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

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. 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

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 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 surrenders 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 Week in the House of Delegates

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



ENTERTAINMENT

Steppin' Out10

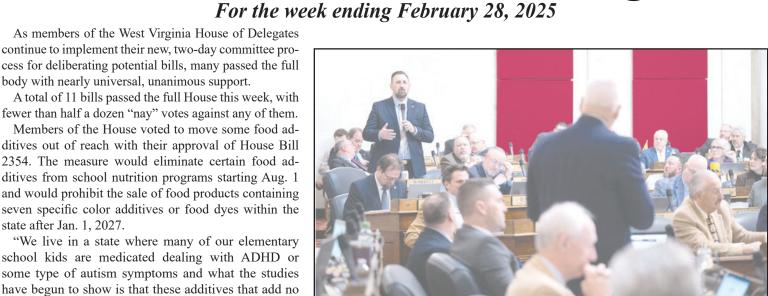
fewer than half a dozen "nay" votes against any of them. Members of the House voted to move some food additives out of reach with their approval of House Bill 2354. The measure would eliminate certain food additives from school nutrition programs starting Aug. 1 and would prohibit the sale of food products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

continue to implement their new, two-day committee pro-

body with nearly universal, unanimous support.

"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)

Decline and Revival

Continued from Front Page

community. Sales fell for the upscale Yarid's clothing store, the mid-level-priced Leggett's department store, as well at 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.

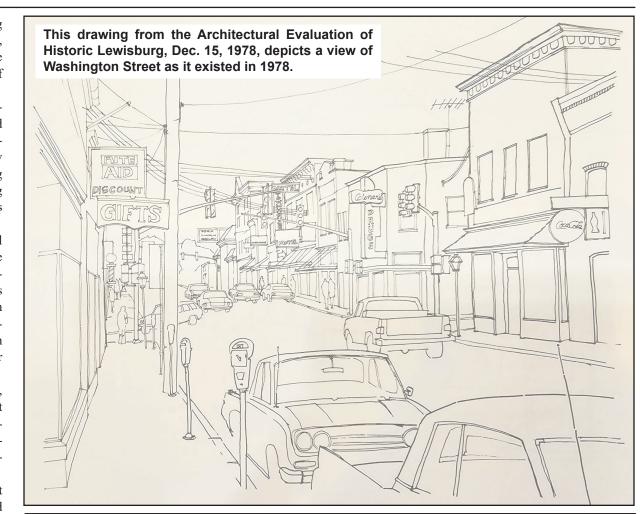
Various representatives from the energy industry spoke to the economics and other aspects of microgrids in the state during the meeting, allowing the committee to go in-depth on the key question of how West Virginia can continue to lead in energy generation and economic development.

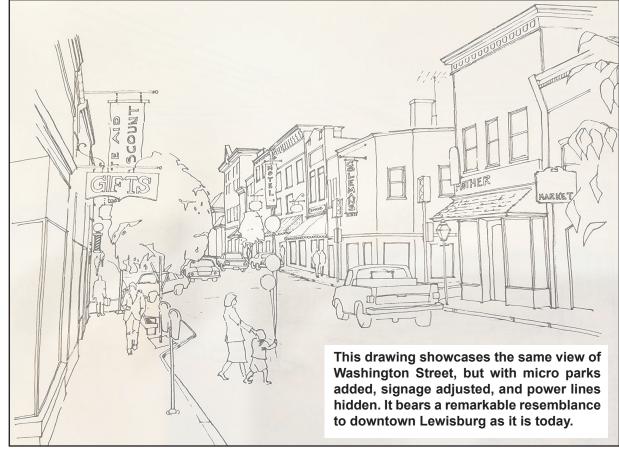
"When we're able to talk through a problem, a concept or an opportunity without anyone in the room trying to defend or fight any specifics of a bill, we have the latitude to learn," said Delegate Clay Riley, R-Harrison. "We got a wholistic view of microgrids in just one meeting, hearing from fuel sources, 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.





PICK OF THE LITTER



KYA Kya is a three-anda-half year old female domestic shorthair

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, cornpone 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

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. GVOR-BA 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

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

- · 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

St., Lewisburg, WV 24901. On the agenda:

· 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
- 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 em-

ployment: 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 Par-

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, Frank-

Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Convictions

ford District, Map 15 Parcel 6.

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,

Caleb I. Humen, Hadgesville, 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 Lehmiller 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

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The Weekend Newspaper for the Greenbrier Valley

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Elementary student discipline bill passes WV House

By Amelia Ferrell Knisely for West Virginia Watch

The West Virginia House of Delegates overwhelmingly approved a bill Monday that would give elementary teachers more authority to remove disruptive and violent students.

The measure, which failed to pass last year, is a response to teachers asking lawmakers for help in dealing with a growing problem of school discipline. Violent attacks on teachers are occurring most commonly in kindergarten classrooms, leading many educators to say these children have been victims of child abuse and/or the state's substance abuse crisis.

"House Bill 2515 specifies the requirements for when a grade kindergarten through sixth teacher determines that the behavior of a student is violent, threatening or intimidating toward staff or peers, or creates an unsafe learning environment or impedes on other students' ability to learn in a safe environment," said House Education Committee Chair Joe Ellington, R-Mercer.

If the student is removed from a classroom a total

of three times in one month for disruptive behaviors, the principal would determine if the student receives in- or out-of-school suspension or "may be considered for placement in an alternative learning center if one is available within the school district."

The measure has faced criticism that too many ex-

pelled students would be forced to learn online at home because fewer than half of the state's 55 counties have alternate learning centers.

House members have edited the bill over the last week; it now calls on counties to create alternative learning centers to address the behaviors of chronically disruptive students. It still does not come with proposed funding to build those centers or hire additional staff in schools.

While some House Republicans have promised a forthcoming bill on resources for school mental health resources, Del. Mike Pushkin, D-Kanawha, said that funding should have come first during the session. The bill passed the House 92-4; Pushkin voted against it.

"I certainly understand the need for this type of bill ... and I do appreciate that this is a better bill than we had last year," he said. "My concern is, without the appropriate resources, there's still gonna be a lot of kids to fall through the cracks. The resource should have come first. We're not addressing the underlying issues."

Pushkin was also concerned that this year's budget constraints could hinder any spending on school mental health resources.

The new version would also allow for the expulsion of a student, but only if repeated behavior occurs.

Sen. Amy Grady, R-Mason, an elementary school teacher, has prioritized elementary discipline legislation over the last two years, and the Senate Education Committee will take up her version Tuesday.

"I really think that they made a lot of really good changes to the bill and made it a lot better than what it was last year," she said. "I took a couple of things out that I wasn't in agreement with ... I feel like it's a better bill that can get everybody in the school involved in helping these kids."

Grady would like students who are disciplined for the

first time for disruptive behavior to see a school counselor, school social worker or psychologist and set up a behavior plan to be implemented for a two-week period.

"Sometimes you might have one instance where they do something and then they change that behavior whenever you set up a plan for them. And sometimes you have the repeat offenders, which is really less than maybe 1% of students. That's what this is trying to deal with," she said.

Both the Senate and House versions mandate that student discipline cannot conflict with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and students who are removed from school must be evaluated for a possible disability that could be the root of the behavioral issues.

West Virginia Watch is part of States Newsroom, a nonprofit news network supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. West Virginia Watch maintains editorial independence. Contact Editor Leann Ray for questions: info@westvirginiawatch.com.

One person dies in Greenbrier County fire

A 70-year-old adult male died in a fire on Monday near the town of Alderson in Greenbrier County.

The fire happened at a barn on Mountain View Parkway at around 3:30 p.m. on Mar. 3. Smoot Volunteer Fire Department, as well as several other area fire departments, responded to the scene and recovered the victim from the barn.

Investigators with the West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office also responded. The cause of the fire is undetermined at this time and still under investigation.

The victim has been sent to the WV Medical Examiner's Office in Charleston for positive identification and autopsy.

OBITUARIES

Amy Elizabeth Evans Hickman



Amy Elizabeth Evans Hickman passed away peacefully in the home of her son, Mark, in Lexington, SC, on Mar. 3, 2025, attended by loving family members. She was born on Oct. 8, 1923, in Raleigh, WV, to the late Lenwood C. and Bessie L. (Campbell) Evans.

Amy spent her early childhood in Raleigh and in Talcott, WV, where she enjoyed wonderful times with her grandparents, Calvin and Ada Cave Tyler Evans and Clarkston and Martha Campbell, and with her beloved Evans and Campbell uncles, aunts, and cousins. She was baptized in the faith at Second Baptist Church of Talcott, the church where both sets of grandparents were founding members. Amy was a prized soloist in the church at an early age. Her singing was so loved that when she returned to Raleigh at the end of one summer her cousin Virginia asked her, "Who's going to sing at the funerals?" Her voice was a gift from God, and she used it to sing her faith. When she sang, she was transcendent, and she routinely took congregations to a higher plane throughout her life. At other times, she was simply turning ordinary events at home into impromptu songs to the amusement of her children. She was

always singing. Amy graduated from Stratton High School in Beckley, WV, and wed on Christmas Eve of the same year. She and her husband, John Hickman, journeyed north as part of the Great Migration after World War II, finally settling in the Detroit, MI, area to live and raise their growing family. She focused her attention on being a mother to her ten children while also working to help support her family. In 1969 she returned to West Virginia with her four youngest sons and

settled in Lewisburg to be

close to family. She became a watch care member of John Wesley United Methodist Church, where she was a featured soloist in the Senior Choir for many years in addition to organizing a Junior Choir. She worked as a domestic in a private home until she was hired to work at Greenbrier Center, where she worked for 10 years. She retired from the Center at the age of 60 as the Housekeeping Supervisor. Later, she served as a Foster Grandparent at Greenbrier Center and in the Greenbrier County School System. In later years, she was cared for lovingly by her daughter Joya Simpson and her husband Maurice in Roanoke, VA, when she could no longer remain at home. In 2019 she moved permanently from Lewisburg and went to live with her son Donald and his wife Tonia in Mint Hill, NC, for five months before moving in with her son Mark with whom she spent the remainder

of her life at his homes in

Lexington, SC, and White Sulphur Springs. Amy was preceded in death by her parents, her brother James who died in infancy, and her beloved brother and sister and their spouses, Lenwood J. (Laura Janis) Evans, and Edith (Millard) Seams. Also preceding her in death were her husband John H.O. Hickman; a son, Ralph Quincy Hickman; a great-grandson, Patrick Hickman; as well as cherished daughters-in-law, Alice, Patricia, Sophia and Lici. She is survived by nine children: John P. Hickman of Caldwell; Kenneth (Gwen) Hickman of Randolph, MA; Christopher (Donna) Hickman of Southgate, MI, Joya (Maurice) Simpson of Lake Wylie, SC; Salim (Hanan) Mu'min of Oak Park, MI; Donald (Tonia) Hickman of Mint Hill, NC; David Hickman of Southfield, MI; Perry (Darlene) Hickman of Winston-Salem, NC; Mark Hickman of Lexington, SC, and White Sulphur Springs; daughter by marriage, Octavia Hickman of Lewisburg; 21 grandchildren, 30 greatgrandchildren, 7 greatgreat grandchildren; a

host of dearly loved nieces

and nephews; her double

cousin Thurmond (Diane)

Evans of Talcott, WV;

many Evans and Campbell relatives; and a family of friends in Michigan and West Virginia. She will be greatly missed.

Funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., Tuesday, Mar. 11, at the Morgan Funeral Home Chapel. Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m., Monday, Mar. 10, at the funeral home. Entombment will follow the service in the Rosewood Cemetery Mausoleum.

Online guestbook can be signed at www.morganfh. net. Arrangements by Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV.

Garland Eugene Meadows



Garland Eugene Meadows, 95, of Rupert, formerly of Rainelle and Meadow Bridge, passed away Monday, Mar. 3, 2025, at the Hubbard Hospice House following a short illness. He was born on Oct. 20, 1929, at Rupert, the son of the late John Meadows and Veronia (Cadle) Meadows.

He was a coal miner, construction worker, farmer, truck driver, and carpenter. Garland was of the Baptist faith.

Preceding him in death, in addition to his parents, are his three brothers John, Frank, and Charles Meadows; three sisters Claudine McClung, Ruth Wykle, and Dorene Goddard; and one infant son, Ronald Paul Meadows.

Ronald Paul Meadows.

Survivors include his wife of 76 years, Clara Jeanette (Smoot) Meadows, one brother Monroe Meadows (Diane) of Green Sulphur Springs, his children; Margaret Slocom of Athens, Tennessee, Gary Meadows of Rupert, Linda Fluharty of Salem, Karen Fike of Baltimore Maryland, Dale Cook of Rupert, Allen Lynn Cook, of Charleston; 12 grand-children; 15 great-grand-

children; and one greatgreat grandchild.

Services will be at 1 p.m., Saturday, Mar. 8, at the McRoss Baptist Church, with Pastor Ben-

nie Kenney officiating.

Burial will follow in the Wallace Memorial Cemetery, Clintonville. Friends may call one hour prior to the service from 12 noon - 1 p.m. at the church.

Smathers Funeral Chapel is honored to have been entrusted to care for Garland and his family during their great time of need. Online condolences may be made at www.smathersfuneralchapelinc.com

Emily Zimmerman Morgan



Emily "Irene" Zimmerman Morgan, 87, of Caldwell, WV, passed away Saturday, Mar. 1, 2025, at the Lewisburg Healthcare Center. Born Oct. 25, 1937, in Caldwell, she was the daughter of the late Elmer and Vida Quick Zimmerman.

Irene was a Homemaker and a longtime member of the Caldwell Pentecostal Holiness Church.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, William "Henry" Morgan, siblings, Polly, Bessie, Roxie, Carrie, Gracie, Lula Mae, Earl, Warren, Paul, Marvin and Lee and her loyal companion Daisy Mae who brought her immense joy.

Survivors include her children, Sharon (Rad) Rivera of Fincastle, Lisa Morgan of Caldwell, Tammy (Adam) Pickles of Sinks Grove and Wayne (Libby) Morgan of Lewisburg, grandchildren, Autumn (Joe) Lewis, Alisha (Jeff) Doyle, Kendra (Chris) Smith, Savanna Morgan, Devin (Catherine) Morgan, and Brandon (Kelly) Pickles, great-grandchildren, Stone Lewis, Ashton (Grace) Lewis, Tyler Trout, Faith Trout, Kyrie Gardner, Kaylan (Shane) Bass, Caleb Smith, Novak and Mazikeen Morgan and Skyler Pickles, great-great -grandchildren, Elana and Stella Lewis and Jett Bass, and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Funeral service will be at 11 a.m., Wednesday, Mar. 5, at the Morgan Funeral Home Chapel, Lewisburg, WV, with Pastor Hat Defibaugh and Pastor Kenny Baker officiating. Visitation will be 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Mar. 4, at the funeral home. Burial will follow the service in Greenbrier Memorial Gardens. Pallbearers will be Daniel Pickles, Mike Anderson, Mark Pusey, Chris Smith and Caleb Smith.

The family would like to thank Lewisburg Healthcare for the wonderful care provided during Irene's stay there.

Online guestbook can be signed at www.morganfh. net. Arrangements by Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV.

Sylvia Jean Eagle



Sylvia Jean Eagle, 65, of Smoot passed away on Mar. 3, 2025, at her home. She was born on Nov. 3, 1959, at White Sulphur Springs, the daughter of the late Cleveland Lee and Annie Lee Scott.

Sylvia was of the Mormon faith and loved to do anything she could to help anyone in need. She thoroughly enjoyed her crafting. Sylvia knit, crocheted, and sewed as much as she could.

In addition to her hus-

In addition to her husband Keith of 47 years, those left to cherish her memories are her three daughters; Kelley (Rob) of White Sulphur, Sabrina (Jody) of Lewisburg, Kimberly (Nate) of North Carolina, one son; Sherman Eagle of Florida, and one sister; Patty of Virginia.

In keeping with her wishes, Sylvia has been cremated with a celebration of life to be held at a later time.

Smathers Funeral Chapel is honored to have been entrusted to care for Sylvia and her family during their great time of need. Online condolences may be shared at www.smathersfuneralchapelinc.com

Macie Shepard (Bowden, Shanklin)



Macie "Carol" Shepard (Bowden, Shanklin) born Jan. 29, 1951 in Lilybrook, WV, passed away Feb. 28, 2025, after a long illness. She raised her children in Alderson, but then moved to Lake City, FL, where she lived and worked until she retired from Columbia County Senior Center in 2016 where she worked as Assistant Executive Director along with many other positions over the years.

Carol is preceded in death by her husband Richard Shepard, Lake City, FL, and brother Curtis Bowden, Lake City, FL. She is survived by her mother Gladys Bowden, Lewisburg, sisters, Shirley Bastian, Lewisburg, Sandra Cook, Lewisburg, Sue Cowan, Albuquerque, NM, daughters Tina Sheets, Renick, Jennifer Copen, Parkersburg, WV, sons John (JP) Snedegar, Ronceverte, and Shannon Shanklin, Lake City, FL. She is also survived my many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Per her wishes, Carol

did not want services and instead, the family will meet for a private service at a later time.

Online guestbook can be

signed at www.morganfh. net. Arrangements by Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV.

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Continued from Front Page

Courthouse Renovation

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

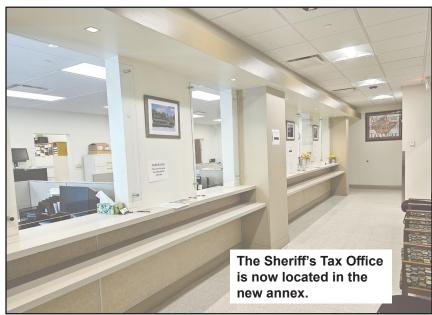
The new annex, located on the north end of the Courthouse, now houses the Sheriff's Tax Office and Assessor's Office on the ground floor, and the county commission, planning and permits division, county clerk, voter registration office, and fiduciary offices are on the second floor.

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 wellbeing. 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

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

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

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 ex-

periences. "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

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

"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. Https://www. ehow.com/how_5887274_make-paper-out-coconutfiber.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.

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Super Crossword

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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

Dear Milk Drinker,

Milk cartons are made of multiple layers of material includingpaperboard, which sounds like they should be recyclable. However, the paperboard is covered with a thin layer of food-safe polyethylene plastic (#1 PET), which is not recyclable locally. This thin layer of plastic keeps milk contained in the carton, helps to keep the milk fresh longer, and separates the milk from the cardboard that could affect the taste of the milk. Milk can be purchased locally in plastic jugs that are recyclable at the Recycling Center. It is also available in returnable/reusable glass jugs, which are the most sustainable method of packaging milk.

Interesting Information: The blue whale, the largest animal ever to live on Earth, has a heart that weighs around 400 pounds - roughly the size of a small car! Its heartbeat can be heard from two miles away, and its arteries are so large that a human could crawl through them. These ocean giants play a vital role in maintaining marine ecosystems, but they're vulnerable to pollution and habitat loss. We all need to protect the oceans and the amazing creatures that call them home. (fto.com)

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.

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 the 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 it way through the Alleghanies.

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

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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

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

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.'

R&R SHOWS

WV Humanities Council announces grant awards Historic Beverly

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
- Preservation 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.

56 Second

purchase

59 1978-89 New

61 Like a player

a triple

York mayor

who has hit

57 — Lanka

58 Everyone

GUN SHOW SUMMERSVILLE, WV SUMMERSVILLE CONVENTION CENTER MAR 15th & 16th, 2025 SATURDAY 9 AM - 5 PM SUNDAY 9 AM - 3 PM ADMISSION \$7 PERSON*

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maximum

38 Forest den

39 Fatty tissue

of animals

-Cuban

(jazz genre)

41 Joel or Ethan

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43 Ogden's

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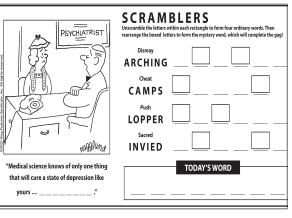
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42 Misplaced

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Weekly SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ♦ ♦ ♦ HOO BOY!

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Super Crossword **BODILY ACTIVITY** 36 "-, vidi, vici" 97 Film director 2 Baltimore 79 Wood-DuVernay 37 Fixed shaping tool

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

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81 88

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100 101

- addition 52 Lobster limb
- Sothern 84 Cavaliers, on sports tickers 87 Capital of Saudi Arabia
- 88 Fencing sword 89 Enthusiastic
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ball team, for short 3 Decade parts 4 Caused 5 Jazz singer

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9 Wearing

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10 "- -la-la!"

11 Dog or cat

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15 Four-bagger

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16 Fixtures for

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8 Mix together

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99 Support one who ultimatelv fails

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- **105** 2009-17.
- politically 106 Equal: Prefix

98 Weighed

- 63 Chinese temple 107 "The Add-- Brothers ams Family"
- ("It's Your cousin Thing" group) 108 Poker 67 Do speakholding
- ing motions 112 "Nick and voicelessly Infinite Playlist" 71 Actress
- (2008 film) Bingham of 113 Car navig. "Baywatch" 75 Akron native aid
- 115 Actor Kilmer **76** Collector of useless items 117 Consumed
- **81** 12.5% no cooked fraction food 83 Actress 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

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- (filmmaking technique) 19 Apply messily
 - in brief

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- 24 Renovates,
- 34 Notify
- 29 Partial refund 32 Judge's garb

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- 72 Split
- 73 Census stat
 - 74 King-trapping situations

59 60

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- 77 Actress Sedgwick
- 78 FBI attack

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- 120 Steeped drink 121 "Bali -
 - 122 "Super cool!" 18 17

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"Ta-da!"

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Wilson

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102 Farm carts

103 Rule over

104 - Island

Ferry

108 Ancient serf

110 Thin iPods

111 Resided

114 Mani- —

118 Model

109 Come to light

116 Church nook

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94 On hold

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101 Singer

54 Superb serve 100 On a train

85 Actress

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82 Discusses

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King Features

108 |109 |110 |111

PLEASE SEE THE PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 7

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115 116

CHOOL

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 Greenbrier Valley Community Foundation Scholarship Program is to ensure all public, private, homeschooled students in Greenbrier,

counties have opportunity apply to for as many scholarship opportunities as are available to them in our region. In order to do this

Monroe, and Pocahontas efficiently, the Greenbrier Valley Community (GVCF) Foundation manages online scholarship application program available any student in the threecounty region. There are also a couple of awards available 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 gvfoundation.org/ scholarships.

GVCF allows any scholarship the in Greenbrier (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 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 recommendation 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
- 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.

Greenbrier County has released a Request for Proposal for ERATE Category 1 Services (WAN). Details are available at www.greenbriercountyschools.org or by contacting Vicky Cline at vcline@ k12.wv.us or (304) 647-6484.

LNTERTAINMENT



West Virginia Symphony Orchestra

WVSO Spring Concert coming up at Carnegie Hall

Hall presents Casual Carnegie 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 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

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, highquality concerts, collaborations with West Virginia arts organizations and a nationally award-winning education

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.

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 he 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

Thomas A. Vance, P.O. Box 1059, Rupert, WV 25984 Des Nedhe Resources, LLC, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, DE 19801 Surface

Bruce and Robin Vance, 374 Tote Road, Richwood, WV 26261 Surface and Mineral Jeffrey W Matthew E and Bruce L Vance, 390 Tote Road, Richwood, WV 26261 Surface

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 Des Nedhe Resources, LLC, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, DE 19801 Mineral 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 Bruce and Robin Vance, 374 Tote Road, Richwood, WV 26261 Surface and Mineral 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

GENERAL LOCATION MAP

NPDES NO. WVI030523/ART 3 NO. S300124

BLACK WATER, INC

WILLIAMSBURG DISTRICT GREENBRIER COUNTY SCALE: I" = I MILE

UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF McMILLION CREEK OF LAUREL CREEK OF CHERRY RIVER OF GAULEY RIVER OF KANAWHA RIVER

Entertainment

The State Birds to perform at PCOH March 15

As part of the ongoing celebrations for the 25th season of performances at the Pocahontas County Opera House (PCOH), the stage will soon come alive with the enchanting sounds of traditional mountain music blended with a modern flair, brought to you by The State Birds. On Mar. 15, at 7 p.m., this renowned collective of West Virginia musicians promises an evening of "some of the best mountain music from the mountain

Comprised of award-winning multiinstrumentalists, The State Birds are dedicated to keeping traditional music alive while putting their own unique spin on age-old classics. The ensemble features Tessa McCoy's driving and intricate fiddling paired with Cody Jordan's versatile clawhammer and threefinger banjo playing. They are supported by the unbeatable rhythm of Jesse Milnes on guitar and Chance McCoy on mandolin. The heartbeat of the band is Joanna Burt-Kinderman, a coveted bass player. Their time-bending vocals and



The State Birds

harmonies from all members tie together a diverse range of instrumentation.

The State Birds boast an impressive list of accolades, including multiple firstplace state fiddle and banjo wins and a Grammy, courtesy of Chance McCoy's tenure with Old Crow Medicine Show. Their performances honor the traditions handed down to them while boldly

forging new paths in the genre.

Adding to the excitement, this performance coincides with the 2025 Mountain State Maple Days weekend, offering not only winter outdoor adventures but also the sweet experience of sugar camp tours, special restaurant maple menus, and more.

With a 250-seat capacity, the historic Pocahontas County Opera House in Marlinton offers a cozy, family-friendly atmosphere that is also accessible to those with disabilities. Given the anticipated high demand for this event, advance bookings are recommended. Tickets are available for a \$10 donation, while those age 17 and under can attend for free, ensuring accessibility for families and fostering youth engagement with the arts. Tickets can be obtained through the Opera House website, the 4th Avenue Gallery in Marlinton, or at the venue on the day of the performance.

The Opera House Performance Series is proudly supported by grants from the West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts. Additional support comes from Pocahontas County Dramas, Fairs and Festivals and the Pocahontas County Convention and Visitors Bureau, reflecting the community's dedication to preserving and promoting its cultural heritage.

ArtWalk scheduled for this Saturday

Carnegie Hall invites the community to the Carnegie Hall ArtWalk on Saturday, Mar. 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 will feature Pocahontas County

artist Peggy Owens. She's known for heracrylic abstract painting, glass mosaics, fused glass, jewelry, and photography. She's a member of the Pocahontas County Artists' Co-Op and her work has been displayed at the Cultural Center on Charleston, WV, at the Capitol Complex, and at a Pittsburgh Art Exhibition. She has art galleries in West Virginia, Virginia, and Indiana.

The Old Stone Room will feature the 31st Annual Creative Youth Juried Art Exhibit. The Creative Youth Art Exhibit is an annual juried art show that features the talent and imagination of Greenbrier County students in



Works by Peggy Owens (left), Creative Youth Art Exhibit, and Ellen Fischer

grades 4-12. Children from public, private, and home schools submit their work for this juried art exhibit. The exhibit opens Monday, Mar. 3 with an Awards Ceremony and reception for all participating students and families and will run through the end of the month.

The Museum Gallery will house an Ellen Fischer art exhibit. Fischer is a painter with a Master of Fine Arts from the School of the Art Institute, Chicago and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Herron School of Art, Indianapolis. In addition to painting, she has worked as a curator of collections and exhibitions at two small museums, in Lafayette, IN, and in Vero Beach, FL.

She has authored hundreds of articles about art and artists for the weekly newspaper Vero Beach 32963 and the monthly Vero Beach Magazine. She continues to work as a fine art appraiser, both independently, and as an associate of Appraisal Associates International, whose past clients include several private and corporate collections.

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

Appalachian Heritage Series continues with Chris Haddox

Carnegie Hall's Appalachian Heritage Series presents FolkMusic of the Southern West Virginia Coalfields with Chris Haddox on Friday, Mar. 14 at 7 p.m. Guests are invited to come early to Club Carnegie from 6 to 6:45 p.m. A cash bar and snacks will be available.

Coal and coal-related activities are often the first things that come to mind when thinking about the history of southern West Virginia. Coal played such a part in the history of the area that the counties of Logan, Mingo, Lincoln, Boone, Wyoming, McDowell, Wayne, Fayette, Mercer, Cabell, Nicholas, Summers, and Kanawha are often simply referred to as the southern WV coalfields as if nothing else ever occurred there.

The focus of Haddox' program is to shine a light on the individuals who contributed to the rich folk music traditions of those "coalfield" counties. While the songs and tunes themselves are wonderful and should be treasured, there is often a lack of information about the people who made the music - a gap this program aims

Everyone who knows Chris Haddox seems to know something different about him. That's not surprising because this stellar musician is also a community leader who has directed Habitat for Humanity and worked to preserve old neighborhoods, a WVU professor of sustainable design, and an amateur musicologist who researches musicians from the southern coalfields of West Virginia. That's a lot of breadth for someone the music community knows as a well-loved, easy-going



Chris Haddox

consummate picker who never met a stringed instrument he couldn't master - not to mention a gifted songwriter in the traditional country/Americana vein.

Says one of his close friends and fellow musicians, "I once looked around at a party where most of the guests didn't know each other, but they all knew Chris. "You're the nexus!" I said, to which he replied, after reflecting on his Logan County West Virginia roots, "Maybe I'm the Red Nexus!" That kind of self-deprecating wit extends to his voluminous repertoire of songs about (to quote him): "religion, firearms, courthouse squares, goats on trampolines, shoes, fiddles, and hurricanes" - whatever catches his eye. He continues, "Like most writers, I try to find new ways to address old topics. Some songs are funny, some sad, some sarcastic but they are all honest even the ones that are full of lies.

Born in 1960 into a musical family in Logan, WV, Chris started playing piano at age six and moved onto guitar when he was influenced by his Uncle Jim, a fantastic country blues singer and picker. In college he picked up the dobro and just kept going... fiddle, banjo, mandolin; he seems to have an innate facility with those

Galvanized by the Delmore Brothers, Chris moved to Nashville in 1981 to dedicate himself to making it as a songwriter. Over the course of three healthy stints in the Music City he learned about the music business, made some great friends and contacts in the business, but he eventually decided that the time was just not right for him. His time illustrates a principle from the age-old question: Do you want to be a professional songwriter, or do you want to write songs. After leaving Nashville, Chris never stopped writing, and we're all the better for

you live in Appalachia, a land of savage contrasts, you develop a relationship to obscurity and miscommunication. Many outsiders willfully misunderstand us. In Appalachia, we have a history of fixed ideas: Music is something you do after work, for fun. Your real work is about your people and the communities you live in. Chris's work and avocation come together in his passion and talent for lending voice to forgotten musicians brings them alive for all of us. To hear him sing and play over the graves of lost and forgotten musicians in remote and overgrown mountain cemeteries, reveals their humanity and rescues ours.

An exceptional musician with an open heart, Chris is a collection of all the right kinds of contrasts. In short, Chris Haddox represents everything that is good about Appalachia.

Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased by calling Carnegie Hall Box Office at 304-645-7917, visiting www.carnegiehallwv.org, or stopping by at 611 Church Street, Lewisburg. Carnegie Hall Box Office is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

One Night Only: A celebration of young musicians in the Greenbrier Valley

Carnegie Hall, working in partnership with Greenbrier County music and theatre educators, presents the second annual One Night Only Showcase on Thursday, Mar. 13, at 7 p.m. The concert is a performance opportunity for accomplished music students in grades 6-12 living or taking lessons in the Greenbrier Valley. The showcase takes place in Carnegie Hall's Hamilton Auditorium Stage and is sponsored by David and Jennifer Webb.

The One Night Only Showcase will feature over 40 students who were juried in by video entries for solo performers and ensembles. Carnegie Hall received over 30 submissions, with the top 22 acts being selected. Video entries included everything from solo piano performers and vocalists to horn players, guitarists, and full rock

Selected performers include Ellie Burns, Ella Butler, Georgia Craft, Theo Crowell, Ezra Dick, Payden Grizzel, Keean Hedrick, Alexus Hill, Lydia Jackson, Noah Lewis, Lucia Lipton, Asa Marks, Sal Marks, Christian Montgomery, Ava Tilden, Isaac Tincher, Emma Vincent, Nathaniel Vincent, Arabella Webb, The Honeydrops, and Second Block Rock (Two Groups).

One Night Only will also be assisted by student stage/

tech crew members, and a special guest emcee.

Special thanks to: Sally Bray, CAMC, Bill Clapham, Harmony Flora, Birch Graves, Gibbs Kinderman, Mary Leb, Michael Lipton, Dorothy Jo Oberfoell, Cathy Rennard, Cathy Sawyer, David Webb, Nancy Wood, and all Greenbrier County music instructors and classroom teachers that encouraged students to participate.



One Night Only will be held on Thursday, Mar. 13 at Carnegie Hall.

Ticket price for the event is \$5/person. For tickets or more information visit www.carnegiehallwv.org, call 304-645-7917, or stop by 611 Church Street, Lewisburg.

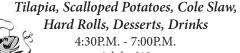
Carnegie Hall WV is a member-driven nonprofit organization supported by individual contributions, grants, and fundraising efforts such as TOOT and The Carnegie Hall Gala.



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