



**Carnegie Hall  
Second Stage**

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**Artwalk  
January 9**

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**\$1.00**

# Mountain Messenger

**January 10, 2026**

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

**Vol. XLIII, No. 2**

## Ronceverte City Council purchases property, continues Armory restoration plans

By Dakota Baker

The Ronceverte City Council met on Monday, Jan. 5 for its monthly meeting at the new location, 124 Cedar Street, in Ronceverte. The meeting began with the approval of the minutes from the December 15, 2025 meeting, which passed unanimously.

Following the approval of the minutes, Mayor Deena Pack provided an update on the ongoing restoration of the Armory. She announced that the city is partnering with Downstream Strategies on the project. Bill Montgomery, who is overseeing the effort, was present at the meeting. The goal is to make the gymnasium available for rental soon, though further plans for the building are still in development. Council member Leah Smith stressed the importance of community feedback in determining the best use for the space moving forward. Montgomery also shared that more details about the restoration can be found on the project's website and encouraged residents to reach out to him directly at [bmontgomery@cityofroneverte.com](mailto:bmontgomery@cityofroneverte.com). The website will also be linked on the City's Facebook page in the future.

In other news, the city's dilapidated buildings program is entering its final phase. The next building slated for demolition is located at 230 Main Street. After collaborating with the property owner, the City reached an agreement to purchase the property for \$15,000. This amount is comparable to the cost of repairing the water line, or otherwise risk significant future expenses or litigation. The City Council voted unanimously to approve using \$15,000 from their credit line to acquire the property and move forward with demolition.

Ronceverte Police Officer Cameron Juma was recognized for his recent graduation from the police academy. Officer Larry Anderson, another member of the force, also began his training at the academy this week.

During the council member comments, all members congratulated Officer Juma on his achievement. Council member Mark Trent expressed his excitement for the new year, stating he was "looking forward to starting the new year with momentum and good vibes."

The Parks and Recreation Department announced they are seeking a student to assist after July. Applicants must be at least 15 years old and reside in Ronceverte. Interested individuals can contact Ashley Guet for more details.

Mayor Pack concluded the meeting by thanking city staff for their hard work in preparing the new office space. She also noted that information on how to pay monthly bills is included with the bills, and there are drop boxes outside the bank for payments. Pam Mentz also mentioned that they plan to resume sending bills on postcards, as it is a more cost-effective option. However, they are seeking feedback from residents to ensure this approach works for everyone. Additionally, the city is working on installing a sign at the new City Hall to make its location clearer - located in the People's Bank Building.

City Hall will be closed on Jan. 19 in observance of

Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The next council meeting will be held on Feb. 2.

## New ownership group takes over The Schoolhouse Hotel

By Stephen Baldwin, RealWV

[www.therealwv.com](http://www.therealwv.com)

The world's first fully-ADA compliant boutique hotel is under new ownership as of today.

"To quote a famous song, 'The boys are back in town,'" says Josh Baldwin, one of the partners in the group.

"All of us in the new ownership group were all involved in the hotel's opening and first couple years. To be honest, it hit some stumbling blocks. We've got the right team in place now to do it."

The new ownership team includes Josh and Mary Baldwin, Adam and Candace Whanger, Marsha Fernandez, Mark Burnette, Charles Hammerman, and Nanci Freiman.

"We're local strong," Josh says of the group. "We're here to stay."

All those who are part of the new ownership group have been of the history of The Schoolhouse. The Whangers owned the construction

## Shanghai Parade rings in the New Year in Lewisburg

By Sarah Richardson

The annual Shanghai Parade took to Lewisburg's main street on Thursday, Jan. 1, to welcome in the 2026 New Year. This year's parade, as usual, showcased a lively mix of floats, performers, and local organizations all celebrating a wonky tradition that continues to bring people together year after year.

According to a 2018 article in HashtagWV, "The origins, the history, the beginnings of this parade are questionable and enigmatic. Some say it began in the late 1800's or perhaps even earlier. There is a myriad of theories as to the beginnings including the thought that a Pocahontas County fiddle tune named 'Shanghai' may be associated with the tradition. Some older residents of this part of the state recall that 'shanghaiing' once went on for days, usually in the week before and the week after Christmas. Everyone agrees that it does have Scotch-Irish and German ties."

According to one of the judges, 'Between Christmas and New Year's in the 1800s, groups of people would form parties and travel over the countryside, visiting friends and neighbors. They would dress up with costumes and masks, and apparently that's how the parade got its start.' And this tradition was called a 'colie shangle,' which may have morphed through time and retelling into Shanghai.

Some say it was a missionary who brought the tradition from China, or a traveling musician who sang about a Shanghai rooster. Nobody knows for sure, no one is left to tell the tale, so sometimes the point of a tradition is the existence of the tradition itself.

From a 1930's news article about the gathering: 'Let millionaire and pauper meet, and go marching down the street. The lid is off, fun is rife, let's have the best time of your life.'"

### Winners of the 2026 Shanghai Parade are as follows:

Volunteers of the Year: Bill and Gloria Martin

Antique Cars:

First Place - Jeremy Thomas, 1965 International Scout

See "Shanghai Parade"

— Page 2



Local Boy Scout troop members carry the Shanghai Parade banner down Washington Street on Thursday, January 1st.



Geese riding in custom strollers were a fan favorite of the parade.



The Greenbrier Goat.



The Greenbrier Valley Music Foundation provided live music.



The Schoolhouse Hotel in White Sulphur Springs now has a new ownership group.

should expect an upgrade in the facility, standards of service, and its role as a cultural hub for White Sulphur Springs."

But the most impactful change will be a temporary one for this winter.

"It's important to talk about what's happening at the restaurant," Baldwin noted. "We've made the difficult decision to take a winter break at the restaurant. January and February are traditionally very difficult months for food and beverage. It's a good time for us to hit reset and re-imagine what the restaurant is and could be moving forward."

While the group says that economic development in White Sulphur has been slower than they'd like, they remain very optimistic about the town's future.

Having Gustards and Max on Main in downtown

See "Schoolhouse Hotel" — Page 2

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# Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration set for January 19

The march, free community lunch, and program of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration on Jan. 19 in Lewisburg will add up to a fitting event to honor Dr. King. It is also an opportunity for all of us to strengthen our commitment to their cause which continues to be of great importance.

At 11 a.m., people will gather in front of the Greenbrier County Courthouse for a short opening ceremony. The invocation will be delivered by Bishop Kathie D. Holland of the New Vision Baptist in White Sulphur Springs. After hearing some words of exhortation from James Wilmer, Master of Ceremonies for the whole celebration, the people will proceed en masse on Court and Washington Streets to the Lewisburg United Methodist Church. Along the way, marchers will sing a traditional civil rights song about their determination to ensure liberty and

justice for everyone. Chris Winston will lead that singing.

The marchers will go straight into the church through its western door to Wesley Hall for the community lunch. That meal will be catered by Smash Pots and will feature beef chili, veggie chili, veggie wraps, chicken wraps, roast beef sandwiches, and turkey sandwiches.

The program in the church sanctuary will begin at 12:30 p.m. Near the beginning of the program, everyone will sing "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

James Wilmer will introduce Rev. Beverly Colombo who will welcome everyone to the church and make them feel at home. Lewisburg Mayor Beverly White will read a moving proclamation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Week which will begin on that day.

High Rocks will be featured in a performance of their own recent creation.



The Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration march will begin outside of the Greenbrier County Courthouse at 11 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 19.

They have helped with this event in many ways

for many years.

One highlight of the program will be readings of es- See "MLK Jr. Day" — Page 5

## Schoolhouse Hotel

Continued from Front Page

great, and Barnwood Living being an anchor store as well. They have their cabin rentals in town. I think those were all great things," says Baldwin. "It's our hope that we can put more feet on the street. I think I'm definitely a believer in a rising tide lifts all boats. So, you know, if we can create a renewed energy, and get more and more people to come in and stay the night in White Sulphur, then that benefits the community as a whole."

Baldwin believes they can do that by getting back to basics. "With 30 boutique rooms, each completely individualized, a restaurant, an event space, and a rooftop bar, we've got our hands full with a lot to offer."

White Sulphur's Mayor, Thomas Taylor, is excited for the new ownership group, telling RealWV, "The hotel brings a lot of tourists and adds a special touch to our community. We look forward to their success for many years to come."

The Schoolhouse Hotel is located at 125 Schoolhouse Way in White Sulphur Springs, WV. It has received rave reviews from publications including Southern Living, Frommer's, and Travel + Leisure since opening in 2022.

## PICK OF THE LITTER



MINNIE

Minnie is two years and six months old, and weighs 61 pounds.



CILANTRO

Cilantro is a four-month-old male domestic shorthair.

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

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

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

Call 304-645-4775 for more information.

They also offer donation-based spay/neuter vouchers, and clinics are filled on a first-come,

first-served basis. They use a lot of vets in the area but the clinics fill up fast! Fill out an application to help prevent animal overpopulation!

Call 304-645-4775 for more information.

DON'T SHOP • ADOPT!

## Steve Cole wins award from National Speleological Society

Steve Cole of Alderson recently received the honor of being cited for his contributions to cave stewardship and education by the National Speleological Society (NSS), Huntsville, AL.

Each year a select group of landowners or land managers is honored for work done in cave science, cave conservation, cave education, and similar outreach. Award recipients typically have a long-term history of positive relationships with cavers, including access to their caves and property. In addition, recipients have demonstrated a history of protecting caves, karst, and all resources that impact these fragile environments.

The NSS Landowner-Caver Relations Committee's citation to Cole thanks him for his outstanding dedication "for supporting education, exploration, conservation, and access to caves."

NSS (www.caves.org) is an organization of cavers devoted to cave sport, research and preservation. An elite subset of the scientific community conducts research into the geology, biology and hydrology of caves in an effort to understand and promote a better planet. In light of concerns over water quality and availability, much emphasis has been given to caves and underground aquifers in recent years. The 8,600 members of NSS come from all 50 states, including many from West Virginia, and several countries.



Steve Cole, left, accepts the Landowner Appreciation Award from NSS's Curt Harler.

Steve Cole displays the Landowner Appreciation Award he received from the National Speleological Society.



## Man sentenced for sexual assault in Greenbrier Co.

On Jan. 7, 2026, Levi William Hamrick was convicted of sexual assault in the first degree following prosecution by the Greenbrier County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

As a result of the conviction, Hamrick was sentenced to 15 to 35 years of incarceration. He was also ordered to serve the maximum allowable term of extended supervised release of 50 years upon completion of his prison sentence.

The sentence reflects the seriousness of the offense and the prosecution's commitment to pursuing mean-

ingful accountability and long-term supervision in cases involving sexual violence.

Greenbrier County Prosecuting Attorney Nicole Campbell expressed her appreciation for Assistant Prosecutor Lauren Lynch and Corporal J.W. Gilkeson of the West Virginia State Police for their work on the case.

"This prosecution required careful preparation and sustained effort, and I am grateful for the professionalism and diligence demonstrated by Assistant Prosecutor Lynch and Corporal Gilkeson throughout this matter," Campbell said.

West Virginia didn't meet the revenue goal in this past fiscal year to trigger the tax reduction, so Morrisey said he'll work with lawmakers to move forward with a cut. In the past, some Republicans in the Legislature have been hesitant to cut taxes without hitting the trigger.

Morrisey's goal is at least a 5 to 10% personal income tax reduction.

"I've had conversations with the House and Senate leadership, and I've expressed my interest in working closely with them on getting something that passes," he said.

Personal income tax is West Virginia's largest source of state revenue. See "Income Tax Cut" — Page 5

Continued from Front Page

By Amelia Ferrell Knisely for West Virginia Watch

Gov. Patrick Morrisey wants to accelerate cuts to the state's personal income tax, and he'll ask lawmakers to get behind the idea during the upcoming legislative session.

"I wanted to make clear that one of our top priorities during the session will be tax cuts and tax simplification, and I think that's important because West Virginians are still feeling the impact of inflation," the governor said Monday during a press conference at the state Capitol.

The legislative session starts Jan. 14 in Charleston, WV.

Under previous Gov. Jim Justice, the Legislature cut personal income taxes by about 27% in recent years through bills and a trigger-based reduction plan.

The tax cut trigger formula - passed by lawmakers in 2023 - put a system in place where income tax cuts will

be triggered gradually if the state meets revenue goals. It measures general revenue collections in a fiscal year compared to 2019. If collections are ahead of that year, it activates the trigger for a tax cut.

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Continued from Front Page



Sophia Wigal waves at parade-goers.



Children ride in a lifted tractor bucket past the Judge's Stand.



Despite the freezing temperatures and snow flurries, the streets were lined with attendees.

Second Place - Jerry Vance, 1948 Plymouth Coupe

Third Place - Tom Foster, 1949 Plymouth Special Deluxe

Musical:

First Place - Greenbrier Valley Music Foundation "Playing into 2026"

Floots:

First Place - The Beard Family, Year of the Horse

Second Place - Greenbrier River Optimistic Ukulele Players

Third Place - The Democratic Executive Committee

Farm Equipment:

First Place - The Huffmans and friends

Second Place - Entry #419

Third Place - Ollie Mullens

"The Shark"

See "Shanghai Parade"

— Page 3

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.

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DON'T SHOP • ADOPT!

# Briefly

## Williamsburg Shooting Match

### PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN TIME

Enjoy 2026 with the Williamsburg Shooting Matches beginning Jan. 17, 2026. The matches will begin at 6 p.m. NOTE TIME CHANGE. Come early! Come Hungry! Bring your family. 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](http://www.williamsburgwv.com) or Bill Jarvis, 304-645-3690.

## Marriages

Fiona Ariana Sherman and Ming-Li Huang  
Caroline Blake McMillion and Devon Andrew Fitzwater  
Angela Marie Grimmett and Jonathan Allen Davidson  
Dena Karyn McMillion and Justin Blake Martin Crespo Luciana Moreno and Joseph Gillespie Van Deren

## Suits

New Cases from 12/31/25 to 1/7/26

### New Civil Cases

Christopher H Sharman v. Angela C Ramsey  
Westlake Services, LLC v. Sabrina N Pacetti

### New Divorces

Thomas Darold Taylor and Christina Elizabeth Taylor  
Kristin Lee Holley and Brad Anthony Miller  
Emalee Joyce Patton and Nathaniel Patton

## Candidate Filing Period for upcoming May 12 Primary Election; 2026 'Running for Office' guide

Secretary of State Kris Warner has announced the official Candidate Filing Period for West Virginia's May 12th Primary Election.

Registered voters interested in running for public office in 2026 must file on or between Monday, Jan. 12, and Saturday, Jan. 31. Candidates who must file with the Secretary of State's Office include those running for statewide and legislative offices, state executive committee, offices to be filled by voters in more than one county, and judicial offices (excluding magistrates).

Candidates running for offices to be filled by voters in a single county, including county commission, magistrate, and district-level political party executive committees, must file with the County Clerk. A directory of all 55 WV County Clerks can be found at [wv.sos.gov](http://wv.sos.gov).

Candidates may file in-person or by mail. Certificates of Announcements mailed to the County Clerk or the WV Secretary of State must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service on or before Saturday, Jan. 31. Filing Fees are required to be paid at the time the filing is made or the submission will be rejected. Candidates whose claimed political party affiliations or residence address do not match their official voter registration records are subject to rejection.

The State Capitol and regional offices in Clarksburg (153 West Main Street) and Martinsburg (229 East Martin Street) will be open on Saturday, Jan. 31, from 9 a.m. until midnight.

A Running for Office Guide can be found online at <https://sos.wv.gov/FormSearch/Elections/Informational/Running%20for%20Office.pdf>

For more information on elections in West Virginia, how to register to vote, how to vote by absentee, or how to update your voter registration, please visit Go-VoteWV.com (an official website of the WV Secretary of State's Office).

## Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Convictions

Bishop Allen Poe, Ronceverte, 1) unlawful removal, injury to or destruction of property, jail 10 days, unsupervised probation 9 days; 2) public intoxication, fine \$5

Jason E. Windon, Lewisburg, violation of a Protective Order, fine \$250, jail 60 days - credit for 13 served, NCP

Stephanie Michelle Jones, no proof of insurance, fine \$200, GP

Richard Hedrick, Marlinton, simple possession, fine \$200, NCP

Madison M. Dodd, Charmco, 1) speeding, fine \$5; 2) expired registration, fine \$50, NCP

Jamall C. Haynes, Alderson, driving without valid drivers license, fine \$50, GP

Trey Martin Anderson, White Sulphur Springs, possession of controlled substance, jail 90 days - suspended, placed on 12 months unsupervised probation

## For the Record

### Deeds

Pamela G. Mitchell to Evan M. Simpson: lot 151 and part of lot 163, Ronceverte District, Map 15 Parcel 0043.

Sharon K. Crance to Sharon K. Crance and Jeffrey L. Crance: 1.876 acres and 1.33 acres, White Sulphur District, Map 10 Parcel 1, 2.

PHH Mortgage Corporation to Lorraine R. McNicholas: 0.81 acres, Frankford District, Map 14 0036 0000 0000.

Tina Rorabeck-Tipton to Tina M. Rorabeck Trust Agreement (by trustee Tina M. Tipton-Rorabeck): 30.86 acres, 14 acres, 17D, 0.227 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 71/71/77 Parcel 92/128/28.

Tina Rorabeck-Tipton to Tina M. Rorabeck Trust Agreement (by trustee Tina M. Tipton-Rorabeck): 11.79 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 77 Parcel 32. Sharon Nicely and Jack Vogler to John H. Bowling III and Gwendolyn D. Bowling: lot 7 or 1.43 acres, Frankford District, Map 15 Parcels 0198 0000.

Seneca Trustees to Jeremy Willis and Joanna Willis: 0.71 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 60G Parcel 0012 0000 0000.

Peggy A. Patterson to Tami L. Toler, Jill M. Brown, Gavin Patterson, and Kyler Patterson: lots 9-14 and 19-24, Fort Spring District, Map 12R Parcel 27.

Johnson & Johnson Investments LLC to William E. Richmond and Tina J. Richmond: 6.58 acres and 0.03 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 77 Parcel 0098.

Linda G. Bennett to Evan O. Beavers and Kendra Beavers: 2.18 acres, Irish Corner District, Map 4 Parcel 0032.

Brian W. Waid, Dana Waid, and Brandon Waid to Bernard Chestnut Sr. and Mary M. Chestnut: 16.675 acres, Anthony Creek District, Map 41 Parcel 12.8.

Beverly Peyatt, Brenda O'Dell, Matthew McClung, James McClung, Shannon McClung to Dale McClung: 4 acres excepted and reserved, Meadow Bluff District, Map 31D Parcel 0087.

## Shanghai Parade

Continued from Page 2

### Walker 1:

First Place - Laura Plumley  
Second Place - Holden Runyon, Simba and gang  
Third Place - Cathy Romage

### Walker 3+:

First Place - The Knights  
Second Place - The Greenbrier Goat  
Third Place - Lewisburg Girl Scout Troop 31919

### Spirit Awards:

Joe Ellis Memorial Tradition Award - The Beards, Year of the Horse

Mary Satterfield Spirit Award - The Greenbrier Valley Music Foundation

Chairman's Award - The Greenbrier Goat

Jim Wills Memorial Award - The Knights

Oldest Participant - Mary Alice Beard, 91.5 years old

Youngest Participant - Ellie Mae Mitchin, 3 weeks, 3 days old

Farthest Traveled - Ellie Mae Mitchin

## 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.

### Historic Landmarks Commission

will meet Monday, Jan. 12, at 5 p.m. in Paul R. Cooley Council Chambers, 942 Washington Street, Lewisburg, to hear the following applications.

- Cynthia and Patrick Shea, 1546 Washington Street East - build a small entry deck and outside stairs on the side of the building facing into the yard, install 2 new garage doors, add a new door entrance between the new garage doors, and replace the windows with Anderson Series E
- Jeremy Hill, 845 Court Street North - adding or resurfacing manufactured stone to the front of building 3-4 feet high from the sidewalk with a stone lip
- Edith Arbaugh, 268 Chestnut Street - replace the doors and all windows on the house and put in a driveway with a carport with connecting sidewalks
- Angus MacIvor, 357 Lee Street - install a 12'x18' carport over existing gravel parking/patio area
- Bernard and Karin Tronche, 284 Lee Street - garage door information, lighting
- Comments from the public
- Approval of Dec. 8, 2025 Minutes
- Election of Chair and Secretary
- Comments from Planning and Zoning Officer
- Comments from Commissioners

The next scheduled meeting of the Lewisburg Historic Landmarks Commission will be held Monday, Feb. 9, with a deadline of Thursday, Jan. 22, at 10 a.m.

### Lewisburg Finance Committee

will meet in regular session Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 7 p.m. in Paul R. Cooley Council Chamber. The following topics are scheduled for discussion:

- Employee Health Insurance Renewal
- Lafayette St. Stormwater Project Pay Request No. 5
- Chapman Technical Group Task Order - Greenbrier County Library HVAC Replacement
- Public Works Building Bid approval
  - Garage door opener
  - Removal of one garage door
  - Placement of canopies/awnings
- Fire Department - Salary increase Wesley Williamson EMT Certification
- Police Department Officers Proposed Pay Increase
- Communications from members
- Communications from city manager
- Approval of Minutes - Dec. 9, 2025

## For the Record

### Deeds

Beverly Peyatt, Brenda O'Dell, Matthew McClung, James McClung, Shannon McClung to Dale McClung: two tracts with excepted and reserved, Meadow Bluff District, Map 31D Parcel 0089.

Welma Lively to Rodney Lively and Kendra B. McKay: 0.75 acres, Anthony Creek District, Map 41L Parcel 0002.

Sandra L. Woodrum to Aaron Stonacek: 0.45 acres, Lewisburg District, Map 30 Parcel 0002 0000.

John P. Palumbo to Gregory P. Melber and Marsha L. Melber: lot 132 A Alderson District, Map 5 Parcel 0241 0000.

Raymond W. Stephens and Emil R. Stalis to KKJ Properties LLC: 13,382 square feet, Lewisburg District, Map 19 Parcel 0090.

Dale S. Tuck to Drema J. Morgan: 37.19 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 69 Parcel 79.

Brian M. Lewis to Bernard Holliday III and Jessica R. Holliday: 1.50 acres, lot 5, Lewisburg District, Map 25 Parcel 0116 0004.

Fleshman Brother Properties LLC to Gary Swauger and Judith Swauger: 12,000 square feet, Rupert District, Map 5 Parcel 0057.

WVTA LLC to Kimberly S. King: 0.63 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 72 Parcel 11.

Alfred J. Stone Jr. to Terrance H. Stone: 3,650 square feet, Ronceverte District, Map 9 Parcel 631.

## Vandalia Health CAMC

### Mobile Mammography

#### Unit visits

#### Greenbrier Valley

*Screening mammograms are one of the best tools for detecting breast cancer in its earliest stages.*

The Vandalia Health Charleston Area Medical Center Mobile Mammogram Unit will offer convenient mammogram screenings with a referral.

The unit will be parked at CAMC Greenbrier Valley Medical Center, 202 Maplewood Avenue, Ronceverte, Thursday, Jan. 22, and Jan. 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

CAMC's Mobile Mammography Unit provides a fast, easy and confidential way for individuals to receive a screening, which is an important step in early breast cancer detection. This community-focused event is open to the public. Patients should bring insurance information.

You may be eligible for a mammogram if you are a woman aged 40 and older, have not had a mammogram in the last 365 days, are not pregnant or breastfeeding and are not experiencing breast issues such as lumps, discharge or pain, you are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity for early detection of breast cancer.

The CAMC Mobile Medical Fleet is staffed by experts and equipped with the same state-of-the-art digital imaging technology as you would get at a CAMC imaging facility for quick, convenient and accurate screenings.

To schedule a mammogram, call 304-388-0015. Pre-registration may be required by insurance.

For more information on CAMC's Medicine in Motion program, including units' schedules, visit [camc.org/services/mobile-medical-units](http://camc.org/services/mobile-medical-units).

## Mountain Messenger

*The Weekend Newspaper for the Greenbrier Valley*

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1985

*Strengthening Community and Promoting Diversity in the Greenbrier Valley*

### Mountain Messenger's

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Our high-gloss, magazine style

featuring area real estate

PUBLISHED MONTHLY .

[www.mountainmessenger.com](http://www.mountainmessenger.com)

The most extensive website dedicated

to the Greenbrier Valley

### How to Contact Us:

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E-mail [ads@mountainmessenger.com](mailto:ads@mountainmessenger.com)

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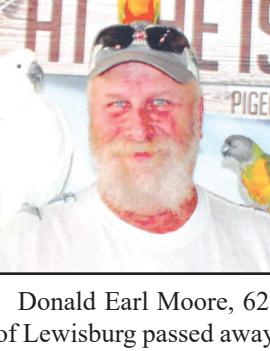
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## OBITUARIES

### Donald Earl Moore

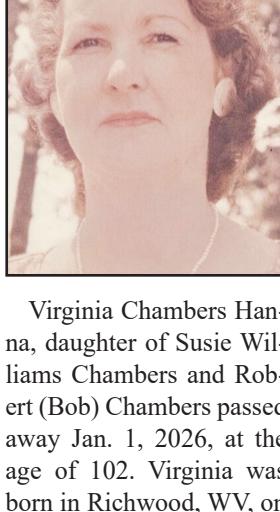


and pride for his family. After retiring from flying due to health reasons, he cherished the simple joys of family time and took great interest in following and playing the stock market. Larry's wife, JoAnn, preceded him in death, passing peacefully at their home on Apr. 2, 2024.

Larry is survived by his beloved grandsons, Robert and Brandon Abel; his sister, Dorothy Sutton; his nephews, JD Drake, Chris Sutton, and Wes Simmons; and his niece, Jo Lori Drake. He will be remembered for his quiet strength, his gentle heart, and the steadfast devotion he showed to those he loved.

Larry's legacy lives on in the family he adored, and the lives he touched with his kindness, humility, and steady presence. May he rest in peace.

### Virginia Chambers Hanna



Virginia Chambers Hanna, daughter of Susie Williams Chambers and Robert (Bob) Chambers passed away Jan. 1, 2026, at the age of 102. Virginia was born in Richwood, WV, on July 23, 1923.

Virginia's family moved to Friars Hill in 1928. She grew up attending a one room school, married and lived her entire life in Friars Hill. She married her beloved husband, John Richard Hanna, in 1942 during the second World War. They were avid farmers who spent their early married years dairy farming, later converting to beef cattle farming. Virginia was a member of McMillion United Methodist Church, attending church there since she was 12 years old. Virginia had a fond memory of early childhood church days when her mother and siblings played and sang at church and were introduced as the "Chambers Sisters." Her mother appreciated being introduced as a "sister" instead of "mother and daughters."

In 1943 and 1944 she transported German prisoners from the C.C.C. Barracks in White Sulphur Springs, WV, to their three farms; one in Renick and two in Friars Hill. These men worked on the farm due to the local men 17 years to 40 years of age serving in the military during WWII.

Virginia (Jenny) was very active in the farming operation often responsible for the milking of the cows. An avid hunter, she was as at home in the woods as she was in the kitchen. She also worked 12 years at Kellwood Corporation where she made friendships she cherished the remainder of her life. She was a member of the Farm Bureau and the Cattlemen's Association. Jenny joined the Renick Farm Women's Organization in the 1950's, later in the 60's she was a founding member of the Williamsburg club, organizing the first meetings at her home. Later the Farm Women's Organization changed its name to the C.E.O.S. and the

In 1978, Larry and his family made their permanent home in Boca Raton, where he lived for the rest of his days. He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather whose presence at every school function, sporting event, and milestone was a testament to his unwavering love

Williamsburg club honored Virginia as an Honorary member making her the oldest member in the state for several years. She was a member of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program since 2007. She assisted with the Renick 4-H club for several years. She served two terms as an advisory member for the Farm Service Agency. Her farm is a Bicentennial Farm, being owned and operated by her family for 239 years.

In addition to her parents, Virginia was preceded in death by her husband John Richard Hanna, two infant sons, Donnie Richard born and passed away Jan. 31, 1945, and John Richard, Jr., born Apr. 11, 1952, and passed away Oct. 10, 1952. Also preceding her in death; an infant sister, Vivian Ann, sisters Aline McGuire, Janis Crawford, Mary Heller and brother Gardner Chambers.

Also preceding her in death; brothers-in-law Bradford McGuire, Phillip Crawford, Robert Heller, Sidney Hunter, Donald Shafer and sister-in-law Jewell Chambers.

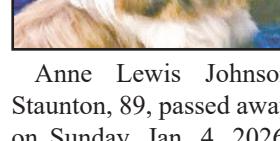
Left to cherish her memory are two sons Michael Woody Hanna and wife Sandra of Friars Hill and John Christopher Hanna of Frankford, WV; two grandsons Alexander Grayson Hanna and wife Jade and Jack Sinclair Hanna; sisters Gloria Kay Hunter, Deanna Shafer, Joan Shafer and husband Edward, many nieces and nephews and dear friend Cassandra Perkins.

A special thank you to Virginia's special friend and nurse caregiver Juanita Johnston and caregivers Wilma Fox and Marie Blankenship.

Visitation is from 1 to 2 o'clock and funeral at 2 o'clock Jan. 11 at Morgan Funeral Home Lewisburg; Reverend Stephen Cort officiating. Burial will follow in Morningside Cemetery, Renick.

In lieu of flowers donations may be sent to the McMillion United Methodist Church Cemetery Fund, in care of Cassandra Perkins, 358 McMillion Church Road, Renick, WV 24966.

### Anne Lewis Johnson Staunton



Anne Lewis Johnson Staunton, 89, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 4, 2026, at The Seasons Place in Lewisburg, WV.

She was born Wednesday, Mar. 4, 1936, in Charleston, WV, to the late Howard Spafard Johnson and Charlotte Blanchard Johnson.

On Oct. 26, 1957, she married Frederick Marshall Staunton, Jr., also of Charleston. Shortly after their marriage, they moved to Lewisburg, where Mr. Staunton was the commercial manager of C&P Telephone Company and they welcomed five children.

Mrs. Staunton worked various jobs throughout her life in the medical field and retail, including serving as a clerk at various shops at The Greenbrier.

Additionally, she adored her four-legged friends and was known for breeding, raising and showing dogs of various breeds throughout the years. She was rarely without a furry companion.

Community was also important to Mrs. Staunton and she volunteered in many capacities at both Clifton Presbyterian Church in Maxwelton and Old Stone Presbyterian Church in Lewisburg. She also volunteered for several years at Greenbrier Medical Center where she logged over 11,000 hours.

In addition to her parents, Mrs. Staunton was preceded in death by her husband in 1973 and a sister, Margaret Lindsay Johnson Thompson in 2004.

Left to cherish her memory are five children: Anne "Lindsay" (David) Brown of Peterstown, WV; Clarence "Kit" (Karen) Staunton of Covington, VA; Frederick (Tami) Staunton, III, of Reynoldsburg, OH; Howard "John" (Tammy) Staunton of Greenville, SC; and Michael (Kristin) Staunton of Pittsburgh, PA; 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. She also leaves several wonderful friends at The Seasons Place.

Visitation will be at Morgan Funeral Home at 252 Montvue Drive, Lewisburg, on Saturday, Jan. 10, at 1 p.m. Funeral services will follow at 2 p.m., with the Reverend Bill Gilliland officiating. Interment will follow in Rosewood Cemetery in Lewisburg.

Mrs. Staunton's grandsons will serve as pall-bearers.

The family would also like to thank the wonderful staff of The Seasons Place for their care of Mrs. Staunton over the past eight years, as well as HospiceCare for its support of Mrs. Staunton and the family in more recent days.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations in Mrs. Staunton's name be made to the Greenbrier Humane Society at 151 Holliday Lane, Lewisburg, WV, 24901, or to HospiceCare at 1265 Maplewood Avenue, Lewisburg, WV, 24901.

Online guestbook can be signed at [www.morganfh.net](http://www.morganfh.net). Arrangements entrusted to Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV.

### Robert Gregory Taylor

Robert Gregory Taylor, 62, of White Sulphur Springs passed away Dec. 31, 2025, at his residence following a long illness.

He was born May 4, 1963, in Hot Springs, VA, the son of Teresa Trent Vandevander of White Sulphur Springs and the late Robert Gray Taylor, Jr.

Robert a general handyman, having worked at The Greenbrier Hotel, then going on his own as a painter, roofer and drywaller. He had attended Wild Meadow Baptist Church and more recently the White Sulphur Springs Pentecostal Holiness Church.

Other than his father he was preceded in death by his stepfather Huthan C. Chavis; grandson Duane Kennedy, Jr.; sister Carolyn Wolfe and a brother

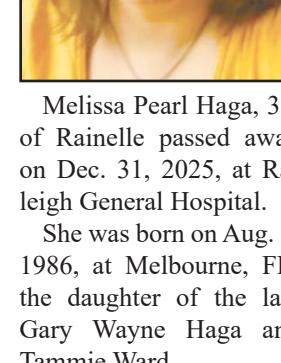
Larry Taylor.

Surviving are his wife Florence "Beth" Taylor; mother Teresa Trent Vandevander Chavis of White Sulphur Springs; daughter Cheyenne Taylor of Clintonville; step daughters, Zettie Wolfe of Huntington, WV and Marissa Bailey (Joseph) of Wyoming County, WV; step son, Andre Wolfe at home; 30 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; sisters Sharon Taylor of North Carolina, Abbygale Sparks (Austin) of White Sulphur Springs; brothers, Jerry Taylor of North Carolina, Rev. John Taylor (Tammy) of North Carolina, Jimmy Buettner (Becky) of Maryland, John Chavis (Gloria) of Maryland, and Grady Chavis (Sherry) of Maryland, and brother in law Charlie Wolfe of Pennsylvania.

Memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 10, at Groves-Mann Funeral Home in Union, WV, with Pastor Mike Smith officiating. Visitation will be held from 1 p.m. until time of services on Saturday at the funeral home.

Celebration of Life will be held in the near future.

### Melissa Pearl Haga



Melissa Pearl Haga, 39, of Rainelle passed away on Dec. 31, 2025, at Raleigh General Hospital.

She was born on Aug. 1, 1986, at Melbourne, FL; the daughter of the late Gary Wayne Haga and Tammie Ward.

Melissa was a loving mother and had worked as a cashier and a waitress.

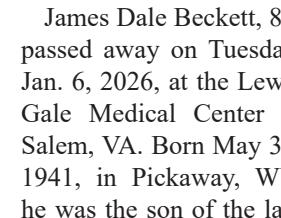
Survivors include her companion of over 15 years, Thomas Lee Harrah, Jr.; children, Brandon Williams, Autumn Williams and Conner Harrah; sister, Brandy; half-sister, Kathy Lee; brothers, William Aaron Haga, Josh Haga and Johnny Ward.

She will be cremated and no services at this time.

Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting [www.wallaceandwallacefh.com](http://www.wallaceandwallacefh.com)

Wallace & Wallace, Inc. of Rainelle, WV is in charge of arrangements.

### James Dale Beckett



James Dale Beckett, 84, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026, at the Lewis Gale Medical Center in Salem, VA. Born May 30, 1941, in Pickaway, WV, he was the son of the late James and Maxine Christie Beckett. Dale was a dedicated farmer who loved working on the farm and taking care of all animals. He loved his family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was a beloved father, grandfather, great grandfather, and friend who will be missed by all who knew him.

In addition to his parents, Dale was preceded

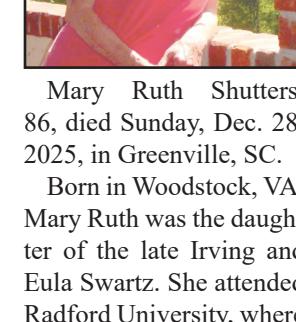
in death by his wife, Carol McClung Beckett; brother, Lloyd Beckett; and niece, Brooke Webb Smith.

Those left to cherish his memory include his son, Jeff Beckett and wife Melinda; daughter, Jacque Jones and husband Kyle; grandson, Josh Beckett and wife Hannah; granddaughter, Sarah Jones Grimm and husband Jack; his great grandchildren, Brayden and Saylor Beckett; sister, Nancy Webb; nephew, Chad Beckett; niece, Kristin Beckett; and several extended family members.

Memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 10, at Groves-Mann Funeral Home in Union, WV, with Pastor Mike Smith officiating. Visitation will be held from 1 p.m. until time of services on Saturday at the funeral home.

Those wishing to send online condolences or would like to sign the online guestbook, please do so by visiting [www.grovesmann.com](http://www.grovesmann.com). Arrangements by Groves-Mann Funeral Home, Union, WV.

### Mary Ruth Shutters



Mary Ruth Shutters, 86, died Sunday, Dec. 28, 2025, in Greenville, SC.

Born in Woodstock, VA, Mary Ruth was the daughter of the late Irving and Eula Swartz. She attended Radford University, where she met her husband Samuel "Dick" Shutters, who attended Virginia Tech.

Mary Ruth worked as a physical education and science teacher and lived most of her life in Virginia, in the Shenandoah Valley where she was born, Northern Virginia, where she and her husband settled after marriage, and Christiansburg in Southwestern Virginia, where they raised their children.

As a science teacher, Mary Ruth was fascinated by all aspects of nature, from the stars in the sky to the rocks on the ground. She enjoyed reading, working any sort of puzzle, and playing games, which she always played to win.

She is survived by son Mark (Carolyn) Shutters; daughter Lynn Shutters (Leif Sorenson); and sister Anna Mae (Howard) Ortigies; as well as two nephews, Henrik Nissen and Wade Ortigies, and two nieces, Heather Menduke and Anne Nissen.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Samuel Shutters.

A public memorial service will be held Saturday, Jan. 10, at 1 p.m. at Mount Zion Lutheran Church, 3055 Fairview Road, Woodstock, VA.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Lutheran World Relief, <https://lwr.org> or Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley, <https://shenandoahalliance.org>.

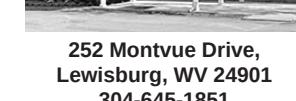
Favorite memories and condolences may be shared with the family by visiting [www.thomasmcafee.com](http://www.thomasmcafee.com)

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# Blue Ribbon Classic Archery Tournament to be held at State Fairgrounds next weekend



Roncerete Elementary School archery team.



The Old Greenbrier Baptist Centershot archery team.

Roncerete Elementary School archery and Old Greenbrier Baptist Centershot archery are collaborating to host a NASP archery tournament for West Virginia elementary, middle, and high school archery teams at the State Fair of West Virginia. There will be 152 elementary, middle, and high school archers shooting 3D on Friday, Jan. 16 between 3 and 9 p.m. Next, 455 elemen-

tary, middle, and high school archers will be shooting Bullseye on Saturday, Jan. 17 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. This event will feature vendors; a 3D exotic shoot featuring a 7-foot-tall sasquatch, Kodiak bear, and a dinosaur; and fair food by GH Concessions, BuckMasters Kettle Treats, and Dippin' Dots.

## MLK Jr Day

says by MLK Day essay contest winners. That contest has been expanded this year to include entries from students in grades from kindergarten to 12th grade in Pocahontas, Monroe, and Greenbrier Counties. That includes students at private schools and home-schooled students. The winners in four categories based on grade levels will be awarded cash prizes provided by the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine Chapter of the Student National Medical Association. Art work entries created by students in the youngest category who chose to enter them instead of essays will be on display. The deadline line for the submission of contest entries has been extended to Jan. 13. The email address to use is for that or to ask for information is [mlkcelebrationcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:mlkcelebrationcommittee@gmail.com).

The essays and pictures entered by the students will be based on each student's choice of one of Dr. King's 14 quotations that are engraved on the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial in Washington, DC. On the other hand, the theme for the entire celebration was derived from his words, "Let no man pull you so low as to hate him."

Even more music will come from the many voices of the Resurrection Praise Community Choir with singers from Greenbrier and other nearby counties including Alleghany County. In addition, Soloist Milton Hardy, Jr., the Pastor of the City of Praise Ministries in Covington has agreed to cross over into West Virginia to sing in his powerful baritone voice.

**Income Tax Cut**

Morrisey said he believed the state could "deliver meaningful tax relief without sacrificing essential services" due to his administration's work on agency budgets and cutting what he called inefficient spending.

His administration has already asked state agencies to cut their budgets by 2%

"I think we're in a position to deliver real tax relief that strengthens families, supports our businesses and really continues to position West Virginia well in this backyard brawl effort," Morrisey said, noting that Kentucky and Ohio have cut their income tax rates.

Kelly Allen, executive director at the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy, said the governor's proposed tax cut was "a surprising development" after the state didn't hit the tax cut trigger.

"This is saying we can actually jump out ahead of the triggers and enact deeper income tax cuts as his own six year financial plan says we're facing hundreds of millions of dollars in budget deficits in upcoming years," she said.

Allen estimated that a 5 to 10% income tax cut would result in a \$1 a week more for West Virginians.

"We've had years of tax cuts that have not brought promised growth, but instead have caused austerity and cuts to public schools, infrastructure and child care. Greater investments in those amenities and services are all things that would move the needle more on affordability for everyday West Virginians and strengthen our

keynote speaker for the event will be Jermiah A. Jasper, pastor of Woodford Memorial United Methodist Church in Elkins, WV. He has been featured in Martin Luther King Jr. Day programs at Davis and Elkins College and also West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon.

Originally from Oak Hill, Rev. Jasper has a B.S. in Education from West Virginia Institute of Technology and a Masters of Divinity from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL.

Three months ago, Rev. Jasper and Mike Brooks, both from the Woodford Memorial Methodist Church, were among the local winners of Extra Mile Heroesnational awards, presented by them by Elkins Mayor Jerry Marco. This was primarily due to the church's weekly Common Ground Meals program and also their Backpack Program. Rev. Jasper had previously won that award for public service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additional information about the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration is available on the Facebook page: MLK Celebration in Greenbrier Valley. Two or three days after the event, a video of the program at the church prepared by the church's audiovisual expert, Darren Campbell will be accessible via that Facebook page.

Anyone wishing to be a sponsor for this event may make out a check to Greenbrier Valley Community Foundation and write Greenbrier Valley MLK in the memo line. The foundation's mailing address is GVCF, P.O. Box 1682, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

Continued from Page 2

overall economy," she said.

The state's general revenue collections are about 5% above estimate - \$128 million more than estimated, the governor said. The number has been driven by personal income tax strength and consumer sales tax collections.

"We had a good close to 2025 and our fiscal projections are significantly above where we thought they would be," Morrisey said. "This is very positive news, (and) I think, a direct result of so much of the hard work that our administration has put in over time."

Morrisey also wants to expand the state's tourism development tax credit with the goal of increasing lodging to support the state's growing tourism industry.

State Treasurer Larry Pack has urged lawmakers to eliminate state income tax on overtime and tips. President Donald Trump's "One Big Beautiful Bill" included provisions for no taxes on tips and overtime effective through Dec. 31, 2028.

"President Trump championed a policy at the federal level that would allow workers to deduct overtime and qualified tips from their federal tax return," Pack said in a news release in November.

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](mailto:info@westvirginiawatch.com).

## Church Bulletin

### Celebrating Recovery program at Mt. Hermon UMC

Please join us for our Celebrating Recovery program at Mt. Hermon United Methodist Church in Renick. If you are dealing with any type of addiction issues, we invite you to join us each Tuesday afternoon at 5:30 p.m. Childcare is available and a meal is served prior to each meeting. For more information call 304-667-2532. We are located at 27404 Seneca Trail North, Renick, WV.

### Worship Services and other events at Lewisburg Baptist Church

Please join us for services and events at Lewisburg Baptist Church - a Bible believing and Gospel preaching Church nestled in the heart of Greenbrier County. Worship services are conducted on Sundays at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., and on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Sunday School for children and for adults are on Sundays at 10 a.m. On Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. other events include Awana Clubs (age 3 to Grade 6) and Teen Challenge Ministry (Grade 7 - 12). Church van pick up is also available on Sundays and Wednesdays. Lewisburg Baptist Church is located at 246 Grand Avenue in Lewisburg, WV. Further information is available at [www.lbcwv.com](http://www.lbcwv.com), on Facebook, or please call 304-645-3797.

### God's Way Home Inc.

Our mission is to help men in our area suffering from drug and alcohol addiction by teaching them who Jesus Christ is and what he has done for them to set them free in his name and through his blood. As well as, how to become effective and productive men. We are located at 477 Main Street, Rainelle, WV. For more information, please contact Andrew Bailes at 304-646-6655 or email [andrew@godswayhome.org](mailto:andrew@godswayhome.org)

## OPINION

### Letter to the Editor

### All men are created equal

Dear Editor:

Our great nation is formed on the premise that ALL men are created equal: that ANY person on US soil (regardless of race, color or citizenship) has the right to a fair hearing (Due Process): that ANY person can challenge their detention and petition for release (Habeas Corpus)

As ICE sweeps continue, thousands of innocent people are being detained with no access to legal counsel in facilities that have no transparency or oversight.

My father served six years in the Navy during WWII defending the rights of innocent human beings who were being detained and abused because of their religion or ethnicity. The US stood up to defend against the leadership that dictated through hatred, division and violence.

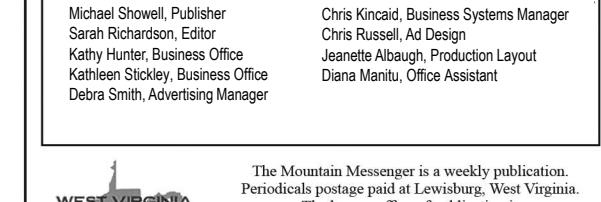
History will judge our great nation harshly if we allow this moral and legal travesty to continue.

As we pledge allegiance to our flag in 2026 let us act on its final promise:

Liberty and Justice for ALL!

Carli Marenec  
Lewisburg, WV

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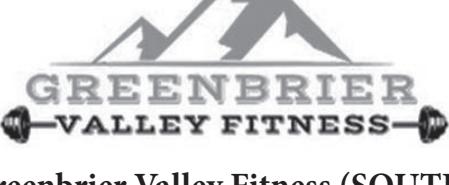
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# Dear Recycle Lady



## Dear Recycle Lady,

Do you know anything about fabrics being made from chicken feathers? How can that even be possible?

Doubtful Reader

## Dear Doubtful Reader,

Believe it or not, scientists in Hawaii are using chicken feathers to create a sustainable fabric that is called Kertex. Chicken feathers contain a natural substance called keratin that not only gives feathers strength but also makes the wool-like fabric made from chicken feathers very sturdy and stretchy. Kertex has the look and feel of wool and can be used for upholstery, clothing, and other purposes. According to the designers of Kertex, the feathers from two chickens can make one sweater. Americans eat about 32.5 billion pounds of chicken each year and their feathers have been sent to the landfill. Now there is another, very creative option: clothing made from chicken feathers.

## Dear Recycle Lady,

What exactly is plastic film and what kinds of plastic film can be used for the Trex challenge that several local nonprofits are doing?

New Recycler

## Dear New Recycler,

Plastic film is a thin, soft, flexible sheet of plastic that will give when you pull on it. It is made from polyethylene (PE) resin. (A resin code classifies the film according to the density of the polyethylene.) Plastic films and wraps for packaging are generally #2 and #4 PE plastic film. Grocery bags are #2 HDPE or High-Density Polyethylene. They are recyclable although they are not marked with a recycle triangle. Plastic film wraps used for packaging several like items together, such as paper plates, napkins, or paper towels, are #4 MDPE or Medium Density Polyethylene. These wraps generally have a #4 in the recycle symbol. A third type of polyethylene is a low-density polyethylene that generally is not marked; dry cleaning bags and newspaper bags come in this category. However, not all

plastic bags are recyclable. This includes pre-washed salad mix bags, frozen food bags, candy bar wrappers, chip bags, six-pack rings, and any plastic bags that do not move when you pull on them. If in doubt about the plastic film being recyclable, throw it out. It only takes one or two such bags of non-recyclable plastic film to contaminate a bale of plastic film. The Recycle Center does not recycle plastic film; however, there are three Trex boxes at the Recycle Center for plastic film and wraps. There are also Trex boxes for plastic film at Amy's Market, the Lewisburg Methodist Church, and the back porch of St. James Episcopal Church. All the items mentioned above are recyclable and usable for the Trex Challenge, but only if the items are clean, dry, and all receipts are removed.

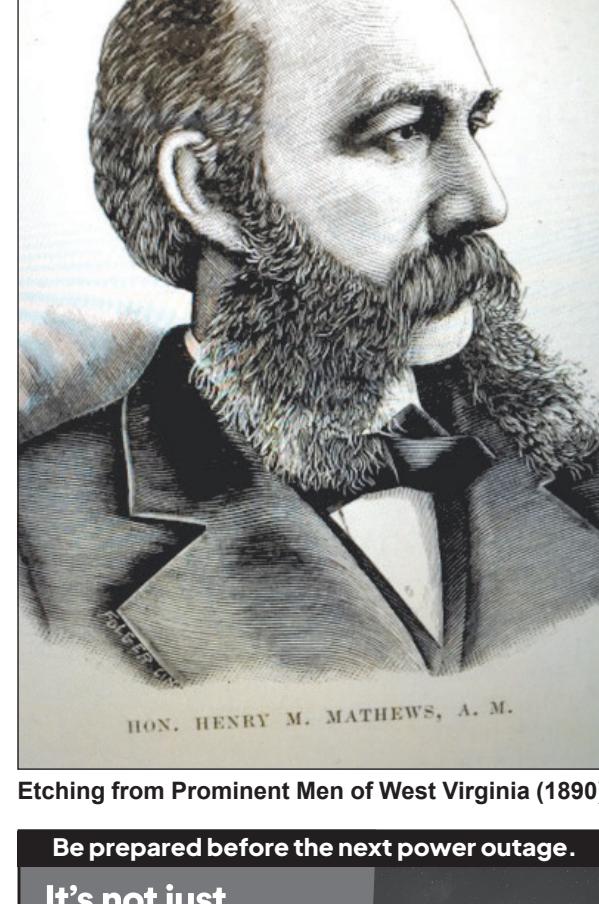
Trex gives charitable, church or community organizations a large bench upon completion of sorting 1,000 pounds of plastic film and pulling out non-recyclable or dirty film that has been put in these local boxes. This may seem like a lot of plastic film, but most organizations complete it in a couple of months. If you know of an organization that would be interested in this

project, please contact me. There is plenty of plastic film available for several organizations. Troop 70 Boy Scouts completed the first challenge. Since then, Trex benches have been earned by young and older Girl Scouts in both Lewisburg and White Sulphur Springs, 4-Hers, St. James Episcopal Church, and Lewisburg Elementary students. Bags of sorted plastic film are sent to Trex by way of Kroger's returning distribution trucks. The sorted plastic film is then used by Trex to make composite lumber for decks, benches, playground sets and other outdoor items.

**Good News:** Tigers are on the rebound in India. According to The Week Junior, a new study has found that the population of tigers in India has doubled over the last 12 years. The India government has been working since 1973 to save the tigers and over 75% of the World's tigers now live in India.

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



Etching from *Prominent Men of West Virginia* (1890).

## By William "Skip" Deegans

Following the end of the Civil War, politics in Greenbrier County were, to say the least, topsy-turvy. Greenbrier Countians were, by and large, sympathetic to the southern cause, and many local men filled the ranks of the Confederate Army. At war's end, Greenbrier Unionists became emboldened and instituted a test oath requiring office holders to swear they had never borne arms against the United States. Lewisburg's Henry Mason Mathews (shown in the etching) who had been a major in the Confederate Army was elected from the Ninth District to the state Senate. When the Senate convened in 1866, Mathews was refused a seat in the Senate even though he had signed an oath that he would support the Constitution of the United States.

With time, tensions dissipated, and in 1876 Mathews was overwhelmingly elected governor. Then, as it is now, public education was controversial. Mathews, who had been educated at the Lewisburg Academy and the University of Virginia, favored a free school system that was supported by public taxes. He said, "The only ground upon which government can undertake to establish and support schools is that the education of the children is necessary for the safety and prosperity of the state..." Moreover, he said, "The true principle is, to treat, for the purpose of education, the children of the State as wards of the State."

Sources: *A History of Greenbrier County* by Otis K. Rice, *Prominent Men of West Virginia* by Alvaro F. Gibbons and George Atkinson.

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**LOCAL**

## SPORTS

## This Week in Wrestling, Week Three: Fallen Heroes

By Rob Frank

## The Opening Shot

Week four of the 2025 - 2026 Greenbrier East Wrestling season is in the books. The team, men and women, worked hard in practice, striving to get better every day. The women's team had no tournament this week. The men traveled to East Fairmont for the Tom Lewis Wrestling Classic. The rich history of West Virginia wrestling is reflected in the stories behind the tournaments in which our wrestlers participate.

The Tom Lewis Wrestling Classic is named in honor of Tom Lewis, a longtime East Fairmont High School coach, who coached not only wrestling, but football and track as well. In 1970 Tom Lewis was asked to "help with the team" and became a mat-side fixture of Marion County wrestling for 48 years. His efforts included coaching, upgrading wrestling facilities, organizing tournaments and events, hand crafting trophies, and developing the character and academic performance of the young men he coached. He did all of this as a volunteer, never accepting payment for his commitments. In 2012, Tom Lewis was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

## The Week in Review

Tom Lewis Classic: 22 teams from West Virginia and Ohio competed in the Tom Lewis Classic. Congratulations to Greenbrier East's Tom Lewis Classic place winners: Harrison Smith, 3rd Place - Heavyweight Division; Carter Web, 6th Place - 150 pound weight class; Sonny Herbert, 5th Place - 120 pound weight class. Harrison won twice by pin, and twice by technical fall (win by 15 points). He avenged his sole loss on the day in the third place match. Sonny also earned two pins on the day. Owen Edwards and Week 3 Wrestler of the Week Mason Miller also ended the day with winning records.

## Sponsor Spotlight

We thank The Livery Tavern (1134 Washington Street East, Lewisburg, 304-645-9836), our Tournament Sponsor for the Tom Lewis Classic. Without the support of our sponsors our participation in tournaments would be significantly diminished. The Livery Tavern is a great place to celebrate a win. If you wish to sponsor a tournament, please call Rob Frank, 719-322-2985, or email to rob@rjflaw.com.

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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# SPORTS



Harrison Smith (Photo by Hannah Gill)

student athletes to sacrifice over the Christmas break, but the sacrifices made by wrestlers during the holiday season are greater than for any other sport.

Wrestlers do not get a break from their intense training over the Christmas break. Practices are held on Christmas eve, the day after Christmas, on New Years Eve, and on New Year's Day - as wrestlers work to be in peak form for Jan. 2nd tournaments. As a parent, I know I was not alone in watching my daughter prepare for a long run, followed by sprints, after opening presents on Christmas Day. No official practice, just a dedication and commitment to be her best.

Weight management is perhaps the most difficult part of Christmas for wrestlers. As other students are enjoying large meals with family, Christmas cookies, and other holiday sweets, wrestlers are carefully measuring their calories and food weight, knowing every once they put on, will need to be stripped off before the weekend following the holiday. For many wrestlers, the training schedule, practices, and need to avoid situations involving food, lead to isolation and a feeling of "otherness" or loneliness over the holiday. As their friends indulge, they sacrifice.

We all need to recognize and acknowledge the sacrifices made by young men and women in this most demanding sport. These sacrifices, however, are part of why wrestling is so successful at building character, discipline and focus in young people.

On Dec. 21, 2025, wrestling internet influencer Bondchamp posted the following to Facebook, which accurately illustrates the challenges faced by wrestlers during the Christmas holiday:

The wrestler learns a fundamental truth early in life:

You do not get to have everything you want at the moment you want it.

You learn to delay gratification.

You learn to endure hunger without complaint.

You learn that discipline is often invisible to everyone except yourself.

And this is why it is worth it.

Because sacrifice, repeated under pressure, forges character.

Because comfort has never produced excellence.

Because when the lights turn on and the match begins, the wrestler carries something deeper than talent - they carry proof.



Mason Miller (Photo by Hannah Gill)

Proof that they chose commitment when distraction was easier.

Proof that they honored a long-term goal over a short-term pleasure.

We thank each of our wrestlers for their sacrifice over the Christmas season.

## Next Week

Next week's article will give results of the 2026 WV Army National Guard Duals Wrestling Tournament and the Parkersburg Women's Winter Classic, will profile the Week 5 Wrestler of the week, will give updates on upcoming events, and provide wrestler and donor highlights.

GEHS wrestling matches are now live-streamed and posted on the Greenbrier East Spartan Wrestling Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1400059887620954>. If you can't join us live, please join us online.

# SCHOOL

## Micah Miller named to Dean's List for fall 2025 semester

In recognition of academic performance, the Office of Academic Affairs at University of the Cumberlands has announced that Micah Miller of Lewisburg has been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2025 semester.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours (a full course load), maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.50 for the

semester, and be in good academic standing.

University of the Cumberlands is one of the largest and most affordable private universities in Kentucky. Located in Williamsburg, Kentucky, Cumberlands is an institution of regional distinction offering quality undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and online degree programs. Learn more at [ucumberlands.edu](http://ucumberlands.edu).

## SNHU announces Fall 2025 President's List

It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2025 President's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

These area students have been named to the President's List: Savannah Turner of Rainelle, Brittany Fox of Charmco, Jesse Willey of Union, Abby Bedard of Ronceverte, Jonathan McMillion of Alderson, Maxwell Dunz of Lewisburg, Levi Schneider of Lewisburg, and Darrell Hughes of Lewisburg.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 93-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to

high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

## LEGAL

State of West Virginia  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Mining and Reclamation

### PUBLIC NOTICE OF BLASTING OPERATIONS

Notice is hereby given that Black Water, Inc. P.O. Box 207 Lewisburg WV 24901, (304) 667-3776, S301114 situated in Meadow Bluff District of Greenbrier County, approximately 2.1 miles southwest of Crichton will be conducting blasting activities in accordance with all State and Federal Laws and as approved by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Blasting activities will occur Monday through Saturday from "sunrise to sunset." No blasting shall be conducted on Sunday.

Blasting is to commence on 1/21/26 and continue through 1/21/27.

Ten minutes prior to and immediately after each blast, all access to the specific area will be safeguarded from unauthorized entry.

The warning signal prior to each blast shall be from an air horn audible to at least one-half mile from the blast. The warning will be given three (3) minutes prior to detonation and will consist of three (3) short blasts of five (5) seconds duration with five (5) seconds between each blast.

The all-clear signal shall be one long blast from an air horn, of twenty (20) seconds duration.

Blasting shall be conducted in such a way so as to prevent adverse impacts to the public or the environment.

Blasting activities will not be conducted at times other than those announced in the blasting schedule except in the event of an emergency situation or public safety requires unscheduled detonations, or operator or public safety requires unscheduled detonations.

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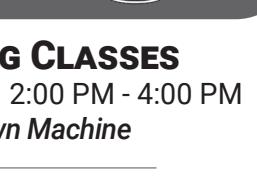
### RMC Lewisburg Behavioral Health & MAT Program

*Mountains Are Turning:  
A Path To Recovery Begins Here*

### Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program

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### UPCOMING LIBRARY PROGRAMS



#### BASIC SEWING CLASSES

Monday, January 12 | 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Bring Your Own Machine

#### CHICKEN SCRATCH EMBROIDERY

Thursday, January 15 | 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Kits Provided For \$15.00

#### MAHJONG

Every Week On Wednesday  
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

#### ORIGAMI

January 22 | Every 4th Thursday  
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

#### RONCEVERTE PUBLIC LIBRARY

500 Main St. W., Ronceverte, WV  
304-647-7400  
<http://www.roncevertelibrary.org>

## LEGAL

Public Notice is hereby given that the Greenbrier County Board of Zoning Appeals will conduct a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Floor Courtroom of the Greenbrier County Courthouse.

**PUBLIC HEARING 1:** The Board will consider the request and application of April Holmes for a **Special Exception** from the Greenbrier County Zoning Ordinance. The appellant requests permission to replace a burnt single-wide manufactured home at 163 Ridgeway Lane, Ronceverte. The subject property is zoned Forest Recreational, located in the Fort Spring described in Deed Book 629 on Page 661 and shown on Tax Map 19 as Parcel 301.

This legal advertisement has been compiled from information submitted by the Appellant. Accuracy of submitted information is the responsibility of the Appellant. The Board of Zoning Appeals is not responsible for errors and omissions in this legal advertisement as a result of erroneous or inaccurate information submitted by the Appellant. The petition is available for public review at the Board of Zoning Appeals office in the Courthouse. Anyone wishing to comment on this appeal is urged to attend the meeting or send written comments to the Board of Zoning Appeals, 912 Court Street N, Lewisburg, West Virginia 24901.

## LEGAL

### NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

To maintain necessary clearances for safe and reliable electric service, Appalachian Power plans to manage vegetation along a portion of its 34-kilovolt distribution system in Greenbrier County, WV. On or about January 5, 2026, contract crews will begin to trim and remove and apply herbicide to trees and brush along our rights of way. Work will be done in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture guidelines and consider factors such as tree species, growth characteristics, line voltage, etc. In unmaintained or undeveloped areas, cuttings will remain on site to minimize soil disturbance and to promote biodegradation. Rights of way in the area involved in the program are three-phase structures in Rupert & surrounding areas, WV.

Representatives will attempt to personally contact resident property owners at least seven business days prior to working on their property. Specifics regarding your property may be discussed at that time. If you are a nonresident property owner and have questions regarding our right-of-way maintenance, please contact:

Appalachian Power  
Bob Keiling / Utility Forester  
304-256-2733

## LEGAL

### PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA CHARLESTON

Entered by the Public Service Commission of West Virginia, in the City of Charleston on this the 19th day of December 2025.  
Case No. 25-1004-T-CN

LUMOS FIBER OF WEST VIRGINIA, LLC

Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and

Necessity to Provide Facilities Based Local Exchange

Telecommunications Services in the State of West Virginia.

### NOTICE OF FILING

On December 19, 2025, Lumos Fiber of West Virginia, LLC, filed an application for a certificate of convenience and necessity to Provide Facilities Based Local Exchange Telecommunications Services in the State of West Virginia Pursuant to *West Virginia Code §24-2-11*, IT IS ORDERED that the Applicant give notice of the filing of said application by publishing a copy of this order once in a qualified newspaper as provided in *West Virginia Code §59-3-1 et seq.* published and of general circulation in each of the Cities of Beckley, Bluefield, Charleston, Clarksburg, Elkins, Fairmont, Huntington, Keyser, Lewisburg, Logan, Martinsburg, Morgantown, Moundsville, Parkersburg, Point Pleasant, Weirton, Welch, Wheeling, and Williamson, making due return to this Commission of proper certification of publication immediately after publication.

Anyone desiring to make objection to said application must do so in writing, within 30 days after publication of this notice, to Karen Buckley, Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if no protests are received within said thirty-day period, the Commission may waive formal hearing; render its decision based on the evidence submitted with the application and the Commission's review thereof.

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# ENTERTAINMENT



Art by Greenbrier Artists (left), the late Fawn Valentine, and "Emerging Artist" Kit Lindsey

## Artwalk scheduled for Friday, January 9

Carnegie Hall invites the community to attend the upcoming Carnegie Hall Artwalk on Friday, Jan. 9, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. This free event offers visitors a chance to explore original works by local and regional artists in a world-class historical venue. Guests will enjoy live music by John Maddy and Brennan Wood, complimentary light refreshments, and a cash bar while immersing themselves in the arts. Each Artwalk features three gallery spaces filled with creative collaborations and diverse mediums, ranging from contemporary oil portraits to heirloom-level craft arts.

The Museum Gallery will hold a memorial exhibit honoring the life and work of textile artist Fawn Valentine. The exhibit celebrates a woman whose creative gifts were inseparable from her deep devotion to community. A master weaver, quilt scholar, and beloved teacher, Fawn shared her artistry for decades through classes at Carnegie Hall and through her influential writing, including *Echoes from the Hills: West Virginia Quilts and Quilt Makers*. Her leadership and service shaped Alderson in countless ways - through the Community Market she lovingly nurtured, her decade of guidance on the Municipal Planning Commission, and her work with Alderson Main Street, the Planning Commission, and the Greenbrier Valley CVB. Recognized as Alderson's

2023 Citizen of the Year and honored with the Frank and Jane Gabor Traditions Salute Award, Fawn championed West Virginia folk culture with uncommon passion and grace. Her journey in art began at Mills College and continued through Concord University and Hollins University, leading her to teach both children and adults and to serve her region through social services. This exhibit gathers her woven works as a testament to a life threaded with creativity, service, and love - a legacy that continues to warm and strengthen the community she cherished.

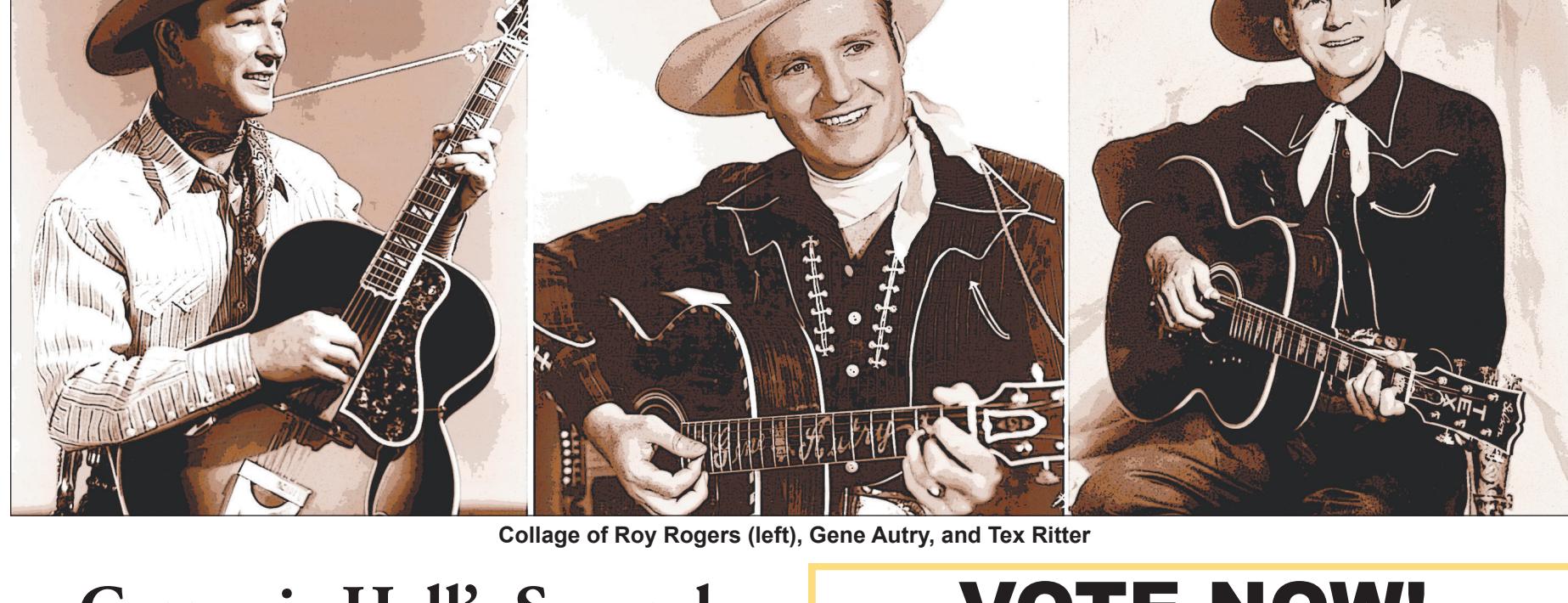
The Lobby Gallery will soon come alive with the fresh perspectives and bold creative voices of its upcoming "Emerging Artists" exhibit, showcasing the work of Kit Lindsey, Maggie Karrs, Wendy Friedman, and Jake Logan. Each artist brings a distinct vision - ranging from intimate explorations of texture and color to inventive approaches that challenge familiar forms - creating a dynamic, multifaceted experience for visitors. Together, their work highlights the vibrancy and promise of a new generation of creators, inviting the community to discover, celebrate, and champion artists who are shaping the region's artistic future.

The Old Stone Room will shine a spotlight on the Greenbrier Artists, a beloved collective that has been a

creative force in the Greenbrier Valley for more than 50 years. Formed in 1974 by a small group of painters who simply wanted to gather, share ideas, and grow together, the group has evolved into a vibrant community of artists who meet every Thursday in the Kellar Art Studio at Carnegie Hall to paint, learn, and support one another. Their long tradition of collaboration has produced decades of exhibitions, including their first group show in 1984 and a special 50th anniversary celebration in 2024. Featuring a wide range of styles and mediums, the Greenbrier Artists continue to embody the spirit of creativity and camaraderie that has defined them since their founding. Their Museum Gallery exhibit offers visitors a chance to experience the depth, history, and ongoing vitality of one of the region's most enduring artistic communities.

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](http://carnegiehallwv.org), call 304-645-7917, or stop by the Hall at 611 Church Street, Lewisburg.

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



Collage of Roy Rogers (left), Gene Autry, and Tex Ritter

## Carnegie Hall's Second Stage series continues with The Golden Age of the Silver Screen: America's Favorite Cowboy Songs

Carnegie Hall presents The Golden Age of the Silver Screen: America's Favorite Cowboy Songs on Thursday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m., inviting audiences to get back in the saddle for a toe tapping journey through Hollywood's western musical heyday.

Led by the Thomas Taylor Quartet - featuring Thomas Taylor, Bill Clapham, Alan Copenhaver, and Jerry Wood - the program celebrates the iconic music that defined America's singing cowboys and captured the spirit of the open range.

Through classic film clips, rich storytelling, and live performances, the evening pays tribute to legends such as Gene Autry, the original Singing Cowboy whose warm baritone shaped a generation; Roy Rogers, the King of the Cowboys whose heroic charm and unforgettable melodies became cultural touchstones; and Tex Ritter, the deep voiced trailblazer whose powerful presence brought authentic western storytelling to both film and song. Audiences will discover the stories

behind the songs, explore how these stars shaped movie music, and relive the nostalgia, history, and heart that made the West sing.

Whether longtime fans or newcomers to the genre, guests are invited to dust off their boots, tip their hats, and enjoy an unforgettable celebration of America's favorite cowboy songs.

The Second Stage Series consists of five special events that take place in the Old Stone Room located on the ground floor of the Hall. The intimate setting creates a "speak easy" vibe with an eclectic line-up of entertainment. Seating is general admission.

Tickets are \$20. 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](http://www.carnegiehallwv.org), calling 304-645-7917, or stopping by the box office at 611 Church Street, Lewisburg.



## VOTE NOW!

Give a shout out to your favorite business in and around Lewisburg and the Greenbrier Valley



Cast your votes from December 28th to January 25th



More than 100 categories—from

- Steakhouse • Wineries • Pizzerias
- Event Centers • Law firms • Jewelry Stores
- Ice Cream Shops • and much more,

You can cast your votes in each Category

<https://mountainmedianews.com/bestofmm/>

Our ballot is super simple! Don't know much about the accounting firm in your region? Feel free to skip it and move on.

Fill out the entire ballot if you're feeling ambitious, or pick and choose among our categories. Select from our drop down list, or if your favorite coffee shop or spa isn't listed, write in your own winner. And, take your time. Our voting platform saves your votes, so you don't have to feel rushed. That means you can return to the ballot to continue

choosing your favorites without worrying about any of your votes being lost.

Winner's will be published in The Mountain Messenger February 28th