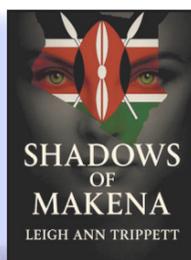


**Alderson Artisans**  
**'Dreaming of Spring'**  
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**Debut Novel**  
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**\$1.50**

# Mountain messenger

January 17, 2026

Vol. XLIII, No. 3

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

## The French Goat closes downtown Lewisburg location

The French Goat, a well-known fine dining restaurant in downtown Lewisburg, has officially closed its doors.

In a statement shared with the community, the owners cited ongoing economic challenges within the fine dining sector as the primary reason for the closure, noting that the current conditions made the restaurant's concept unsustainable at this time.

While the decision was described as a difficult one, the owners expressed hope that the space may reopen in the spring under a new concept, should circumstances allow.

The French Goat extended heartfelt thanks to its loyal patrons, both local and visiting, for their years of support. Special recognition was also given to the restaurant's staff, praised for their dedication and described as an enduring part of the restaurant's extended family.

Further updates regarding any future plans for the location are expected to be announced at a later date.



## White Sulphur Springs City Council reviews ongoing projects, refinancing tanker truck

By Sarah Richardson

White Sulphur Springs City Council reviewed a growing General Fund deficit during its January meeting, with expenditures continuing to outpace revenues both for the month and year to date. Council also heard public comments ranging from the closing of a longtime local business to concerns over sidewalk accessibility and ongoing city improvement projects.

Recorder David Dillon reported that the General Fund month-to-date revenue was \$183,405.85, and the total monthly expenditures were \$223,291.08, for an overall deficit of \$39,885.23. The General Fund year-to-date revenue is \$1,037,483.81 and year-to-date expenditures of \$1,302,096.75 for a deficit of \$264,612.94.

Kennedy Black, owner of Tootsie's Place, spoke before council following her closure of her business after five years of operation. "I just wanted to take a minute to thank City Council, the citizens of White Sulphur, the tourists, and the visitors that we've had in White Sulphur just to say thank you for all the support I've had over the past years."

"You've been a bright spot in this town," said Mayor Thomas Taylor. "Kennedy, we thank you for your hard work and we wish you success in the future."

Next, resident Mac McIntire spoke to council to voice displeasure of the placement of utility poles "in the middle of the sidewalks" around town. Saying, "Accessibility is everything," he stated double poles on sidewalks are a hindrance for all.

Mayor Taylor then reported that Lynch Construction won the bid on the Mapledale Tank Project and it "will be moving forward." Another project making progress is the Ridges Project. He said they are

getting ready to approach the County Commission for a meter project. "Our meter system is deteriorating," Mayor Taylor reports. The new meters will have something called "acoustic leak detection," and will also be able to tell if they are freezing up. "We will also have the capability of adding a valve to control water shutoffs from City Hall, which is wonderful."

Next, Mayor Taylor said that three city employees are retiring or have just retired, and that Rusty Byer has been sworn in as a police officer patrolman and as the code enforcement and zoning officer for the City. "Approximately 40 properties have been identified as having ordinance violations. In the coming weeks, violation letters will be delivered. We are going to start cleaning up our properties, we're going to start making White Sulphur Springs shine. Enough is enough. I've had enough. I've lived here for my whole life, and these dilapidated properties are consuming us, and they will be dealt with."

In other news, Councilmember Audrey Van Buren said that softball signups are starting, and that their season will begin in March. For little league, they have to respond to the City with game days and practice times at Hope Village. If they fail to do so, "they won't be able to utilize the field because of insurance purposes." She said she will continue to try and reach out.

Citizen David Leadman approached Council with financial concerns about roughly \$1 million that he alleges was "removed from a secure location, and basically put into the Greenbrier Valley Foundation" years ago, and a lengthy discussion was held that included the details of trusts.

Next, Mayor Thomas discussed the financing of one of the fire department's tanker trucks that requires a \$35,000 yearly payment. "I don't understand that, I

See "WSS City Council" Page 3

## Verizon to issue account credits following service outages

Following nationwide service issues on Wednesday, Jan. 14, Verizon issued the following statement:

"Yesterday, we did not meet the standard of excellence our customers expect and that we expect of ourselves. To help provide some relief to those affected, we will give them a \$20 account credit that can be easily redeemed by logging into the myVerizon app to accept. On average, this covers multiple days of service. Our business customers will be contacted directly about their credits.

This credit isn't meant to make up for what happened. No credit really can. But it's a way of acknowledging our customers' time and showing that this matters to us.

If customers are still experiencing issues, we encourage them to restart their devices to reconnect to the network. We are sorry for what you experienced and will continue to work hard day and night to provide the outstanding network and service that people expect from Verizon."

## 7 Notes Natural Health holds ribbon-cutting

Last Thursday, the downtown Lewisburg community and the Greenbrier Valley Chamber of Commerce celebrated the ribbon-cutting of 7 Notes Natural Health, a holistic wellness center that offers a wide range of natural health services including massage, sound therapy, Reiki, naturopathic consultations, and other integrative bodywork to support relaxation and overall wellness. The practice, led by board-certified naturopathic doctor and licensed therapist Rob Meyer-Kukan (pictured with scissors), also hosts community events like sound baths and workshops designed to help clients "hear, see, and



feel true wellness." Located at 298 Randolph Street, it aims to bring accessible, natural healing modalities to the Greenbrier County area.

## OBGYN's, economic development, and data centers discussed as Deeds and Canterbury address Greenbrier Republican Club

By Matthew Young, RealWV, www.therealwv.com

The Greenbrier County Republican Club, during their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, welcomed local representatives Sen. Vince Deeds, R-Greenbrier, and Del. Ray Canterbury, R-Greenbrier, to discuss the upcoming legislative session.

"In a retrospective look at the last session [2025], the members of the House didn't think the last session was all that productive," Canterbury began. "We decided we're going to take the bull by the horns, and we decided to set the agenda this time."

According to Canterbury, the Republican caucus of the House of Delegates has prepared 18 bills thus far that are ready for introduction.

"These are pro-business bills that are all designed to help us encourage more businesses and economic development in the State of West Virginia, which is going to be the primary focus of the House," Canterbury noted.

According to Canterbury, among the 18 bills introduced will be initiatives to encourage expansion within the state's aviation industry. Part of that expansion would be the building of additional aircraft hanger space, which Canterbury said will benefit the Greenbrier Valley Airport.

"We [also] have a proposal that's called 'Re-charge West Virginia,' which is going to reimburse businesses for some training for employees to improve their skills," Canterbury said. "And we've got some ideas about helping high school students develop skills before they enter the work force."

"There's one called the 'Construction Cost Relief Act,'" Canterbury continued. "It's exempting construc-



Del. Ray Canterbury (left) and Sen. Vince Deeds (right) at the Greenbrier County Republican Club meeting held last week.

tion-building projects from the state tax code in certain areas where there's a housing [shortage]. There's also a proposal to extend certain tax credits to small businesses. We've always heard a lot about, 'Well why do you extend tax credits to companies that are new to the State of West Virginia? Why don't you do something to incentivize companies that are already here to grow?' So there's going to be a shift."

One proposal which Canterbury finds particularly interesting, he said, is called the "Collaboratory."

"They did this in North Carolina," Canterbury explained. "The legislature there - like all legislatures - has lots of studies, and they say we need to study this, and there's no real organization to that. So what we've decided to do is establish something called

See "Canterbury and Deeds" Page 2

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# The 2026 election candidate filing period now open

With the start of the new year, the 2026 election cycle is just around the corner. The May 12 Primary Election is now 4 months away, beginning with the candidate filing period on Jan. 12. For just over two weeks, West Virginians seeking their party's nomination to the General Election must file certificates of announcement to officially become candidates.

Elections are the voices of the people. Elected officials make decisions at the national, state, and local levels that affect our daily lives, future, and our next generations. Perhaps some of the most important decisions we make as West Virginians occur at the ballot box when we choose the people we trust will have our best interests in mind when making decisions.

Filing for office is not just a personal decision. It is a public commitment to leadership, accountability, and service. When a candidate runs for public office, they are publicly affirming their willingness to represent and be responsive to their constituents, their jurisdiction, and the citizens of West Virginia.

In the Mountain State, we take pride in making this process accessible and secure. Whether you're running for a local school board, city council, or a statewide office, your decision to file is a declaration of faith in our system of self-government.

Public service is not easy. It requires time, energy, and sacrifice. But it also offers something unique: the chance to make a real difference in the lives of your neighbors

and fellow West Virginians.

Responsible government requires leaders who are willing to listen, learn, and lead. They must address critical issues like schools, roads, our economy, and our future. Filing for office is the next step toward becoming that leader.

Our constitutional republic thrives on competition and ideas. When more candidates file, voters have more choices. More choices mean better debates, more educated voters, and a government that truly reflects the will of the people.

West Virginia has a long and proud history of civic engagement. Since our state's founding in 1863, citizens have stepped forward to serve in local and state offices shaping policies that reflect the values of our communities. From the early days of statehood through modern

See "Filing Period" \_\_\_\_\_ Page 5

## Lewisburg Police Department receives \$25,000 grant



The Lewisburg Police Department was awarded a \$25,000 Local Economic Development Assistance Grant to begin equipping its Tactical Response Team. We would like to thank Senators Vince Deeds and Jack David Woodrum, as well as Governor Patrick Morrisey, for their help in receiving this grant.

## Gate code access important for first responders

Greenbrier County Homeland Security and Emergency Management team has shared the following notice:

When there's an emergency, every second matters.

Did you know there's an easy way to share your gate code so first responders can access your property during an emergency?

With the growing use of privacy gates at businesses, subdivisions, and private residences, it's critical that police, fire, and EMS personnel can quickly gain access when responding to emergencies. Our 911 Center maintains a secure database of gate codes and emergency contact information to help first responders reach you without delay.

You can help by submitting your gate code today.

Visit [https://gchsem.com/gate\\_code/](https://gchsem.com/gate_code/) to complete the Emergency Gate Code Information Form. Once submitted, the information is sent directly to the 911 Center and entered into our database. This information is used only in the event of an emergency.

For questions or additional information, please email [info@gchsem.com](mailto:info@gchsem.com).

## PICK OF THE LITTER



**HANSEN**

Hansen is a seven-month-old male hound mix and weighs 31 pounds



**GABBY**

Gabby is a female terrier/pit bull and weighs 61 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!**

## WVDA confirms case of Avian Influenza in backyard flock in Greenbrier County

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) has confirmed the presence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in a backyard flock in Greenbrier County. This is only the fourth detection of HPAI in domestic birds in West Virginia since the global outbreak began in early 2022.

The diagnosis was confirmed following a field investigation, sample collection, and testing at WVDA's Animal Health NAHLN lab in Moorefield. The affected premise has been placed under quarantine to protect nearby flocks and ensure the continued safety of the commercial food supply.

"This case is an important reminder that backyard poultry flocks can be at risk at any time," said West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. "All poultry owners, regardless of flock size, should remain vigilant by keeping birds contained, restricting access to their flocks, and avoiding contact with wild birds and waterfowl to help prevent the spread of this virus."

The WVDA has notified industry partners and state health officials and will continue following established response protocols. The agency remains committed to

prompt communication to help mitigate the risk of additional spread.

Avian influenza is an airborne respiratory virus that spreads through respiratory secretions, manure, and contaminated surfaces. Wild migratory waterfowl serve as natural carriers, putting outdoor and backyard flocks at increased risk. While HPAI has been detected in some mammal species, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that the public health risk remains low. Properly handling and thoroughly cooking poultry and eggs remains safe.

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

- Keep backyard flocks enclosed or under cover to prevent contact with wild birds.
- Remove or secure outdoor feed that may attract wildlife.
- Limit and record movement of people, vehicles, and animals on the property.
- Restrict access to essential personnel only.
- Avoid visiting other poultry operations or mixing birds from different locations.

See "Avian Influenza" \_\_\_\_\_ Page 3

## Canterbury and Deeds

Continued from Front Page

the 'collaboratory,' and basically it will be seated at Marshall [University]."

"Basically it will be an organization that will take all of the research projects that the legislature requests - where we want to do studies on anything on pending legislation or economic development - and we send it to them and then they find academics around the state in various institutions who can take up those projects," Canterbury continued. "They assign those and allocate resources."

"We're just basically looking for a way to focus research and development in the State of West Virginia around the policy initiatives of the state legislature in an organized manner," Canterbury added.

Canterbury expressed his confidence on the passage of these proposals, as the House of Delegates maintains a 91-seat Republican majority.

Turning his attention to local issues, Canterbury addressed the impending loss of OBGYN services at CAMC Greenbrier Valley Medical Center.

"This is going to be a huge problem for the Greenbrier Valley," Canterbury said. "Small businesses are telling us that if we don't have an OBGYN, it's going to be harder to recruit young families to the State of West Virginia. You need an OBGYN."

Canterbury noted that West Virginia is set to receive \$199.5 million in funding this year through the Rural Health Transformation Fund, and at least \$100 million per year for the next four years thereafter. Part of those funds, Canterbury said, are intended to incentivize medical providers to offer their services in the state's more rural areas.

"It turns out the lack of OBGYNs is not just a local problem," Canterbury said. "It's statewide. [...] It's a particularly bad problem in a county that has a medical school, because if you don't have an OBGYN then you may not be that interesting to female students who want to attend as medical students."

"And since this particular medical school (WVSOM) is very important to the supply chain for doctors around the state - we have a problem with more placement within the State of West Virginia than any other medical school," Canterbury added. "It's kind of important that we address that here."

Canterbury told attendees that he hopes to arrange a meeting between himself, the Governor, and the Republican caucus.

To begin his remarks, Sen. Vince Deeds told those in attendance, "I think this is the best thing we can do as legislators - get together and talk about these kinds of issues prior to session, and during session."

"Now there's going to be a lot of issues that pop up and get the headlines," Deeds said. "If you have any questions during session - this is critically important - please reach out and contact us."

Behind the scenes, Deeds explained, members of both the House and the Senate have been working together in a pro-jobs caucus, as an "economic development authority. According to Deeds, last month's announcement of House of Delegates Speaker Roger Hanshaw's, R-Clay, 2026 legislative agenda was done in the hopes that it would allow Governor Patrick Morrisey ample time to familiarize himself with the priorities of lawmakers, prior to delivering his State of the State Address.

Moving on to specific issues, Deeds said, "Whenever you talk about education, you automatically think about elementary and secondary schools, and public education. One thing we have to be mindful of is to be able to recruit and retain professionals in specialty fields."

Deeds then addressed HB 2014 - also referred to as the "Microgrid Bill" - that paves the way for the construction of data centers throughout West Virginia. HB 2014 was signed into law at the end of last year's legislative session.

See "Canterbury and Deeds" \_\_\_\_\_ Page 5

# 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

Angel Laura Morgan to Jeremy Lee Cochran  
Emily Kristine Eltzroth to Darrell Alexander Vandevender  
Rachel Renar Biesemeyer to Timothy Scott Brown  
Mitzi Gail Combs to Robert Clyde Daniels  
Raegan Mary Vorce to Zoei Kathleen-Marie Kirk  
Emily Anne Wells to Douglas Scott Tice

## Suits

New Cases from 1/7/26 to 1/14/26

### New Civil Cases

LM Insurance Corporation v. Victor Dunsmore, Jr.

### New Divorces

Maranda Laydron Blankenship and Shane Douglas Blankenship

Shelby Lee Hinz and Chad Edward Hinz  
Crystal Dawn Raley and Owen Lee Mitchell  
Sierra Shay Cobos Meza and Jesus Antonio Cobos Mezu

## Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Convictions

Steven Hunter Sharp, Marlinton, driving while license suspended or revoked, fine \$100, Home Confinement 30 days, jail 30 days - suspended, NCP  
Tyler G. Smith, Hinton, no, or expired, inspection sticker, fine \$25, NCP  
Derek Stephen Allen, Frankford, possession of a controlled substance, fine \$100, jail 90 days - suspended and placed on 9 months unsupervised probation, NCP  
Megan Ann Raddant, Lewisburg, 1) DUI - 1st offense, fine \$100, jail 5 days - suspended and placed on 12 months unsupervised probation; 2) DUI, fine \$100, jail 5 days - suspended and placed on 12 months unsupervised probation, NCP  
Marco A. Bermudez - Garcia, Lewisburg, driving without valid drivers license, fine \$50, GP  
David B. McPeak, Sinks Grove, obtaining property in return for worthless check on a preexisting debt, fine \$10, NCP  
Chance Joel Wagner, Lewisburg, DUI, fine \$100, jail 1 day, NCP  
Anthony Lee Lane, Lewisburg, trespassing, fine \$10, NCP  
Debra Lee Whitlock, Leivasy, unlawful disposal of litter, fine \$100, NCP  
Rylee A. Wilson, Lewisburg, operation without inspection sticker, fine \$10, GP  
Joshua Allen Morgan, Covington, VA, hunting, trapping or fishing on another person's land, fine \$30, NCP  
Destin Nicole Godfrey, Covington, VA, speeding, fine \$5, NCP  
David J. Manukjan, Washington, DC, speeding, fine \$24, GP  
Christopher Keith Norris, Lewisburg, shoplifting 1st offense, fine \$50, civil penalty \$50, GPA  
Dalton Abram Legg, Renick, no proof of insurance, fine \$200, NCP  
Landon B. Gurley, Lewisburg, possession of a controlled substance, fine \$100, NCP

## WSS City Council

Continued from Front Page

can't wrap my head around it. We have to do something. That payment comes out in the month of December. I don't like that at all." He said there is a refinancing option for monthly payments, which he said would be "easier to deal with" than one large yearly payment. It was motioned to refinance the payment into 12 monthly payments.

In closing, Taylor thanked council for "pushing forward with me, this is not an easy task by any means at all." The next meeting of the White Sulphur Springs City Council will be Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

THANK YOU FOR READING  
THE MOUNTAIN MESSENGER

## For the Record

### Deeds

Caitlyn Doss to Tangelia L. Jones: 2 tracts, 31 acres 67 poles, and 9 acres 84 poles, Meadow Bluff District, Map 47M Parcel 15, 6.1.  
Douglas E. Walton and Cynthia D. Walton to Adam D. Walton and Katherine L. Walton: 2 parcels, 0.52 acres and 0.52 acres, Irish Corner District, Map 10 Parcel 0047, 0050.  
Gary D. Roth and Frances J. Mayor to Traci G. Gardner and James L. Gardner: lot 5 Hedrick Addition, Alderson District, Map 6 Parcel 0376 0000.  
Betty Crookshanks Estate (Lawrence J. Ickes administrator and Jack Eagle heir) to WV Spring and Radiator Company: 1.828 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 77 Parcel 0090 0000.  
Brittany N. Parker to James A. Harvey: p/o lot 163, Ronceverte District, Map 15 Parcel 33.  
Craig Marshall and Brittany Marshall to Linda C. Ransom: 3 lots, Meadow Bluff District, Map 54C Parcel 39.  
Benjamin R. Handley to Richard Musser: 10.351 acres, Fort Spring District, Map 6 Parcel 17.  
McGimsey Family Properties LLC to Henry T. Franks Revocable Trust: lot 14 of Copeland Hill Neighborhood, White Sulphur District.

## 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.

### Lewisburg Building Commission

will meet Tuesday, Jan. 20, at 5 p.m. in Paul R. Cooley Council Chambers, 942 Washington Street West. On the agenda:

- Public Works Bids - Garage door opener
- Public Works Bids - Removal of one garage door
- Public Works Bids - Building wall and adding an access door with canopy/awning
- Purchase of Washer Machine
- Communications from members
- Approval of Minutes - Nov. 13, 2025

### Lewisburg City Council

will meet Tuesday, Jan. 20, at 7 p.m. in Paul R. Cooley Council Chambers, 942 Washington Street West. Also available via Teleconference. For information on how to participate on ZOOM contact Lewisburg City Hall at 304-645-2080 by 3 p.m. on the day of the meeting. On the agenda:

- Ordinance
  - Ordinance - 326 Rezoning Wingo-Second reading and public hearing
- Proclamation
  - Volunteer of the Year 2025
  - Martin Luther King, Jr.
  - Shanghai
- Communications from Mayor White
- Communications from City Manager Hill
  - WV PBM Litigation - dismiss claim
  - Salary increase - Aaron Brown Chief Water Plant Operator
  - Labor III Water Distribution
- Communications from City Council Members
- Communications from Chief of Police Teubert
- Communications from Fire Chief Thomas
- Communications from Commissions
  - Planning Commission
- Communications from Council Committees
  - Finance Committee Report
    - Employee Health Insurance Renewal
    - Lafayette Street 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
    - Purchase of Washing Machine
  - Fire Department - Salary increase Wesley Williamson EMT Certification
    - Police Department Officers proposed pay increase
- Public Works Department Report from Director Legg
- Approval of Minutes - regular session Dec. 16, 2025
- Visitors' Reports (3-min. limit per subject not on agenda)

### Greenbrier Co. Planning Commission

will meet Wednesday, Jan. 21, in a special meeting at 6 p.m. at the GREENBRIER VALLEY VISITOR CENTER. On the agenda:

- Approval of Minutes from the meeting held on (date)
- Public Hearing on the proposed repeal and replacement of the County Zoning Ordinance
- Action on recommendation to the Greenbrier County Commission regarding adoption of the proposed Greenbrier County Zoning Ordinance

The study and report on zoning, including the proposed zoning ordinance and official zoning map, are available for review in the County Commission office located in the Courthouse, in local public libraries, and are also available for viewing and download on the county website: [www.greenbriercounty.net](http://www.greenbriercounty.net).

Any member of the public may attend and be heard on the matter at the public hearing on Jan. 21, 2026. Written comments will be considered if they are received prior to January 21, 2026 at:

Greenbrier County Planning Commission  
912 Court Street N, Lewisburg  
West Virginia 24901

### Lewisburg Board of Zoning Appeals

will meet Thursday, Jan. 29 at 5 p.m. in Paul R. Cooley Council Chambers, 942 Washington Street West, for an organizational meeting. On the agenda:

- Approval of September meeting Minutes
- Election of Chair and Vice Chair
- Comments from the Public
- Comments from the Commissioners
- Comments from the Planning and Zoning Officer

The next scheduled meeting of the Lewisburg Board of Appeals will be held Thursday, Feb. 26 at 5 p.m. with a deadline of Thursday, Jan. 15.

McGimsey Family Properties LLC to Henry T. Franks Revocable Trust: lot 14 Copeland Hill, White Sulphur District, Map 27A Parcel 27.

Larry J. Ickes (by executors Donna Legg and Jack Eagle) to Kevin Perrine: 0.54 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 55S Parcel 12.

Dwayne Bowles and Trista Bowles to James F. Wiseman and Eleanor M. Wiseman: lot 12A, Lewisburg District, Map 27 Parcel 23.

Richard Musser to Hartland LLC: 10.351 acres, Fort Spring District, Map 6 Parcel 17.

William Bell to Todd C. Holler and Patricia Holler: lots 22-23 block 15, Meadow Bluff District, Map 5 Parcel 183.

Corwin L. Ballard and Louise J. Ballard to Kevin L. Anderson: 1.339 & 0.655 acres, Lewisburg District, Map 23B Parcel 0029 0000 6002.

Dennis L. Henson and Marlene K. Henson to Madison Eisenhoff, Emily Simms, Parker M. Sisk, and Gwendolyn M. Sisk: 2.54 acres Blue Sulphur District, Map 3 Parcel 0055 0001.

State Auditor Mark Hunt (by appointee) to WVTK LLC: 2.57 acres, Falling Spring District, Map 59 Parcel 0004 0004.

Simon Lollis to Simon Lollis and Jan B. Booth: 4.01 acres, Falling Spring District, Map 35 Parcel 10.1.

C. Thomas Brewer and Gloria B. Turkey to C. Thomas Brewer and Gloria Turley: 4.08 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 55F Parcel 47.

Gloria B. Turley to Western Greenbrier Youth Baseball Inc.: 4.08 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 55F Parcel 47.

It Community LLC to Joshua R. Laprise: lot 31 Ronceverte District, Map 9, Parcel 0576.

James A. Jones to Donald M. Jones: 47.5 acres, Williamsburg District, Map 47 Parcel 74.

James A. Jones to Zoe J. Wease and Axel J. Cales: lot 37 Atkinson Place, White Sulphur District, Map 4 Parcel 125.

JPK Investments LLC to JPK Investments LLC: lots 1-11, 13-14, Lewisburg District, Map 23 Parcel 30.1/3 0.2/30.3/30.4/30.5/30.6/30.7/30.8/30.9/30.10.

Jerry W. Bragg to Todd C. Holler and Patricia Holler: lot 12-15, Rainelle District, Map 1 Parcel 61.

Michael McGahan to Warren White and Morgan A. White: lots 5-6, Lewisburg District, Map 19H Parcel 37.

Larry L. Griffith to Caleb P. W. Griffith and Josie K. Griffith: 61.869 & 5.60 acres, White Sulphur District, Map 28 Parcel 0003 0000 6001.

Dogwood Enterprises LLC to Bryant C. Davidson and Meredith A. Whited: lot 24 block 4, Huddleston Hills Addition, White Sulphur District, Map 8 Parcel 0223 & 0222.

Three Forks Realty LLC to Michael Mihok and Hannah Mihok: 1.29 acres, Falling Spring District, Map 60 Parcel 0016.

John H. Cole Jr. and Meredith G. Cole to John H. Cole III, Leticha C. Brown, and Amanda C. DePriest: 2 parcels, Blue Sulphur District, Map 18 Parcel 19.1/20.

Michael Gabbert and Linda G. Gabbert to Mark J. Vestal and April L. Vestal: lots 9-10, Rupert District, Map 2 Parcel 40/41.

## Avian Influenza

Continued from Page 2

- Disinfect equipment, footwear, and tools after contact with birds.
- Isolate any ill animals and contact a veterinarian immediately.

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

## Mountain Messenger

The Weekend Newspaper for the Greenbrier Valley

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1985

Strengthening Community and Promoting  
Diversity in the Greenbrier Valley

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# Miller secures \$11.8M for West Virginia Water Projects and Law Enforcement

On Thursday, Congresswoman Carol Miller (R-WV) joined her House colleagues in passing a minibus funding package, securing \$11.8 million for projects in West Virginia's First Congressional District. This funding package included the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, and the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

"I am thrilled that yesterday's minibus secured funding for nine of my Community Project Funding requests, bringing meaningful results to West Virginia by investing in public safety, modern infrastructure, and water projects that directly benefit local communities. By pri-

oritizing responsible spending and targeted investments, Congress is ensuring that West Virginia families, businesses, and first responders have the resources they need to thrive now and well into the future," said Congresswoman Carol Miller.

The projects funded in each bill include:

- Energy and Water: \$5,725,000 - City of Lewisburg's Water System Improvements
- Commerce, Justice, and Science: \$340,000 - Fayette County Sheriff's Department Fleet Upgrades
- Interior and Environment: \$750,000 - Webster County Economic Development Authority's Diana-Guardian Water Line Extension Project; \$750,000 - Boone Coun-

ty Public Service District's Water Improvement Project; \$1,000,000 - Buffalo Creek Public Service District's Water Treatment and Plant Upgrade and Expansion Project; \$750,000 - City of Welch's Combined Sewer Overflow Removal Project; \$750,000 - North Beckley Public Service District's Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project; \$750,000 - Region 2 Planning and Development Council's Crum Water Treatment Plant Project; \$1,000,000 - Town of West Hamlin's Water Treatment Plant Upgrades.

Two additional Community Project Funding requests passed in November 2025, securing over \$4 million for West Virginia hospitals.

# Robert C. Byrd Clinic receives NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home Recognition

Robert C. Byrd Clinic (RCBC) is proud to announce that it has once again earned Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Recognition from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), reaffirming the clinic's commitment to delivering high-quality, patient-centered care. This is the ninth year in a row that RCBC has received this honor. PCMH recognition is awarded to healthcare organizations that meet rigorous, nationally recognized standards for care coordination, patient access, quality improvement, and population health management. Achieving this recognition again confirms

that RCBC continues to meet a number of stringent performance and quality requirements designed to improve patient outcomes and experiences.

"This renewed recognition underscores RCBC's role as a trusted healthcare provider and its ongoing efforts to exceed the evolving needs of patients each and every day," said Mary Page Nemcik, executive director of RCBC.

As a recognized Patient-Centered Medical Home, Robert C. Byrd Clinic emphasizes strong provider-patient relationships; team-based, coordinated care; En-

hanced access to services; continuous quality improvement; a whole-person approach to health.

NCQA is a nationally respected, independent non-profit organization dedicated to improving healthcare quality. Its PCMH program is widely regarded as a gold standard for primary care practices across the country. Robert C. Byrd Clinic has long focused on improving access to care and advancing health outcomes in the region.

For more information about Robert C. Byrd Clinic and its services, visit [www.rcbclinic.org](http://www.rcbclinic.org).

## OBITUARIES

### Thomas Augustus "Gus" Patterson



Thomas Augustus "Gus" Patterson, was born Dec. 10, 1995 and tragically left this world to his home beyond the stars on Jan. 11, 2026.

Gus was a charismatic and kind soul. To know him was to love him - his charm was as effortless as it was inescapable. He was a loyal friend, a loving brother, and a dedicated son.

His love of the outdoors led him to a dual-degree in wildlife and fisheries from West Virginia University. He was fun loving and craved the outdoors. He excelled at everything he tried, and found true peace while fishing, snowboarding, golfing, and playing music. His intelligence and curiosity for the world allowed him to recite even the most obscure details of any subject on a whim. His smile was ever present and infected anyone who saw it. He was quick witted, loved a bonfire with friends, and wasn't afraid of adventure. He had a spiritual connection with music - always grabbing a guitar to share his version whenever he could with whomever would listen. He was a powerful soul, a deep thinker, and wiser than his years provided. He put his all into everything he did and loved stronger than anyone. He was a good man and he deserved more than this life offered him.

He left behind so many broken hearts made up of immeasurable friends and a loving family. Those closest to him are anxiously awaiting the chance to see him again including his Dad (Tom), Mom (Karen), Sister (Meggy), brother-in-law (Calin), nephew and niece (Silas and Etta), girlfriend (Luci) and her son and brother respectively,

Kannon and Weston. He also leaves many cousins, aunts and uncles, and a lifetime of friends - none of whom will be the same without him.

He was reunited with those who have gone before - Grandpa Perk and Granny Faye Patterson, Grandma and Grandpa Holliday and his niece, Arlie Owens.

In lieu of flowers, we ask that you pay it forward in his honor. Whether big or small - be selfless like he was and show the world some love. Think of him as you hike or sit on the water. We now celebrate a life of too few years - let his memory be happy and full of love.

Visitation will be from 4 until 7 p.m., Friday evening, Jan. 16, at Wallace & Wallace Chapel, Rainelle followed by a prayer service at 7 p.m. with Pastor Jeremy Nicholas officiating.

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.

### Linda Kay Baldwin



*Remembering a Beloved Wife, Mother, and Grandmother*

Linda Kay Baldwin, 78, of Covington, VA, passed away Jan. 9, 2026 at the Woodlands Health and Rehab; lovingly surrounded by all four of her children. Linda was born on June 17, 1947 in Rupert, WV to the late Warren Neal McClung and Thelma Louise Smailes McClung.

Linda, known affectionately as AmMaw by many, was a warm and friendly face to those who came across her while she worked at Edgemont

cafeteria, Kroger deli, or while making and delivering flower arrangements for Covington Florist. She was also a Sunday school teacher, and enjoyed helping with crafts at vacation Bible school. While involved with multiple churches in the area, she was most recently a member of Mount Carmel Methodist Church.

She had an unmistakable green thumb, keeping her and Owen's porch and driveway covered in vibrant, thriving flower varieties in spring and summer. Skilled at sewing, Linda enjoyed her time with the Lexington Quilt Guild and other quilting circles. She happily made clothes for her children, grandchildren, and any of their Barbies or baby dolls. She made sure that all of her children and grandchildren had handmade quilts from her, and was happy to donate her beautiful quilts to various fundraisers. Always finding joy in helping others, Linda helped with her local Girl Scouts and looked forward each year to Operation Shoebox.

The job(s) she took most seriously, and will forever remain unmatched in, include those of wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. An example of quiet and steady strength, Linda poured unconditional love and unwavering support into each and every one of her family members. She never hesitated to say yes when she was needed. Teaching to bake, proof reading English papers, making flash cards for school, dancing and jigging in the living room to oldies, and making flowers and boutonnières for weddings are just some of the countless ways she made unforgettable memories with her family.

Linda is survived by her husband of 61 years, James Owen Baldwin; children, Tucker Baldwin (Angie), Penny Murphy (John), Katie Graham (Bob), and Ambra Nida (John); brothers, Doug McClung, Tom McClung (Sue), and Jeff McClung; grandchildren, Laura Kay Ringley (David), Anne Marie Cleghon

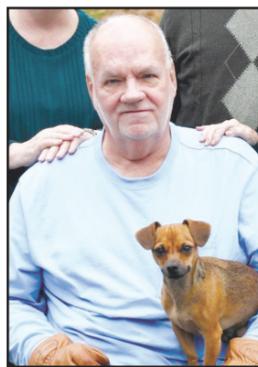
(Todd), James Graham, Morgan Graham, Hannah Schwartz (Austin), Hayden Baldwin, and Asher Nida; great-grandchildren, Raylan Rathbun, Levi Ringley, Blake Cleghon, and Michael Ringley; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Linda is preceded in death by her siblings, Roger McClung, Cathy Morello, Carol McClung; granddaughter Haley Nida, and great-grandson Kolby Rathbun.

Visitation will be Jan. 12, at 12 noon at Morgan Funeral Home Chapel in Lewisburg, WV, followed immediately by funeral services at 1 p.m. Pastor Stephen Baldwin and Pastor Doug Hollenbeck will officiate. Burial will follow the service in Baldwin White Oak Tree Cemetery in Renick, WV.

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

### Nicholas "Nicky" B. O'Brien



Nicholas "Nicky" B. O'Brien, 67, of Ronceverte, our brightest star, went to be with the Lord on Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026 at his home.

Nicky was born Jan. 14, 1958 in White Sulphur Springs to the late James Lewis and Nancy Sparks O'Brien.

Nicky was loved by all who knew him. He had a sense of humor and an optimistic outlook on life that left everyone better for

knowing him. He was active at Sinks Grove Baptist Church and was a Christian who lived his faith in spite of health problems. You never heard him complain and he always kept looking forward to each day. He loved his wife of 47 years with all his heart. He was passionate about all things muscle cars and hotrods. He loved to rebuild and bring old Chevy muscle cars back to life. He and his son Phillip and his best friend Randy Stanley spent many hours in the garage sharing their love of cars. He was adored by all his nieces and nephews whom he doted on every chance he had.

Survivors include his wife Linda; sister, Terri Hylton and husband Mike; brother, Marty O'Brien and wife Sue; step-son, Phillip Boggs and wife Linda; sister-in-law, Carol Perdue; nieces, Emily Taylor, Sherri Workman and Shannon Kirk; nephews, Levi Hylton, Josh Kirk and Nathaniel Workman; great-nieces, Brylee Ann Taylor, Zoe Kirk, Tristan Toler, Lauren Hopkins and Elisabeth Honaker; great-great-nieces, Maeve, Rose and Renley and his fur buddies, Bandit and Little Bit.

Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg with Pastor Vince Deeds and Pastor Roger McDaniel officiating. Burial will follow in Rosewood Cemetery.

Pallbearers are Scott Taylor, Levi Hylton, Randy Stanley, Ricky Kirk, Nathaniel Workman, Joshua Kirk, Ross Honaker and Brylee Ann Taylor.

Visitation will be Saturday, Jan. 17, from 12 noon until time of service at 2 p.m.

Please send online condolences by visiting [www.wallaceandwallacefh.com](http://www.wallaceandwallacefh.com)

### David Kent Loudermilk



David Kent Loudermilk, 68, of Frankford, WV, passed away at his home on Jan. 11, 2026.

He was born on Mar. 24, 1957, in Ronceverte, to Donald Kent Loudermilk and Nancy Ellen Simmons Loudermilk. David worked as a painter and carpenter. He was an avid fan of Dale Earnhardt and the WVU Mountaineers.

David was preceded in death by his parents, stepmother Rebecca Loudermilk, sisters Jennifer Conkey, Theresa Lavalley, Melissa Ann Burns, and brother Donnie Loudermilk.

He is survived by his brother Shawn Loudermilk, uncle Gene Simmons (Linda), special great nephew Noah Neal, several nieces, nephews, and many cousins.

David will be remembered and missed by his family and friends.

A visitation will be held Saturday, Jan. 24, at Morgan Funeral Home from 5 to 7 p.m. The family would like to extend their gratitude to Garland Simmons, Kevin Simmons and Stacy Jordan for their help in his last days so he could remain in his home.

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



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# 2025 Donald Davis Memorial Toy Drive a success

The Donald Davis Memorial Toy Drive proved for the tenth year to be successful in making certain children in the western Greenbrier, eastern Fayette, and parts of Summers and Monroe counties have a toy gift to open on Christmas morning.

The late Mr. Davis worked in the District of Columbia area and each Christmas of his adult working time he returned to his family home with a truck load of toys for children in the area who might not otherwise have a Christmas present. As a memorial to his kindness during his lifetime, relatives and friends of his began the Donald Davis Memorial Toy Drive which is now in its tenth year.

Joining the friends and relatives have been the members of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Rainelle; Smoot Ruritan Club; McElhenny Chapel, Dawson; St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, White Sulphur Springs; St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, Ronceverte; Greenbrier Valley Council 8689 Knights of Columbus as well as 40 plus individuals.

The Greenbrier Valley Knights of Columbus also distributed cases of 12 new coats for children attending to each elementary school in Greenbrier, Monroe, Pocahontas counties and Meadow Bridge and also to the



The Donald Davis Memorial Toy Drive was a huge success this last holiday season.

Family Resource Network for Monroe and Pocahontas counties and Wellspring and the Donald Davis Memorial Toy Drive.

The Knights also provided gently used winter coats, scarves, gloves to the two counties Family Resource Networks.

The Greenbrier Valley Council 8689 Knights of Columbus is composed of active Catholic men in Greenbrier, Pocahontas, Monroe counties and eastern Fayette county and welcomes any Catholic man to join the organization, the largest Catholic men's organization in those counties as well as West Virginia and the nation and the world.

# Bluebell Garden Club holds Christmas Luncheon



The Bluebell Garden Club celebrated another year of hard work and fellowship in December at their annual Christmas Luncheon at The French Goat. Special recognition and appreciation went to Heather Lockard Wheeler, Brenda Spencer, Linda Spencer and Rhonda Harper - thanks to them, the Bluebell Garden Club is the recipient of a \$2,000 National Garden Clubs' Plant

America Grant. Their application was chosen out of 120 submissions and the funds are slated for improvements to the landscaping in the Lewisburg Triangle and the Caldwell and Brant plots in the Old Stone Cemetery. These two community gardens are enjoyed year-round by residents and visitors alike.

## Filing Period

Continued from Page 2

times, the willingness of everyday West Virginians to run for office has kept our democracy strong and resilient. That tradition continues today.

If you have ever thought about running for office, now is the time to seriously consider your candidacy. From Jan. 12 to Jan. 31, the window is open. Learn about those currently serving. Do they represent your values and that of your family? If not, consider tossing your hat in the ring for an opportunity to bring your ideas, your energy, and your commitment to service.

This is also a good time to renew your commitment to those who may be running for re-election. Reach out to those elected officials that share your beliefs and who are working for you, your family, your business, and your community. Let them know that you support them.

West Virginia's future depends on people who have the time and patience to lead. Candidates are not just names on a ballot. They are the heartbeat of our government. Without them, our constitutional republic cannot survive.

So, as we approach this filing period, I encourage every eligible citizen to consider the call to serve. Our state needs your voice. Our communities need your leadership.

And finally, a note of practical importance. The USPS has announced that postmark dates are not guaranteed on the same day that mail is placed into circulation. For candidates who are mailing their certificates of announcement, especially on the last day of filing, be certain to walk into the post office and request a postmark for that day. By law, certificates that are not postmarked by Jan. 31, 2026, must be rejected as untimely.

For more information on how to file, visit GoVoteWV.com or contact the Secretary of State's Office at 304-558-6000.

## Church Bulletin

### First Baptist Church of Rainelle Food Pantry. 2026 Saturday

#### distribution schedule

Jan. 24, Feb. 28, Mar. 28, Apr. 25, May 23, June 27, July 25, Aug. 22, Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 21, & Dec. 19.

Food distribution is the fourth Saturday of each month, with the exception of the holiday in November and December, which will be the third Saturday. First Baptist Church of Rainelle is located at 345 Seventh Street, Rainelle, WV. For more information call 304-438-6311 or email FoodPantry-FBCR@outlook.com

### 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, 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

## Canterbury and Deeds Continued from Page 2

"That's a big economic gain," Deeds said. "That's a good bill. Now it's not immediate. [...] Especially when you're dealing with these Fortune 100 companies that develop these data centers. There's been a long negotiation."

Opponents of HB 2014 have raised concerns over possible environmental damage, and expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of local control. Under the provisions included within the bill, a large percentage of property taxes generated by data centers would be collected by the state, and municipalities would be limited in their ability to enforce local codes and ordinances. Conversely, the bill's supporters cite the potential for a significant financial boost to local economies, and to the state as a whole.

While Deeds said he was prevented from sharing specifics due to the existence of non-disclosure agreements, he did note that, "You will see some substantial growth in the Greenbrier Valley, as far as economic growth."

"We'll have some announcements about that probably during the session," Deeds said. "We're finalizing that now."

The 2026 Legislative Session begins Wednesday, with the governor's State of the State Address scheduled for 7pm Wednesday evening. RealWV will provide updates throughout the duration of the legislative session, as information is made available.



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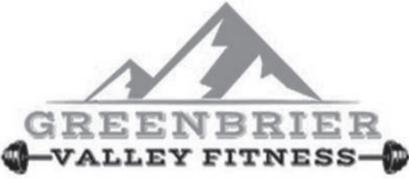
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# Dear Recycle Lady



**Dear Recycle Lady,**

The Christmas wreaths that I used this year were made of pine on a heavy wire frame. They were beautiful, but what do I do with them now? Are the wire frames recyclable?

*Time to Take Them Down*

**Dear Time to Take Them Down,**

Yes, the wire frames are recyclable. Just remove the pine and take the wire to the Recycling Center. Be sure to use sharp wire cutters and wear garden gloves when removing the pine from the wire form as pine needles are very sharp. Better yet, use the intact wreaths as an insulating mulch in your garden. Not only will this add winter protection for your outdoor plants, but by spring the pine will decompose and be much easier to remove. Plus, the decomposed pine needles will add nutrients to your garden. The wire may be rusty, but it still recycles. If you had a commercially made wreath with decorations on it, those decorations should be removed and can be used next year to make your own wreath or to embellish a purchased wreath. Have you ever made a wreath from the branches trimmed from your live Christmas tree before you put it up? Next year use the greenery from the tree to cover the wire frames, add the decorations and bows you saved this year, and you have a new wreath. That's a savings for you and a good deal for the environment!

**Dear Recycle Lady,**

The week or so before Christmas, newspapers were filled with colorful advertisements. Some of the ads were definitely printed on newsprint, but many of them appeared to be slicks. Do these ads need to be separated before recycling?

*Recycler*

**Dear Recycler,**

The ads that are obviously printed on newspaper are recycled with newspapers. The ads that are obviously slicks are recycled with magazines. The big question, however, is which of the colored ads are slicks and which of the colored ads are really high-quality ink on newsprint. The colored print ads on heavy paper are usually slicks. One way to determine if an ad is a slick is to wet one corner of the questionable ad. The newsprint ad will then tear easily, but the slick will not. Try a magazine corner as an example. I discovered this one morning when my Sunday newspaper was heavily

soaked and the ads were all wet! However, if in doubt, put the ads in with Magazines.

**Dear Recycle Lady,**

I see a lot of aluminum cans thrown in the trash. What is the benefit of recycling these cans?

*Reader*

**Dear Reader,**

According to livetoplant.com, recycling aluminum cans saves nearly 95% of the energy needed to create one new can from virgin aluminum. That means you can make 20 cans out of recycled material with the same amount of energy it takes to make one can out of new material. In one year alone, energy savings using recycled cans are enough to light a city the size of Pittsburgh for six years, according to current research.

Recycling aluminum cans also reduces greenhouse gas emissions, saves landfill space, and lowers water pollution.

**Interesting Info:** Loggerhead turtles migrate by sensing the Earth's magnetic fields. Researchers exposed young Loggerhead turtles to two specific magnetic fields, one of which held food. Later, when they were exposed to the magnetic field with food, they got really excited and began to dance for joy! According to Researcher Kayla Goforth, "they stick their heads out, flap their flippers wildly, and spin in place."

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



**By William "Skip" Deegans**

The Putnam County Pickers (aka Pickers), arguably one of West Virginia's most popular and beloved bands of the 1970-1980s, performed at Lewisburg's Carnegie Hall 50 years ago this month. The band started in 1974 at a loosely defined commune near Culloden in a rural part of Putnam County. While the name suggests they were a blue grass band, they were far from it. "Eclectic" be the best description of their music. The original band consisted of Ron and Sandy Sowell, Greg Harmon, and Rusty Wells. Only Harmon was a native West Virginian. The others were part of the back to the land movement in the 1970s.

The band evolved, and the members who played at Carnegie Hall were Ron Sowell, originally from New Mexico, Yale-educated John Kessler from Chicago, Steve Hill, an Auburn chemical engineering graduate, and Ammed Solomon from Cincinnati. The band played throughout the world and produced two albums: It's About Time and Let The Cat Out. At the request of Governor John D. Rockefeller IV, the Pickers performed at the unveiling of the West Virginia Culture Center. Norman Fagan, Commissioner of the West Virginia Department of Culture and History, described the Pickers as, "They create music that is distinctive and

has a point of view, born from experimentation and a finding of self and soul. The quality of their music is an integral part of their development. They are unique in that they relate perfectly to a rural third grader or season subscriber to a symphony orchestra." The band played their last concert at the end of 1981.

Afterwards, three of the former members of the Pickers, Steve Hill (lead and rhythm guitar), John Kessler (bass) and Ammed Solomon (drums and percussion) formed the band Rhino Moon that was brought to Greenbrier County in 1982 by the Greenbrier Valley Arts and Humanities Council. On a Friday afternoon the band did a concert for the children at the East Rainelle Elementary School, and in the evening they performed to a full house at the Greenbrier Center. The concert was free for children who gave the band a standing ovation and begged for more.

While Rhino Moon dissolved, three of the Pickers, Ron Sowell, Ammed Solomon and Steve Hill, have had a long association with the house band on West Virginia PBS's Mountain Stage.

*Sources: Charleston Gazette-Mail, The Parkersburg Sentinel, West Virginia Daily News, The Pickers and Rhino Moon publicity documents.*

### SCRAMBLERS

*solution*

1. Confer; 2. Innate;
3. Vintage; 4. Scheme

**Today's Word  
VOTERS**

### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

### Super Crossword

Answers

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

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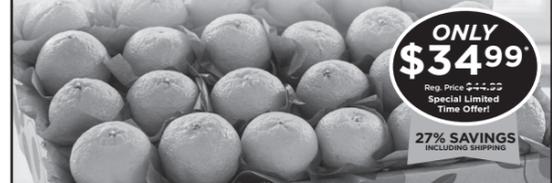
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\*Terms and Conditions apply.

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# SPORTS



**Sonny Herbert** (Photo by Beth Herbert)

**CON'T FROM PAGE 8**

and experience showed on the mat. Sativa finished just out of the medal rounds and will win many tournaments before her high school career is over. Izzy Blankenship and Ava Taylor wrestled hard but did not place. Makaylee Bennett finished second place in the tournament, with her only loss coming in the championship match. Her final match was a back and forth battle with a 2025 state place winner that could have gone either way. In the first two tournaments of the year, Makaylee has a first and second place finish.

**Men's Division:** In a dual team format, holes in a roster can make the difference between winning and losing any specific dual. Due largely to illness and having a young team, GEHS had multiple weight classes in which wrestlers were unable to compete. This negatively impacted GEHS's ability to win on the first day of the two day tournament. However, despite illness and holes in its roster, GEHS went undefeated on the second day of the tournament. Each of the GEHS wrestlers individually finished with a winning record in the tournament. The young GEHS roster continues to grow and to accumulate the experience necessary for future success.

Past Wrestlers of the Week, Kaden Stone (Week 1); Mason Miller (Week 2); and Harrison Smith (Week 3), finished the tournament with eight wins, and one loss (8 - 1). This week's Men's Division Wrestler of the Week Sonny Herbert finished with an undefeated nine wins and zero losses (9 - 0). Head Coach Davis Solak commented, "Our wrestlers performed very well individually. When we get our full roster healthy and able to wrestle, we will be competitive in every dual that we enter."

#### Sponsor Spotlight:

We thank our week 5 tournament sponsors: Parkersburg Women's Winter Classic sponsored by Appalachian Bowes and WV Army National Guard Duals Wrestling Tournament, In Memory of Lee Parlier sponsored by Chris and Rachel Vass, Vass Engineering and Mineral Appraisals. Without the support or our sponsors our participation in tournaments would be significantly diminished. If you wish to sponsor a tournament, please call Rob Frank, 719-322-2985, or email to rob@rjflaw.com.

#### Wrestler of the Week (Woman's Division) - Makaylee Bennett

Greenbrier East High School's Week 5 Wrestler of the Week (Women's

Division) is Makaylee Bennett.

Makaylee Bennett is coming off of her second top-2 finish of the year. Makaylee has a high school record of 29 - 12 with 27 Pins. So far this season, she is 7 - 1.

In her own words:

We sat down with Makaylee to ask her some brief questions. Here are her responses:

1) *Why wrestle?* Wrestling is incredibly difficult. When you first start, it would be easy to quit. But when you begin showing up every day to practice and tournaments it builds a dedication within you that makes you want to work harder and harder, to get better and to compete. This dedication spills over into other parts of your life and you find yourself no longer willing to quit at anything.

2) *What are your primary goals as a person, a student, and an athlete?* As a person, my primary goal is to be successful in life and make the people around me feel loved. As a student it is my goal to make the best grades I can and make my mom happy and feel proud of me. As a wrestler, my goal is to continue to learn from my mistakes and losses and work toward becoming a West Virginia State Champion.

3) *What contributes the most to your ability to achieve these goals?* My greatest support in my life is my mom. She is always there for me and continually helps me overcome adversity in my life. With her in my corner I feel like I can accomplish anything. She puts up with early mornings, late nights, and long drives so that I can wrestle. I don't think I can say enough how important she is to me.

4) *What advice do you have for fellow students and athletes as they pursue their goals?* Always stay with it. Even when you want to quit, keep with it. Do not give in. Even when you don't have love for it, keep with it. You may have one bad tournament or even a bad year, but if you just stick with it, it will work out.

5) *What are your plans after high school?* Eventually, I would like to have a position in law enforcement. I am considering pursuing opportunities in the military that will give me training in law enforcement and help to pay for college.

#### Wrestler of the Week (Men's Division) - Sonny Herbert

Greenbrier East High School's Week 5 Wrestler of the Week (Men's Division) is Sonny Herbert.

Sonny is a two-sport athlete excelling in wrestling, and in baseball. Both sports require an ability to instantly evaluate a circumstance, determine a response,

and execute the response in real time. Whether it is defending a takedown or hitting a fastball, the ability to perceive and react is essential.

In his own words:

We sat down with Sonny to ask him some brief questions. Here are his responses:

1) *Why wrestle?* I wrestle because it's hard. It challenges me both mentally and physically. It teaches me many good character traits I will carry through life and makes me a better overall athlete and person.

2) *What are your primary goals as a person, a student, and an athlete?* As a person my goals are to keep a good head on my shoulders and work towards a career that will let me stay around athletics and athletes when I am an adult. As a student my goals are to develop as a student and keep my grades up so that I can attend college. My goals as an athlete are to continue getting stronger. I would ultimately like to play baseball and/or wrestle at the college level. As a wrestler I would like to reach 150 career wins in high school and place in the West Virginia State Wrestling Tournament. As a baseball player I would like to continue developing as a player and a pitcher. My goal is to consistently pitch in the 90 mile per hour range in the next year and keep developing my command of my pitches. I would like to help lead Greenbrier East High School on a deep playoff run.

3) *What contributes the most to your ability to achieve these goals?* I would say my mental approach to life helps me the most to reach my goals. There is strength in serenity. I'm focusing on keeping a cool head and not letting things bother me both on and off the mat. I'm learning to block negative thoughts out and focus on the positive.

4) *What advice do you have for fellow students and athletes as they pursue their goals?* My advice is to have a positive attitude and visualize success. Never doubt yourself and have faith in yourself and the work you have put in.

5) *What are your plans after high school?* After high school, I would like to play college baseball and study kinesiology.

#### Upcoming Events:

On Jan. 7, Nicholas County High School came to Greenbrier East for a dual meet in the main gym. The home dual is sponsored by Patriot Painting. Patriot assisted in our offseason refurbishment of the wrestling facility and continues to support our team.

On Jan. 9, the women made the long trip to St. Mary's, West Virginia for the Inaugural Par Mar Stores Lady Blue Devil

Invitational at St. Mary's High School. For this tournament, the 185 pound weight class is sponsored by the Fisher Family. The Fishers are long time pillars of Greenbrier East wrestling, with Dr. Rodney Fisher and Laurie Fisher coaching at the youth, middle school and high school level. Levi Fisher and Micah Fisher both wrestled for East, with Micah winning multiple women's state championships.

On Jan. 10, the men traveled to Covington, Virginia for the Alleghany Duals Tournament at Alleghany High School, 210 Mountaineer Dr, Covington, VA 24426. This tournament is sponsored by DAI Developers.

If you wish to sponsor any tournaments, please call Rob Frank, 719-322-2985 or email me at rob@rjflaw.com.

#### Next Week:

Next week's article will give results of the Nicholas County Dual, the Lady Blue Devil Invitational, and the Allegheny Duals Tournament, will give updates on upcoming events, and provide wrestler and donor highlights.

GEHS wrestling matches are now livestreamed and posted on the Greenbrier East Spartan Wrestling Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/groups/1400059887620954](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1400059887620954). If you can't join us live, please join us online.

## LEGAL

**PUBLIC ONLINE AUCTION**  
Fulton BSH LBWV, LLC/Secure Store - 135 Maple Carriage Drive, Lewisburg, WV 24901, has a possessory lien on all of the goods stored in unit(s) 328, 434, 362, 436, 262. The auction will end on January 22, 2026 at 12 noon. All these items of personal property are being auctioned online through [lockerfox.com](http://lockerfox.com). These auctions will run until January 22, 2026. Pictures of the units can be inspected online. Credit Card payments only. For more details visit [www.lockerfox.com/storage-auctions/us/](http://www.lockerfox.com/storage-auctions/us/)

## LEGAL

**PUBLIC ONLINE AUCTION**  
Secure Store - 1367 Maplewood Avenue, Ronceverte, WV 24970, has a possessory lien on all of the goods stored in unit(s) 370, 389. The auction will end on January 22, 2026 at 12 noon. All these items of personal property are being auctioned online through [lockerfox.com](http://lockerfox.com). These auctions will run until January 22, 2026. Pictures of the unit can be inspected online. Credit Card payments only. For more details visit [www.lockerfox.com/storage-auctions/us/](http://www.lockerfox.com/storage-auctions/us/)

## LEGAL

**PUBLIC ONLINE AUCTION**  
Fulton BSH WSSWV, LLC/Secure Store - 38515 Midland Trail E, White Sulphur Springs, WV 2492, has a possessory lien on all of the goods stored in unit(s) 79. The auction will end on January 22, 2026 at 12 noon. All these items of personal property are being auctioned online through [lockerfox.com](http://lockerfox.com). These auctions will run until January 22, 2026. Pictures of the unit can be inspected online. Credit Card payments only. For more details visit [www.lockerfox.com/storage-auctions/us/](http://www.lockerfox.com/storage-auctions/us/)

## LEGAL

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
DIVISION OF MINING AND RECLAMATION  
**PUBLIC NOTICE OF BLASTING OPERATIONS**

Notice is hereby given that: R B S Inc., Greystone Quarry  
2790 Unus Rd.  
Lewisburg, WV 24901

situated in LEWISBRG District of GREENBRIER County, approximately 2 miles NW of MAXWELTON 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 JAN 2026 and continue through 31 DEC 2031.

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, siren, or other device audible to at least on half mile from the blast (list specific type of device). 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, siren, or other approved devices of twenty (20) seconds duration (list specific type of device).

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 where rain, lightning, or other atmospheric conditions, or operator or public safety requires unscheduled detonations.

## LEGAL

#### Notice to Tax Payers

West Virginia, Greenbrier County Commission  
Regular January 13, 2026 Term

Take notice that the Board of Equalization and Review of Greenbrier County, composed of the County Commissioners of Greenbrier County, will convene at the Courthouse at 10 a.m. on the 29th day of January 2026, for the purpose of hearing complaints any tax payer may have as to the assessment placed upon his/her property by the Assessor of this County.

It is the duty of the Board to reduce the value of property if it is too high and to increase it if it is too low. This may be done upon motion of any tax payer interested or upon the Board's judgment. This Board will meet the tax payers from the several districts and corporations at the Courthouse in the County Commission room of said County, on the following dates: January 29, February 2, February 5, February 10, February 13, and February 19 and ending no later than the 28th day of February 2026. **Instructed by WV State Code 11-3-24: the County Commission may adjourn sine die anytime after February 15th and will do so if no hearings are scheduled.** Anyone desiring to appear before this Board is requested to make an appointment with the Assistant to the County Commission, Kelly Banton, at 304-647-6689 ext. 689, Monday through Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. If the Board finds it proper to do so, it may adjourn from day to day no later than the 28th of February, 2026. Anyone desiring to review their assessment may do so online at [www.greenbriercounty.net](http://www.greenbriercounty.net) or by contacting the Assessor's office at 304647-6615.

Lowell Rose,  
Greenbrier County Commission President

## LEGAL

#### Advertisement for Bids Greenbrier Public Service District #1 Winter Timber Cutting Project For Meadowbrook Estates Subdivision Sewer Replacement

Sealed proposals for furnishing labor, equipment, materials, and performing all work for the above project and other miscellaneous items, as set forth in the Contract Documents will be received by Greenbrier PSD #1 for the **Winter Timber Cutting Project** at the Public Service District offices located at 9035 Seneca Trail South Ronceverte, WV, until **9:00 AM on January 30, 2026** at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained from Greenbrier PSD #1 at 304-645-6632 or by contacting the office of Criss Haynes, Civil Engineer, at 304-667-9507. Payment of a non-refundable fee of \$50.00 is required for each set.

Bids shall be submitted in accordance with the requirements of the Instructions to Bidders.

Prospective bidders will be required to file a Bidder's Information Form with their bid to Greenbrier PSD #1. A copy of the form is included with the contract documents. Bids will be accepted only from bidders who have submitted a Bidder's Information Form.

All prospective bidders to be registered with the West Virginia Contractor's Licensing Board at the time of bid opening. Work on the project to be performed in accordance with the West Virginia Division of Forestry Timber Harvesting Exemption provisions.

This project requires the payment of Davis-Bacon wage rates for all workers. Copies of the wage rate determination for January 2026 are included in the proposal.

The contract will be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, but Greenbrier PSD #1 reserves the right to waive any informalities or minor defect and to accept or reject any and all bids. Experience and qualifications of each bidder to perform the work within the time stated will be given substantial consideration.

## LEGAL

#### PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA CHARLESTON

CASE NO. 25-0859-E-IRP  
APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY  
Integrated Resource Plan filed pursuant to the May 23, 2025  
Commission Order in GO 183.15.

and  
CASE NO. 25-0860-E-IRP  
WHEELING POWER COMPANY  
Integrated Resource Plan filed pursuant to the May 23, 2025  
Commission Order in GO 183.15.

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT AND EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS

Appalachian Power Company and Wheeling Power Company (the Companies), public utilities, each filed with the Public Service Commission of West Virginia an Integrated Resource Plan on October 1, 2025, pursuant to W.Va. Code § 24-2-19(e). The Companies furnish electric service to approximately 460,921 customers in their service territories in the counties of Boone, Brooke, Cabell, Clay, Fayette, Greenbrier, Jackson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monroe, Nicholas, Ohio, Putnam, Raleigh, Roane, Summers, Wayne, Wetzel, and Wyoming.

The Commission will conduct an evidentiary hearing beginning at 9:30 a.m. on May 13, 2026, and continuing through May 14, 2026, if necessary, in the Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia. Interested persons should monitor the Commission's web docket and website because the evidentiary hearing may be cancelled or changed for good cause.

Anyone desiring to intervene and act as a party in either of these cases should file a Petition to Intervene on or before January 15, 2026, complying with the rules on intervention set forth in the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

Written comments regarding the IRPs may be submitted by mail or hand delivery to Executive Secretary, P. O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323 or online at <http://www.psc.state.wv.us> by clicking on "Submit A Comment" in the left column and following the directions provided. All written comments should be marked as pertaining to Case No. 25-0859-E-IRP (Appalachian Power) and/or Case No. 25-0860-E-IRP (Wheeling Power). All written comments should be filed on or before April 22, 2026.

**APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY & WHEELING POWER COMPANY**

# SCHOOL

## Greenbrier County Physicians honored with preceptor awards

Two area physicians received recognition for their work with West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM) students.

Christopher Wood, D.O., received the 2025 Outstanding Primary Care Preceptor Award for the Southeast Region of WVSOM's Statewide Campus. Wood is an internal medicine and geriatric medicine physician at the Robert C. Byrd Clinic in Lewisburg.

Brant Hinchman, D.O., received the 2025 Outstanding Specialty Preceptor Award for the South East Region of WVSOM's Statewide Campus. Hinchman is an emergency medicine physician at CAMC Greenbrier Valley Medical Center in Ronceverte.

Preceptors assist and provide guidance to WVSOM medical students in their third- and fourth-year clinical rotations. Each year, Outstanding Primary Care and Specialty Preceptor Awards are given to physicians from each of WVSOM's seven Statewide Campus regions who have demonstrated excellence in teaching and mentoring.

These health professionals have also demonstrated a commitment to community wellness and service.

There are 88 hospitals, clinics and medical centers across West Virginia and surrounding states that participate in WVSOM's Statewide Campus system.



**Christopher Wood, D.O., received the 2025 Outstanding Primary Care Preceptor Award for the South East Region of WVSOM's Statewide Campus. He is an internal medicine and geriatric medicine physician at the Robert C. Byrd Clinic in Lewisburg, W.Va. Pictured with Wood is Hilary Hamric, D.O., WVSOM's associate dean of clinical education.**



**Brant Hinchman, D.O., received the 2025 Outstanding Specialty Preceptor Award for the South East Region of WVSOM's Statewide Campus. He is an emergency medicine physician at CAMC Greenbrier Valley Medical Center (GVMC) in Ronceverte. Pictured with Hinchman are, from left, Megan Meador, director of the South East Region of WVSOM's Statewide Campus, Hilary Hamric, D.O., WVSOM's associate dean of clinical education, and Lavon Brown, emergency department director at GVMC.**

## WVSOM appoints interim dean

The West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM) has appointed Gail Swarm, D.O., its interim vice president of academic affairs and dean starting Jan. 7.

Swarm, a longtime medical educator, joined WVSOM in 2003. She served as an assistant professor, associate professor and professor of family medicine at the school, and chaired the Department of Clinical Sciences from 2013 to 2016 before becoming the department's assistant dean in 2020.

Swarm also has been the director of WVSOM's Clinical Evaluation Center since 2016, and last year was named the school's interim senior associate dean of academic affairs. She said she looks forward to helping the school achieve long-term success.

"I am excited and honored to serve as interim dean," Swarm said. "My immediate goal is to ensure support across academic units while supporting our faculty, staff and students in their daily work. I hope to advance initiatives already underway - particularly those aligned with accreditation readiness, curriculum quality, and faculty and student wellness. I also aim to strengthen collaboration across divisions so that decisions remain mission-driven and student-centered."

A board-certified family physician and fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians, Swarm received a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from West Virginia Wesleyan College and an osteopathic medical degree from Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine. She completed a family medicine residency and a rotating American Osteopathic Association (AOA) internship, both in the Cleveland, Ohio, metropolitan area.

As a physician, she practiced family medicine in North Royalton, Akron and Cleveland, Ohio, before relocating to Lewisburg and joining WVSOM's faculty.

Swarm has been recognized with multiple institutional awards. She received the Outstanding Family Physician Award at Ohio University and the AOA's Mentor Hall of Fame Award, and has twice received the President's Award for Excellence for Faculty Achievement at WVSOM.

While at WVSOM, Swarm has led projects in virtual reality and artificial intelligence. She worked with a third-year medical student to obtain grant funding to develop an app to allow medical students to access video of special physical diagnosis tests using wearable glass. A second app was later launched to provide access



**Gail Swarm, D.O., its interim vice president of academic affairs and dean of the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine.**

to the physical exam videos on YouTube.

In addition to her work at WVSOM, she is an associate editor for the West Virginia Medical Journal and serves as an accreditation reviewer for the Society for Simulation in Healthcare. She is currently participating in the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine's Senior Leadership Development Program.

James W. Nemitz, Ph.D., WVSOM's president, said Swarm brings a wealth of experience and dedication to her new role.

"Dr. Swarm has served WVSOM for more than two decades in leadership positions that have advanced curriculum integration, faculty development and simulation-based education. I am delighted that she has accepted this interim appointment, and I am committed to her success," Nemitz said.

Swarm's appointment follows the retirement of Linda Boyd, D.O., who had served as WVSOM's vice president of academic affairs and dean and chief academic officer since 2021.

## Cedric Alder recognized by Shenandoah University

Cedric Alder of Caldwell is one of 525 students who earned a spot on Shenandoah University's President's List for the Fall 2025 semester, and is one of 1,195 students who earned a spot on the Dean's List.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must be enrolled full-time in baccalaureate degree programs and earn a semester GPA of 3.50 or higher. Dean's List students who achieve a semester GPA of 3.90 or higher also qualify for the university's President's List.

To qualify for this prestigious academic recognition, students must be enrolled full-time in baccalaureate degree programs and attain a semester GPA of 3.90 or higher. All President's List honorees are also recognized on the university's Dean's List, which includes students who earn a semester GPA of 3.50 or higher.

About Shenandoah University

Shenandoah University was established in 1875, and is headquartered at the top of Virginia, in Winchester, Virginia, with additional educational sites in Clarke and Loudoun counties, and online offerings. Shenandoah is a private, nationally recognized university that blends professional career experiences with wide-ranging education. With over 4,400 students in more than 200 areas of study in six different schools, Shenandoah promotes a close-knit community rich in creative energy and intellectual challenge. Shenandoah students collaborate with accomplished professors who provide focused, individual attention, all the while leading several programs to be highly nationally ranked. Through innovative partnerships and programs at both the local and global level, there are exceptional opportunities for students to learn in and out of the classroom. Shenandoah empowers its students to improve the human condition and to be principled professionals and leaders wherever they go. For more information, visit [su.edu](http://su.edu).

## New River CTC offering new creative writing workshop with author Belinda Anderson

"Keys to Creative Writing," a foundational class in creative writing, is a new offering from New River Community and Technical College, taught by author Belinda Anderson and beginning Thursday, Jan. 29.

There's no need to worry about winter weather, as the college is providing the three-week workshop via audio conference call. This is the first of three classes in a winter/spring series conducted by Anderson for the college.

This class will cover fundamental elements that are key to various genres of creative writing, building to additional techniques that can transform basic skills into enriched writing that fully captures and engages readers.

Anderson has worked both as a teacher and as a manuscript consultant for writers with a wide range of experience. "I still remember my own journey as a beginning writer and find it gratifying and inspirational to help other writers grow their writing talent," she said.

The class will be conducted through one-hour conference calls that include lecture, with time for questions and participant sharing, and group e-mail follow-up as needed. Students can attend the class with an internet conference call connection or by phone, including landlines. No high-speed internet is required.

The workshop will provide opportunities for writing. It is designed both for beginning writers and those who would like a refresher in the fundamentals.

Anderson is listed on two literary maps and is the author of three collections of short stories and a children's novel, published by Mountain State Press. Her fiction also is included in several anthologies and she has extensive nonfiction credits, including a 12-volume commissioned history series.

"The characters jump off the page and talk to you in their own voices and let you peek into their inner thoughts," author Donna S. Meredith wrote in a review of Anderson's fiction. "Beautifully crafted stories with strong voices and a strong sense of place."

The cost for the class is \$95. The registration deadline is Jan. 16. Participants will be emailed the conference call number and access codes after registering for the class.

Visit [newriver.edu/community](http://newriver.edu/community) for information on upcoming classes or register for the course or contact Gloria Kincaid (304-793-6101, [gkincaid@newriver.edu](mailto:gkincaid@newriver.edu)).

Learn more about Anderson and her work online at [BelindaAnderson.com](http://BelindaAnderson.com).

New River CTC's Workforce Education Division provides community education classes and employable educational opportunities including noncredit courses, workforce development programs and customized training.

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Carnegie Hall presents a special performance of Danny Paisley & The Southern Grass

Carnegie Hall proudly welcomes Danny Paisley & The Southern Grass for an unforgettable evening of powerhouse traditional bluegrass on Saturday, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m.

Widely celebrated for their unadorned, emotionally charged sound, Danny Paisley and his band continue to honor the roots of bluegrass while carrying its legacy forward with fresh energy and award winning artistry. Their most recent album, Bluegrass Troubadour, earned IBMA nominations for Album of the Year and Song of the Year (“Blink of an Eye”), and the group now looks ahead to their highly anticipated 2025 release, featuring the No. 1 single “Till Lonesome Comes Around.”

Known for delivering some of the most powerful vocals in bluegrass today, Danny Paisley has earned widespread admiration from peers and fans alike - including praise from Alison Krauss - and in 2024 joined an elite group of artists by winning the IBMA Male Vocalist of the Year award for the fourth time, a distinction shared by only three others in the history of the genre. Since the passing of his father, Bob Paisley, founder of Southern Grass, Danny has carried the torch with remarkable success, leading the band to multiple chart topping albums and more than 20 Bluegrass Music Award nominations, including the 2009 IBMA Song of



Danny Paisley & The Southern Grass

the Year for “Don’t Throw Mama’s Flowers Away.”

Southern Grass continues its rich family tradition with Danny’s son Ryan Paisley on mandolin, representing the next generation of standout pickers. The group also features the exceptional talents of T.J. Lundy on fiddle and Bobby Lundy on bass and vocals - sons of the legendary Ted Lundy - along with acclaimed banjoist Mark Delaney, who recently rejoined the ensemble. Together, they create a sound that bridges old time mountain music, classic bluegrass, and the soulful country influences that shaped Danny’s upbringing in Landenberg, PA.

Tickets are \$25/adults and \$20/students, with discounts offered for members, seniors, military, and students.

Thanks to the Carnegie Cardinal Fund, Greenbrier County students (K–12) receive free admission while funds last. To secure tickets or redeem discounts, contact Carnegie Hall Box Office at 304-645-7917.

Carnegie Hall invites audiences to experience one of bluegrass’s most authentic and electrifying ensembles as Danny Paisley & The Southern Grass bring six decades of tradition, heart, and musical excellence to the stage.

Carnegie Hall WV is a nonprofit organization supported by individual contributions, grants, and fundraising efforts such as TOOT and The Carnegie Hall Gala. The Hall is located at 611 Church Street, Lewisburg. For more information, please call 304-645-7917 or visit [www.carnegiehallwv.org](http://www.carnegiehallwv.org).

## The Met: Live in HD continues at GVT

*Greenbrier Valley Theatre*  
airs first production of 2026

Greenbrier Valley Theatre (GVT) will present the first performance transmission of The Met: Live in HD of 2026 on Jan. 17 at 1:30 p.m.

For gorgeous melody, spellbinding coloratura, and virtuoso vocal fireworks, I Puritani has few equals. Experience the first new Met production of Bellini’s final masterpiece in nearly 50 years - a striking staging by Charles Edwards, who makes his company directorial debut after many successes as a set designer.

The Met has assembled a world-beating quartet of stars, conducted by Marco Armiliato, for the demanding principal roles. Soprano Lisette Oropesa and tenor Lawrence Brownlee are Elvira and Arturo, brought together by love and torn apart by the political rifts of the English Civil War, with baritone Artur Ruciski as Riccardo, betrothed to Elvira against her will, and bass-baritone Christian Van Horn as Elvira’s sympathetic uncle, Giorgio.

The new production marks Charles Edwards’s Met directorial debut. Known internationally for his imaginative stage and set designs, Edwards has previously created scenery for four Met productions by David McVicar, beginning with Verdi’s Il Trovatore in 2009. Edward’s staging of I Puritani remains rooted in the opera’s 17th-century English Civil War setting and reveals the psychological intensity at the heart of Bellini’s final work.

Join us for a pre-show presentation beginning at 12:30 p.m. Food and beverages will be made available.

Tickets are available at <https://gvtheatre.org/opera/>.

## Carnegie Hall presents January Jazz featuring special guest vocalist Lena Seikaly this Friday

Carnegie Hall in Lewisburg will present its annual January Jazz concert on Friday, Jan. 16 at 7 p.m., featuring the Bob Thompson Unit with special guest vocalist Lena Seikaly.

Widely recognized as one of the leading jazz voices in the Mid Atlantic region, Seikaly has earned national attention for her rich tone, expressive phrasing, and deep connection to the Great American Songbook. A Washington, DC native, she has performed at major festivals and venues across the United States and abroad, sharing the stage with celebrated jazz artists and earning praise for her ability to blend

classic jazz traditions with a modern, soulful style. Her recordings have been featured on radio stations nationwide, showcasing a voice that brings both technical mastery and emotional warmth to every performance.

January Jazz pairs Seikaly with West Virginia pianist and composer Bob Thompson, whose lyrical, soulful playing has made him a longtime favorite of Carnegie Hall audiences. Together, they promise an evening of vibrant, heartfelt music.

Tickets are \$30/adults and \$20/students, with discounts offered for members, seniors, military, and students. Thanks to the Carnegie Cardinal Fund, Greenbrier County students (K–12) receive free admission while funds last. To secure tickets or redeem discounts, contact the Carnegie Hall Box Office at 304-645 7917.

Carnegie Hall invites audiences to experience one of bluegrass’s most authentic and electrifying ensembles as Danny Paisley & The Southern



Lena Seikaly

Grass bring six decades musical excellence to the of tradition, heart, and stage.

## Events at Alderson Artisans Gallery upcoming

The Alderson Artisans Gallery is pleased to announce the 2026 Members Show: Dreaming of Spring by our Appalachian artists and craftspeople. The Alderson Artisans Gallery has been an active nonprofit since 2015. Members will be showcasing their visions and hopes for spring.

Please join us at the opening on Saturday, Jan. 31 from 2 to 4 p.m. Light

refreshments will be served. The show will run from Jan. 31 to Mar. 27.

Gallery hours are posted on our website at [www.aldersongallery.com](http://www.aldersongallery.com). Winter hours are Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Gallery is located at 100 Railroad Avenue in Alderson. The Alderson Artisans Gallery is a cooperative nonprofit organization that supports local artists.

**Dutch Haus Restaurant**  
Lewisburg Elks Country Club at 368 Brush Rd., Lewisburg

**BEST STEAKS IN TOWN**

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**SLOW ROASTED PORK LOIN**  
*Served With Salad, Potato, Vegetable and Bread*

MONDAY - SUNDAY 11:00 am - 9:00 pm  
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PHONE: 304.645.2723

*Alderson Artisans Gallery*

**2026 Members Show**

*Dreaming of Spring*







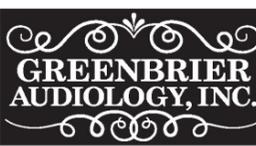
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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Tickets on sale for 2026 Battle for the Springhouse at The Greenbrier

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

Since its beginnings in 2022, the Battle for the Springhouse at America's Resort has brought the best girls and boys basketball teams from across West Virginia inside the resort's largest ballroom, Colonial Hall, for two days filled with exciting basketball.

Four girls teams and four boys teams from across West Virginia will compete for the Springhouse Trophy January 30-31. Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased by visiting [Greenbrier.com/Springhouse](http://Greenbrier.com/Springhouse). Tickets are sold on a game-by-game basis and are \$5 for each contest. The arena will be cleared at the conclusion of each game. Past games have sold out, so advanced purchase is highly recommended.

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

One of the event's premier partners, GameChanger, will once again be a major part of the weekend, educating the student-athletes about the dangers

of substance misuse and the value of a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

Every game will be broadcast live by MetroNews Television, in association with Video Productions, with experienced

announcers and high-quality video. MetroNews Television can be found on Roku, iPhone, Apple TV, fireTV and other streaming platforms, as well as online at [wvmetronewstv.com](http://wvmetronewstv.com), providing maximum exposure to both athletes and sponsors.

The 2025 boys' field features two of the top-ranked teams in Class AAA, No. 5 Greenbrier East and No. 7 Bridgeport, as well as two Class AA powers, No. 2 Wyoming East and No. 6 James Monroe. The girls field includes Class AAA No. 1 Greenbrier East, Class AAAA No. 2 Morgantown and Class AAAA No. 3 Parkersburg, as well as Class AAAA Riverside, which is off to a strong 5-3 start.

Games begin Friday, Jan. 30. For the latest updates, follow Battle for the Springhouse on Facebook and Twitter.

### 2025 Schedule:

#### Friday, January 30

2 p.m. - Girls Semifinal: Morgantown vs. Parkersburg

4 p.m. - Boys Semifinal: Wyoming East vs. Bridgeport

6 p.m. - Boys Semifinal: James Monroe vs. Greenbrier East

8 p.m. - Girls Semifinal: Riverside vs. Greenbrier East

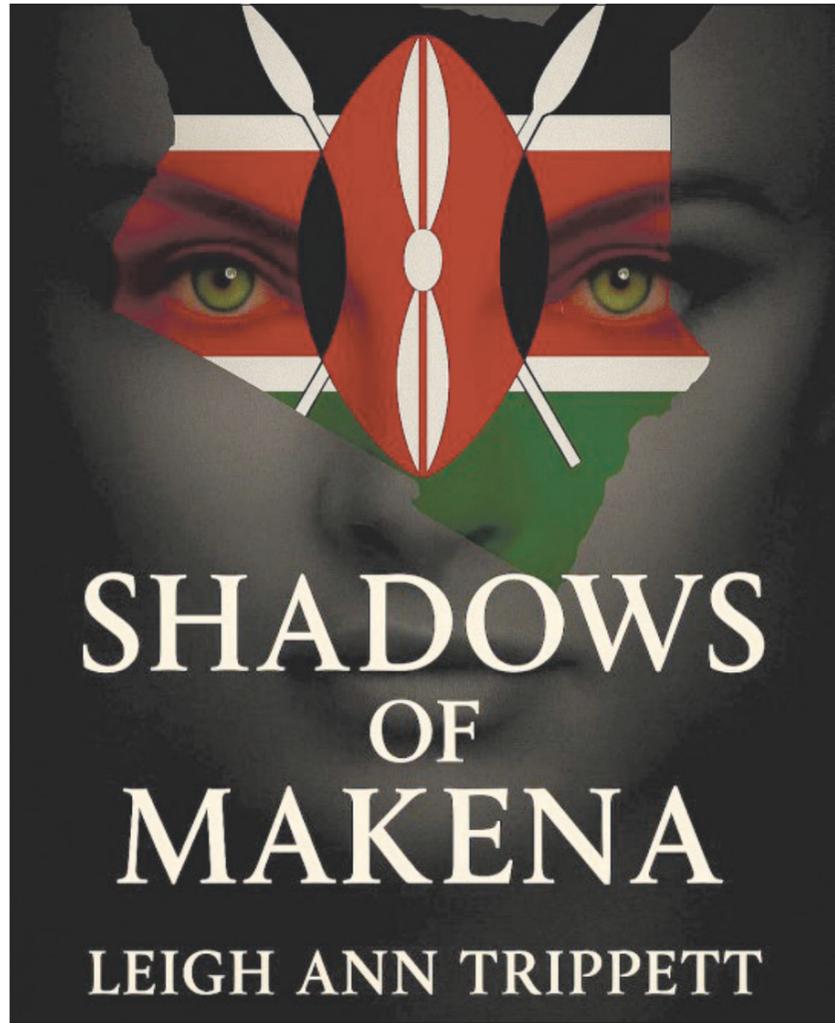
#### Saturday, February 3

1 p.m. - Girls Consolation Game

3 p.m. - Boys Consolation Game

5 p.m. - Boys Championship Game

7 p.m. - Girls Championship Game



Shadows of Makena

## Shadows of Makena - a debut novel by Leigh Ann Trippett

*A literary espionage novel rooted in Appalachia and east Africa*

Author Leigh Ann Trippett announces the release of her debut novel, *Shadows of Makena*, now available on Amazon in Kindle and paperback editions. Set between Appalachia and East Africa, the novel blends literary fiction with espionage elements to explore identity, memory, and the quiet costs of loyalty in a globalized world.

*Shadows of Makena* follows Makena, a woman drawn back into a shadowed network of intelligence, fractured histories, and unresolved personal ties stretching from the rivers of West Virginia to the coast and highlands of Kenya. Her path repeatedly intersects with Kwame, a journalist whose work - and disappearance - exposes truths powerful forces would rather keep buried.

Drawing on richly rendered landscapes and cross-cultural detail, Trippett's novel resists genre conventions while embracing suspense. The story moves through tea farms, coastal estuaries, urban corridors, weaving together themes of

belonging, displacement, and moral ambiguity.

"This is a novel about how places remember us - even when we try to leave them," Trippett said. "I've always wanted to write, but had never been inspired until I visited Kenya the past three years, where it reminded me of my Appalachian upbringing in Huntington, WV."

Unlike traditional espionage thrillers driven solely by action, *Shadows of Makena* emphasizes character, atmosphere, and emotional consequence. The novel will appeal to readers interested in international settings, intelligent suspense, and stories grounded in real geography and cultural nuance.

About the Author:

Leigh Ann Trippett is a writer with deep roots in Appalachia and longstanding ties to East Africa. Her work explores place, identity, and the invisible systems that shape human lives. *Shadows of Makena* is her debut novel. Leigh Ann was born and raised in Huntington, WV, and now resides in Lewisburg with her husband.



Leigh Ann Trippett

## GVT announces ticket sales for Guys & Dolls Sr.

*Performances February 4 through February 7*

Greenbrier Valley Theatre (GVT) will present *Guys and Dolls Sr.*, a joyful, concert-style production performed by community actors age 55 and better, Feb. 4-7.

Set on the bustling streets of New York City, this beloved musical comedy comes to life with iconic songs including "Luck Be a Lady" and "Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat." This 60-minute adaptation celebrates the power of storytelling, lifelong learning, and the pure joy of making theatre together.

*Guys and Dolls Sr.* showcases the talents of older adult performers in a vibrant, accessible format that highlights music, character, and community. With its charm, wit, and timeless score, the production reflects Greenbrier Valley Theatre's ongoing commitment to inclusive programming and creative opportunities for artists of all ages.

Considered by many to be the perfect musical comedy, *Guys and Dolls* ran for 1,200 performances when it opened on Broadway in 1950. It received nearly unanimous positive reviews from critics and won a bevy of awards, including Tony Awards, Drama Desks and Oliviers.

*Guys and Dolls Sr.* features a book by Abe Burrows and Jo Swerling, music and lyrics by Frank Loesser, and is based on *The Idyll* of Sarah Brown and characters by Damon Runyon.

Performances run Feb. 4 through Feb. 7.

*Guys and Dolls Sr.* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

The case list includes (Character - Actor):

Nicely-Nicely Johnson - Charles Fauber

Benny Southstreet - Martha Fleshman

Rusty Charlie - Debra Macdougall

Sarah Brown - Stephanie Bachman

Arvide Abernathy - Curtis Pauley

General Cartwright - Paul Detch

Agatha - Susan Ernst

Martha - Theresa Flerx

Bertha - LJ Fauber

Harry the Horse - Sonja Cole

Lieutenant Brannigan - Carolyn Komar

Nathan Detroit - Kelly Kemp

Angie the Ox - LJ Fauber

Miss Adelaide - Ginny Hinkle

Sky Masterson - Scott Womack

Mimi - Dana Perry

Big Jule - Jo Long

Master of Ceremonies - Susan Ernst

For tickets and additional information, visit <https://gvttheatre.org/guys-and-dolls>.

About Greenbrier Valley Theatre:

The State Professional Theatre of West Virginia, is committed to its mission statement to create live, professional quality theatre in West Virginia and, through theatre, to enlighten, enrich, and enliven the life of our region.

Throughout each year, GVT produces first-class theatrical productions featuring professional actors. Additionally, Greenbrier Valley Theatre offers a successful after-school drama program, a summer camp for children and teens, literary readings, live simulcasts of the Metropolitan Opera, special events and musical performances, art appreciation activities, lectures, discussions and workshops.

Learn more about GVT at [www.gvttheatre.org](http://www.gvttheatre.org).

## VOTE NOW!

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*Cast your votes from  
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*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*