private train that would carry passengers from

Washington, D.C. to The Greenbrier. To kick off the project, the group held a press conference and cocktail party at the exclusive Hay-Adams Hotel in Washington. The company purchased 15 railroad passenger cars that were decorated by Carlton Varney, interior decorator with the Dorothy Draper & Co. Varney said, “My goal is to make this train very regal and royal.” Rowland’s C&O 614 was selected to pull the cars to and from West Virginia’s resort.

For various reasons, the plan for the private train proved to be unfeasible, and the project was canceled in May 2012. The newly renovated and decorated cars were auctioned. The C&O 614 locomotive was sold last year by Rowland to RJD American and will soon be moved to Strasburg, Pennsylvania, for further restoration. The new owner plans to operate the locomotive for historical and educational purposes. Someday, perhaps, it will be seen again in Greenbrier County as it chugs its way through the Alleghenies.

Sources: *Railfan & Railroad Magazine*, *American-Rails.com*, *Washington Life*, *Thousand Island Life*.

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BUSINESS

WVSOM gears up for first-ever Day of Giving March 12

If you’ve ever felt the urge to return a kind gesture to a physician who cared for you in a clinic or hospital and are looking for a way to express your gratitude, there is a way you can.

The West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM) Foundation is hosting its first-ever Day of Giving on Mar. 12. The event gives individuals an opportunity to show their support of WVSOM students and graduates by making a financial contribution to the school.

West Virginia residents are more likely to be treated by a physician who graduated from WVSOM than the other two medical schools in the state. According to information published in the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission’s Division of Health Sciences’ 2024 West Virginia Health Sciences and Rural Health Report, WVSOM produces the highest number of physicians who practice in the Mountain State in all specialties, as well as the largest number who practice in rural areas of West Virginia.

A total of 159 WVSOM graduates from classes between 2014 and 2019 practice in West Virginia,

compared with 155 from the second-highest school and 119 from the third-highest school. A total of 72 physicians who graduated from WVSOM during those years practice in rural areas of the state, compared with 43 from the other two schools combined.

The WVSOM Foundation is the charitable arm of WVSOM. For more than 50 years, it has advanced a culture of philanthropic giving to support WVSOM, its students, faculty, staff and alumni caring for medically underserved communities in West Virginia and beyond.

The 24-hour Day of Giving event is an opportunity for community members to show their support of WVSOM by choosing from more than 10 areas of interest to contribute, whether through unrestricted funds or by supporting student clubs or scholarships.

By participating in WVSOM’s Day of Giving, individuals will invest in the next generation of health care heroes and in the continued growth of health care in West Virginia’s communities, according to Shelden Mullens, the foundation’s development officer.

“On Mar. 12, alumni, friends and family of WVSOM will come together to support our students and the vital

work they do through clubs, organizations and areas of greatest need,” he said. “Your contributions, no matter the size, will go directly to the area you choose, making an immediate and meaningful impact. Every gift counts, and your support will not go unnoticed.”

Donations can be made online at dogive.wvsomfoundation.org/dayofgiving, by calling Mullens at 304-647-6358 or by sending a payment to WVSOM Foundation, 400 Lee Street North, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

Morgan Christian, a Class of 2028 student from West Virginia, has benefited from scholarship funds. She said scholarships help students attain their goal of becoming physicians. Since Christian is the first in her family to attend medical school, financial assistance is especially important.

“This award allows me to give more back to my community and to my home state of West Virginia and focus less on the financial burden of medical school,” she said. “Giving back helps keep medical students in the state so we can continue to help our population. Any amount of money helps.”

WV Humanities Council announces grant awards

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

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

- Bethany College (Brooke County), Sencha-style Japanese Tea Ceremony Presentation and Workshop
- Capon Bridge Ruritan Club (Hampshire County), “Focus on History,” Capon Bridge Founders Day Festival, living history presentations
- Carnegie Hall (Greenbrier County), Appalachian Culture and Cuisine: Salt Rising Bread, presentation

- Historic Beverly Preservation (Randolph County), Underrepresented Voices Building Beverly, presentations
 - Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation (Randolph County), Fighting Disease and Patching Wounds: Medical Service During the Civil War, symposium
 - Summers County Historic Landmark Commission, Chasing Mary Ingles, research and planning project
 - West Virginia University Research Corporation (Monongalia County), The 38th Annual Callahan Lecture: The Holocaust in the East: New Archives, New Approaches
- For more information about West Virginia Humanities Council grants, contact Grants Administrator Erin Riebe at (304) 346-8500 or via email at riebe@wvhumanities.org. Grant guidelines and applications are available on the Humanities Council website, www.wvhumanities.org.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

SCRAMBLERS

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

Dismay

ARCHING

Cheat

CAMPS

Push

LOPPER

Sacred

INVIED

TODAY'S WORD

"Medical science knows of only one thing that will cure a state of depression like yours ..."

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Super Crossword

BODILY ACTIVITY

ACROSS

1 Hair salon workers

8 Visits briefly

15 Sharp-image flat-screens, e.g.

20 Very fast cat

21 Not challenging enough

22 Balcony window, perhaps

23 Be on track

25 D.C. transport

26 Bricklayer's blend

27 Unit of work

28 2015-16 CBS "Cyber" series

29 Send again, as a parcel

30 — buco

31 Kin of "Ruff!"

33 Greek "H"

35 Repulsed by

37 Assume an onerous duty

40 "I haven't —" ("No idea")

44 Strapped garment

45 Meadowland

46 Pop's mama

47 Pay

50 Café addition

52 Lobster limb

56 Second purchase

57 — Lanka

58 Everyone

59 1978-89 New York mayor

61 Like a player who has hit a triple

63 Chinese temple

66 — Brothers ("It's Your Thing" group)

67 Do speaking motions voicelessly

71 Actress Bingham of "Baywatch"

75 Akron native

76 Collector of useless items

81 12.5% fraction

83 Actress Sothern

84 Cavaliers, on sports tickers

87 Capital of Saudi Arabia

88 Fencing sword

89 Enthusiastic

91 Focus on what you'll get if you win

93 Bulk beer buy

95 Angsty music genre

97 Film director DuVernay

98 Weighed down (with)

99 Support one who ultimately fails

105 2009-17, politically

106 Equal: Prefix

107 "The Addams Family" cousin

108 Poker holding

112 "Nick and — Infinite Playlist" (2008 film)

113 Car navig. aid

115 Actor Kilmer

117 Consumed no cooked food

119 Kriss Kringle

120 Conform to one's political group

123 1989 Disney princess

124 Captivates

125 Kind of spray

126 Latin "that is"

127 Really foolish

128 Paternity prover, perhaps

2 Baltimore ball team, for short

3 Decade parts

4 Caused

5 Jazz singer James

6 Enthusiastic

7 Hen or heifer

8 Mix together

9 Wearing dapper duds, with "out"

10 "— -la-la!"

11 Dog or cat owner's concern

12 Toothy tools

13 Bible book before Jeremiah

14 Big Apple team, on sports tickers

15 Four-bagger

16 Fixtures for displaying wedding gowns, say

17 Donated 10%

18 Cinéma — (filmmaking technique)

19 Apply messily

24 Renovates, in brief

29 Partial refund

32 Judge's garb

34 Notify

36 "—, vidi, vici"

37 Fixed maximum

38 Forest den

39 Fatty tissue of animals

40 — -Cuban (jazz genre)

41 Joel or Ethan of film

42 Misplaced

43 Ogden's state

48 Male lead

49 Brand of 120-Down

51 Actor — Ray

53 Email giggle

54 Superb serve

55 "How come?"

58 Bureau

60 Apostle

62 Couple

64 "I've got it!"

65 Dadaist Jean

68 Bangkok native

69 Impede

70 Take a risk

71 No-frills shirt

72 Split

73 Census stat

74 King-trapping situations

77 Actress Sedgwick

78 FBI attack

79 Wood-shaping tool

80 At that time

82 Discusses in detail, with "out"

85 Actress Remini

86 French "Ta-da!"

90 Zig or zag

91 Vast time spans

92 Former senator Gary

94 On hold

96 Make damp

99 Tiny tree

100 On a train or plane

101 Singer Wilson of Phillips

102 Farm carts

103 Rule over

104 — Island Ferry

108 Ancient serf

109 Come to light

110 Thin iPods

111 Resided

114 Mani- —

116 Church nook

118 Model Banks

120 Steeped drink

121 "Bali —"

122 "Super cool!"

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SCHOOL

2025-2026 Preschool and Kindergarten registration events announced

Greenbrier County Schools (GCS) will host preschool and kindergarten registration on two dates and locations for children who will be four years old before July 1, 2025, for preschool and five years old before July 1, 2025, for kindergarten. Students currently enrolled in a GCS Pre-K program will be automatically enrolled in kindergarten in their home school district; therefore, parents of GCS Pre-K students will not need to attend a registration session.

Preschool and Kindergarten registration will take place at the following locations:

- Mar. 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Greenbrier County Board of Education Office, Kyle & Ann Fort Center, 653 Church St., Lewisburg
- Mar. 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Western Greenbrier Middle School, 315 Timberwolf Drive, Crawley

What to bring
(children do not need to be present to register):

- Preschool parents should complete the online application at www.greenbriercountyschools.org
- Official State issued birth certificate (not a copy); immunization record;
- copy of the most current physical exam
- copy of the most recent dental exam
- two proofs of residency;
- Social Security card of the child;
- relevant custody order, if applicable;
- Preschool parents should also bring proof of income and
- Preschool parents should also bring a copy of their child’s insurance card

Questions regarding Pre-K enrollment can be directed to Jessica Pyne (White Sulphur Springs, Lewisburg, Ronceverte, Frankford, and GEHS locations) or Sheri



Millie, a student in Ms. Cassie’s preschool class at Smoot Elementary, demonstrates the foundations of art and the early learning process while painting a picture of a heart. Greenbrier County Schools’ early learning program’s framework guides teachers to encourage children to be creative and expressive, focusing on the process, not the product.

Adwell (Alderson, Rupert, Smoot, Rainelle, and Crichton locations) at 304-647-7105. Parents may contact Nancy Hanna, Associate Superintendent, at 304-647-6470 with questions regarding Kindergarten registration.

GV Community Foundation Scholarship

Program application deadline is March 15

The goal of the Greenbrier Valley Community Foundation Scholarship Program is to ensure all public, private, and homeschooled students in Greenbrier, Monroe, and Pocahontas counties have to opportunity to apply for as many scholarship opportunities as are available to them in our region. In order to do this efficiently, the Greenbrier Valley Community Foundation (GVCF) manages an online scholarship application program available to any student in the three-

county region. There are also a couple of awards available to students attending Summers County, Meadow Bridge, and Midland Trail high Schools.

This master application hosts over 130 total scholarships in the region. In order to qualify for these awards, students must submit an application at gvfoundation.org/scholarships.

GVCF allows any scholarship in the Greenbrier Valley (Greenbrier, Monroe, and Pocahontas counties) to be added to the system, regardless of whether or not GVCF manages the funds for that scholarship. This is a service that most other community foundations do not provide, as most only give access to scholarships for which they manage the funding.

For the benefit of our students, and the region as a whole, GVCF is proud to open the application to any scholarship that wants to utilize the system. The 2025 scholarship timeline is as follows:

- Mar. 15 - Applications are due by midnight, including letters of recommendation and necessary attachments
- Apr. 1 - Scholarship Committees begin review process and determine awards
- May 1 - Guidance counselors and seniors are notified of awards
- May 15 - Scholarship acceptance process opens for students

- June 30 - Award acceptances by students due
- July 15 - Scholarship checks processed and sent to schools

If students have any questions, they should contact their guidance counselors or email the Scholarship Administrator by clicking Help then Contact Us then Request Assistance from your application.

ENTERTAINMENT



West Virginia Symphony Orchestra

WVSO Spring Concert

coming up at Carnegie Hall

Carnegie Hall presents Casual Classics by the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra (WVSO) celebrating its 2025 Spring Concert Tour on Saturday, Mar. 29, at 7 p.m. The performance will be led by WVSO Music Director Maurice Cohn and feature Franz Haydn Symphony No. 44 in e minor, Toru Takemitsu Three Film Scores, and Beethoven Symphony No. 1 in C Major.

Guests are invited to come early to Club Carnegie from 6 to 6:45 p.m. in the Board Room located adjacent to the Hamilton Auditorium. A cash bar and snacks are available.

Born and raised in Galesburg, Illinois, Maurice Cohn became Music Director of the West Virginia Symphony in the 2023-2024 season. Musical highlights of his first year in Charleston include the Symphony’s November 2023 collaboration with Mountain Stage, conducting the West Virginia Symphony premieres of music by Clara Schumann and Jessica Hunt, and expanding the orchestra through the hiring of sixteen new musicians.

Prior to moving to Charleston, Maurice served as Assistant Conductor of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra for three seasons. He made his subscription debut in 2023, stepping in for Music Director Fabio Luisi, and conducted the orchestra in numerous concerts at Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas, at venues throughout North Texas, and as part of the DSO’s Bravo! Vail summer residency in Colorado. Concurrently with his time in Dallas, Maurice was appointed Assistant Conductor of the Aspen Music Festival for the 2022 and 2023 seasons.

When not in Charleston, Maurice conducts performances throughout the United States and abroad. Recent and upcoming guest conducting engagements include the Cincinnati Symphony,

Utah Symphony, Bohuslav Martinů Philharmonic, ensemble NEWSRQ, Omaha Symphony, Amarillo Symphony, and the Oberlin Conservatory Orchestra. He also serves as Artistic Partner and Conductor of Camerata Notturna, a chamber orchestra based in New York City.

Maurice spent two summers as a conducting fellow at the Aspen Music Festival, where he received the Robert J. Harth Conducting Prize and the Aspen Conducting Prize. He received an M.M. in conducting from the Eastman School of Music and is a three-time recipient of the Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award. He holds a B.M. in cello performance from Oberlin Conservatory and a B.A. from Oberlin College, where he studied history and mathematics.

The West Virginia Symphony Orchestra is West Virginia’s premier performing arts organization, presenting classical and pops concerts annually throughout the Mountain State. Currently in its 86th season, WVSO is a proud member of the community and enriches the region by providing affordable, high-quality concerts, collaborations with West Virginia arts organizations and a nationally award-winning education program.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students. Thanks to the Carnegie Cardinal Fund, Greenbrier County Students attend for free, but still must reserve a seat. Tickets may be purchased by visiting www.carnegiehallwv.org, calling 304-645-7917, or stopping by the box office at 611 Church Street, Lewisburg.

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

LEGAL

ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is hereby given that BLACK WATER, INC., PO BOX 207, LEWISBURG, WV 24901 has submitted an application to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Division of Mining and Reclamation (DMR) located at 1159 Nick Rahall Greenway, Fayetteville, WV 25840 for an Article 3 permit for the surface disturbance of approximately 34.09 acres in order to Surface and Auger Mine, mine within 100 feet of a public road right of way in the Sewell seam of coal. The proposed operation is discharging into McMillion Creek of Laurel Creek of Cherry River of Gauley River of Kanawha River and is located 4.6 miles southwest of Leivasy in Williamsburg District of Greenbrier County, Longitude 80 36 03 and Latitude 38 08 59 (Coordinates from USGS Topographic Map).

Surface of the area associated herewith and the mineral associated herewith is owned by:	Surface or Mineral	Name and Address
Surface and Mineral	Thomas A. Vance, P.O. Box 1059, Rupert, WV 25984	
Surface	Des Nedhe Resources, LLC, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, DE 19801	
Surface and Mineral	Bruce and Robin Vance, 374 Tote Road, Richwood, WV 26261	
Surface	Jeffrey W Matthew E and Bruce L Vance, 390 Tote Road, Richwood, WV 26261	

Surface of the area associated within 100 feet of the permit area herewith and the mineral associated herewith is owned by:

Surface or Mineral	Name and Address
Surface	Weyerhaeuser Company, 220 Occidental Ave S, Seattle, WA 998104
Mineral	Des Nedhe Resources, LLC, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, DE 19801
Surface	Drema Jean Gwinn, 1498 Fenwick Road, Richwood, WV 26261
Surface	Jeffrey W Matthew E and Bruce L Vance, 390 Tote Road, Richwood, WV 26261
Surface and Mineral	Bruce and Robin Vance, 374 Tote Road, Richwood, WV 26261
Surface and Mineral	Thomas A. Vance, P.O. Box 1059, Rupert, WV 25984

Written comments and/or requests for an informal conference of the permit renewal application shall identify the applicant and application number and will be received by the Permit Supervisor at the DEP address above until 4/28/25, or thirty (30) days from the date of **final publication**. A copy of the application will be available for review until 4/28/25, or thirty (30) days from the date of final publication in the DEP Regional Office located at the address above and is available at:
http://apps.dep.wv.gov/WebApp/_dep/Search/ePermitting/ePermittingApplicationSearchPage.cfm
The above link can be accessed from a computer at all West Virginia public libraries.
DEP Telephone Number: 304-574-4465 Permit Number: S300124

