



**This Week
in Wrestling**
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**3 Redneck
Tenors**
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\$1.50

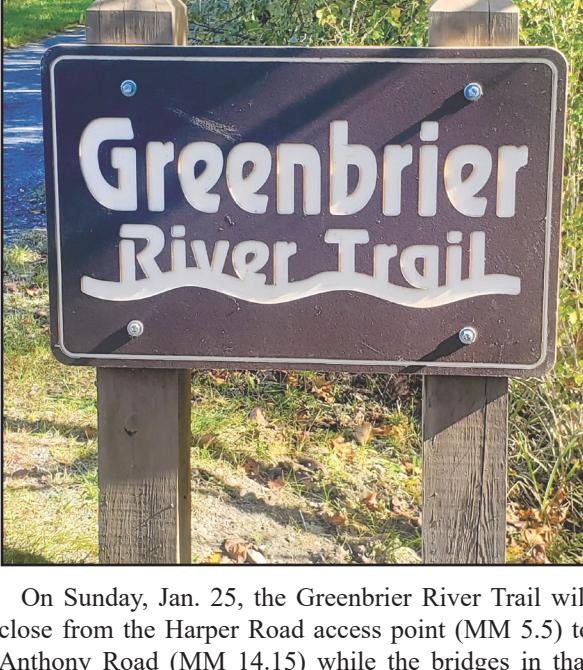
Mountain Messenger

January 24, 2026

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

Vol. XLIII, No. 4

Bridge redecking project on Greenbrier River Trail begins



On Sunday, Jan. 25, the Greenbrier River Trail will close from the Harper Road access point (MM 5.5) to Anthony Road (MM 14.15) while the bridges in that section of the Trail are re-decked. As work progresses, different sections of the 78-mile Trail will be inaccessible to users.

We urge all Trail users to stay informed about specific closure dates and affected sections by regularly visiting the Greenbrier River Trail Foundation website: <https://www.greenbrierrivertrail.com>. Up-to-date information will be posted as the project advances.

See "Greenbrier River Trail" — Page 3

Greenbrier County Commission approves infrastructure payments, appoints Rose president

By Dakota Baker

During the first Greenbrier County Commission meeting of 2026, Commissioner Lowell Rose was appointed as president for the New Year. Regular meetings will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, with the following exceptions:

May: 11th and 26th

September: 8th and 29th

November: 10th and 30th

December: 8th and 29th

A motion to approve these meeting dates was made by Commissioner Richie Holiday and then approved unanimously.

The next order of business was financial matters, and an arts and recreation transfer from savings to checking was approved to cover outstanding invoices. This includes a payment to the Greenbrier Valley Aquatic Center in the amount of \$11,672.75 for 2025-2026 events and accessibility expenses.

During the new business portion, the Commission authorized the payment of Draw Request #16 for the PSD #2 waterline projects, as approved in Resolution 19. Region 4 Project Specialist Amanda Smarr joined the meeting via Zoom to outline the distribution of payments. She explained that the first payment would go to Chojnacki Construction, receiving a total of \$97,563.52. Of that amount, \$51,855.19 will be funded through the West Virginia Drinking Water Treatment Revolv-

See "Greenbrier Co. Commission" — Page 3

West Virginia Healing Home serves as recovery resource, community space, and resources hub

By Sarah Richardson

The West Virginia Healing Home is a nonprofit organization that provides family-centered recovery support services for individuals affected by substance use disorder, with a focus on pregnancy, childbirth, and early parenting. Located in Fairlea on the hill beside Rodebaugh Family Dentistry, WV Healing Home itself also acts as a home base for all types of community groups, including grief support, autism support, childbirth and postpartum, and more.

The organization was founded in 2019 by Shay Huffman to offer recovery programs for families. It is currently led by Director Ahisha Marshall, and is run on a volunteer-based system. West Virginia Healing Home supports a drug-free baby and me program and hosts a monthly baby pantry that provides baby supplies to families thanks to donations from local churches

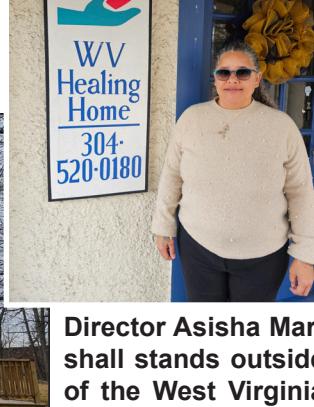
See "WV Healing Home" — Page 3



The WV Healing Home is a place where a variety of community groups can hold meetings and gatherings in a safe, cozy, and welcoming space.



The WV Healing Home is located in a Sears house in Fairlea at 1500 Maplewood Avenue.



Director Ahisha Marshall stands outside of the West Virginia Healing Home in Fairlea.

MLK Jr. March held in Lewisburg



Participants in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration march past Lewisburg City Hall on Monday, Jan. 19, as they make the voyage from the Greenbrier County Courthouse to the Lewisburg United Methodist Church.

The MLK Jr. Day Celebration was well-attended despite frigid January temperatures. Pictured here is James Wilmer speaking to the crowd outside of the courthouse.

This Week in the House of Delegates

For the week ending January 16, 2026



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Members of the West Virginia House of Delegates gaveled in for the second regular session of the 87th Legislature Wednesday, Jan. 14, eager to put in motion many of their proposals constructed in the months since the first regular session adjourned.

For one committee, there was no time to waste.

"Mister Speaker, your Committee on Education is ready to go to work," said Committee Vice Chairman Delegate Joe Statler, R-Monongalia, during Wednesday announcements. "We will meet today at 2 p.m. in the House Chamber for an analysis of the West Virginia School Aid Formula."

The House Finance Committee broke from its traditional early session spate of scheduled state agency budget hearings for a hearing on House Bill 4007, Relating to industrial access roads, at 9 a.m. Thursday morning.

"Industrial access roads are important to economic development, period," said Delegate David McCormick, lead sponsor of HB4007. "This program is part of the West Virginia Business Ready Sites Program initially

See "House of Delegates" — Page 2

West Virginia Legislature | Perry Bennett

(WV Legislature Photography by Perry Bennett)

Severe blood shortage: Red Cross blood supply drops 35%

Donors urged to make an appointment to give blood amid growing flu, winter weather impact

The American Red Cross is facing a severe blood shortage as requests from hospitals exceed the available supply of blood, leading to about a 35% drawdown of blood products in the past month. Individuals are urged to give now so patients don't face delays in lifesaving care. The shortage is especially serious for types O, A negative and B negative blood.

High flu activity in nearly every state may be sidelining donors, slowing efforts to rebuild the Red Cross national blood supply. At the same time, hospitals already feeling the strain of the worst flu season in nearly 20 years are now also forced to triage critical blood products. Without immediate action, patients who count on transfusions - including trauma victims, mothers in childbirth and people with sickle cell disease or cancer - face serious risk.

There's no time to wait - book an appointment to give blood now by using the Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Upcoming local blood donation opportunities include on Monday, Jan. 26, at the Lewisburg United Methodist Church (214 E. Washington Street, Lewisburg) from 12 noon to 6 p.m. and on Monday, Feb. 2, at the WVSOM Alumni Center (400 Lee Street, Lewisburg) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

As a thank-you to donors for helping tackle the blood shortage, those who come to give through Jan. 25, 2026, will be automatically entered for a chance to win a trip for two to Super Bowl LX in the San Francisco Bay Area. The winner and guest will receive two tickets to Super Bowl LX, access to day-of, in-stadium pregame activities, tickets to the official Super Bowl Experience, round-trip airfare, three-night hotel accommodations (Feb. 6-9, 2026), plus a \$1,000 gift card for expenses. See RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl for details.

All who come to give Jan. 26-Feb. 28, 2026, will receive a \$20 e-gift card to a merchant of choice. See RedCrossBlood.org/Heart for details.

Rupert man arrested following ICAC investigation

On Tuesday, Jan. 13, a 55-year-old male identified as Robert Dean Shaffer II, a registered sex offender, was arrested for possession of child pornography, in Rupert. This arrest was made by members of the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Department following an ICAC investigation in which Mr. Shaffer was discovered to have solicited, acquired, distributed, and possessed large quantities of child sexual abuse material over an extended period. Shaffer was arraigned before the Greenbrier County Magistrate and remanded to Southern Regional Jail pending a \$100,000. cash only bond. Additional charges are pending related to this investigation.

Members of the WVSP ICAC Task Force, Southern

Virginia ICAC Task Force, Pennsylvania State Police BCI Computer Crime Unit, Greenbrier Valley Drug and Violent Crime Task Force, Greenbrier County Sheriff's Department, West Virginia State Police, Lewisburg Police Department, WV Parole Office, and the Greenbrier County Probation Office all assisted with this investigation.

Sheriff Baker said I would like to commend the members of the Sheriff's Office and all those involved in this investigation for a job well done. We will work diligently to ensure the safety of our children, and tirelessly hunt those who would do them harm.

Greenbrier County Sheriff's Department investigating potential multi-state 'romance scam'

The Greenbrier County Sheriff's Department, in coordination with the Greenbrier County Prosecutor's Office, has announced the arrest of an out-of-state woman with the name Ginger Taylor Pirada, Yonko Mitchell following an investigation into an alleged theft and fraudulent scheme.

On Jan. 11, Deputy T. Fullen and Corporal T. Hyatt responded to a reported theft in Lewisburg. The investigation revealed that the suspect allegedly met the victim through an internet dating application while using an alias.

According to the criminal complaint, the suspect traveled from out of state under the pretense of pursuing a long-term romantic relationship. After gaining access to the victim's residence, she is alleged to have stolen numerous items, including gold jewelry, watches, and collectible coins, with an estimated total value of approximately \$3,537.

Following her departure from the residence, the suspect allegedly continued to solicit an additional \$4,000 from the victim, claiming financial hardship related to a family death.

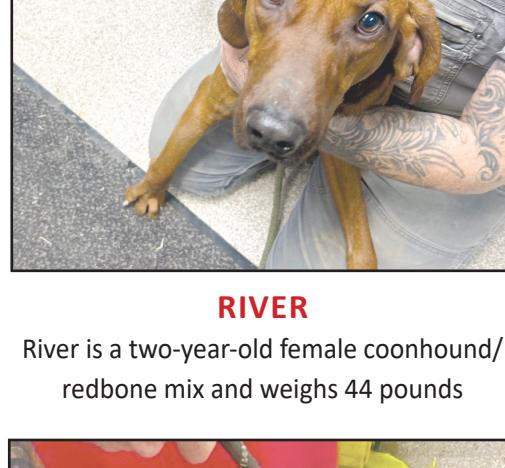
During the investigation, deputies discovered large latex gloves in her possession, which investigators believe were used to prevent leaving fingerprints while searching the residence. A subsequent search of her belongings allegedly revealed property belonging to the victim.

Due to the suspect's out-of-state residence and the methods used to target the victim, investigators and the Prosecutor's Office believe this incident may be part of a larger, multi-state scam. Authorities are concerned there may be additional victims who were targeted under various aliases, including but not limited to "Ruby" or "Seal Masters."

Request for Information:

The Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office and the Greenbrier County Prosecutor's Office ask anyone with information related to this investigation, or anyone who believes they may have been targeted by a similar scheme, to contact Deputy T.R. Fullen at the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Office at 304-647-6634.

PICK OF THE LITTER



RIVER

River is a two-year-old female coonhound/redbone mix and weighs 44 pounds



DUTCHESS

Dutchess is an 11-month-old female beagle mix and weighs 37 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!

State Treasurer Larry Pack announced recently his Office's Unclaimed Property Division returned nearly \$1.5 million worth of funds to individuals, businesses and organizations during the month of December.

"So far this Fiscal Year, my Office has returned more than \$12 million in unclaimed property money to our West Virginia citizens, and we're very proud of that as we enter 2026," Treasurer Pack said. "I encourage everyone to keep checking our unclaimed property data base because you never know if there may be unclaimed property funds in your name."

The Unclaimed Property Division returned a total of \$1,492,579 paid out across 1,444 claims representing 4,445 individual properties during the month of December.

Since the start of Fiscal Year 2026, which began on July 1, 2025, the Treasurer's Office has returned more than \$12,714,106 to rightful owners.

The State Treasurer's Office now has more than \$534 million worth of listings in its database.

For more information about the unclaimed property program or to find out if the Office is holding any money for you or your family, visit www.WVUnclaimedProperty.gov.

What is Unclaimed Property?

Unclaimed property can include financial accounts or items of value in which the owner has not initiated any

activity for one year or longer. Common examples include unpaid life insurance benefits, forgotten bank accounts and unused rebate cards. (While the title includes the word "property," it does not however include real estate.)

West Virginia's unclaimed property laws protect the public by ensuring money and property owed to them is returned to them, rather than remaining permanently with financial institutions, business associations, governments and other entities. The Treasurer seeks to reunite the unclaimed property, including uncashed paychecks, stocks, or safe deposit box contents, with its owner.

Nationwide, nearly 33 million people in the United States - one in every 10 - are estimated to have unclaimed property available for them to claim.

How Can I Find Unclaimed Property in My Name? West Virginians searching for lost financial assets can go to www.WVUnclaimedProperty.gov. In addition to finding property, the website will also help you track a claim.

A demonstration of how to use the Unclaimed Property search site is available on the Treasury's YouTube page, at: <https://youtu.be/K09yQ7YNKIE>.

To search for lost financial assets outside West Virginia, visit www.MissingMoney.com.

Continued from Front Page

Development more flexibility and more tools in their chest to get sites ready and foster in more businesses and create more jobs," said Delegate Jordan Maynor, R-Raleigh, the lead sponsor of the bill.

The newest member of the House, Delegate John Jordan, R-Beckley, took the oath of office Jan. 13 just a few hours after being appointed to fill the unexpired term representing the 42nd District, which is a portion of Raleigh County. Jordan, who serves as Lead Pastor of Calvary Assembly of God, was joined by his wife Stephanie for the swearing-in ceremony as House Clerk Jeff Pack administered the oath.

The last day to introduce bills is Feb. 17, and 483 bills have been introduced in the House. The 60-day, regular legislative session ends at midnight March 14.

"I think this is going to give the Division of Economic

Briefly

Jack Goodman Memorial Scholarship Shooting Match

The Jack Goodman Memorial Scholarship Shooting Match will be held on Feb. 7. This match is held in memory of Jack Goodman and all proceeds go to the Jack Goodman Memorial Scholarship Fund that provides Scholarships to high school seniors from the Williamsburg area to help defray the cost of furthering their education. The Shooting Match will begin at 6 p.m. Come early! Come Hungry! Delicious hot food and refreshments will be available starting at 5 p.m. Families welcomed; you don't have to shoot to come get a meal! There will be an expanded menu. 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 Williamsburg Community Action. For more information and directions visit our website: www.williamsburgwv.com or Bill Jarvis, 304-645-3690.

Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Convictions

Chris Allen Burgess, Meadow Bridge, destruction of property, jail 30 days - suspended and placed on 12 months unsupervised probation, NCP
 Bobbi J. Beasley, White Sulphur Springs, 1) failure to stop at stop sign, fine \$25; 2) driving on suspended license, fine \$100, NCP
 Joan Montgomery, Lewisburg, failure to stop at stop sign, fine \$25, NCP
 Jeffery L. Roberts, Ronceverte, failure to stop at stop sign, fine \$25, NCP
 Chadwick J. Blankenship, Rupert, domestic assault, fine \$50, jail 30 days - suspended and placed on 12 months unsupervised probation, NCP
 Ashley Perkins, Centreville, VA, speeding, fine \$12, NCP
 Anthony S. Garrison, Caldwell, driving while license suspended or revoked, fine \$100, NCP
 Samantha Dawn Trout, Quinwood, failure to stop at stop sign, fine \$25, NCP
 Kaylee J. Triplett, Peterstown, driving too fast for roadway conditions, fine \$50, GP
 Nickolas D. Bragg, Crawley, driving revoked, fine \$100, GP
 Jeffrey N. Austin, Lewisburg, failure to obey stop sign, fine \$10, NCP
 Tony Ray Winalis, Charmco, petit larceny, fine \$25, NCP
 Priscilla W. Woodrum, Rainelle, 1) harassment, fine \$100, jail 10 days - suspended, 2) violation of a personal safety order - 1st offense, fine \$100, GP
 John Michael Upton, Ronceverte, 1) DUI - impaired state, fine \$100, jail 30 days; 2) DUI - impaired state, fine \$100, jail 30 days, NCP
 Rhonda Lee Pritt, Hillsboro, 1) driving while license suspended or revoked, fine \$100; 2) failure to maintain motor vehicle insurance, fine \$200, NCP
 Jimmy M. Mejicanos Ramos, Plainfield, NJ, speeding >10 mph on controlled access highway, fine \$28, GP

WV Healing Home

Continued from Front Page

and other generous individuals. The organization also works with community partners to offer childbirth education classes and postpartum support groups, which are open to anyone in the community. These classes and groups are held in collaboration with the Perinatal Partnership, led by Annie Barb.

Marshall also facilitates Acudetox group sessions. Acudetox, also known as NADA Acudetox, is an acupuncture detoxification protocol that involves placing up to five sterile, disposable needles into specific points in each ear. Sessions are conducted in a group setting, with participants seated for 30 to 45 minutes. According to the organization's five-point Acudetox protocol pamphlet, reported benefits include stress and trauma relief, improved sleep, reduced agitation, decreased cravings for alcohol, drugs, nicotine, and sugar, and increased calmness.

West Virginia Healing Home, Inc. describes itself as a family-centered recovery community organization. Its mission is to provide respectful services, information, resources, and assistance to individuals and families, particularly during the childbearing years. The organization focuses on addressing the needs of families impacted by substance use disorder and envisions communities where families have access to supportive environments as they move forward.

Services offered by West Virginia Healing Home include Acudetox group sessions, restorative practices, childbirth education classes, postpartum support groups, and monthly educational baby pantries. Additional services include resource information and referral, agricultural programs, initiatives addressing food insecurity, and support from an RN recovery coach.

Group and individual sessions cover topics such as pregnancy and childbirth, parenting, infant care, infant feeding practices, mindfulness, healthy eating on a budget, and parent-child agricultural activities.

West Virginia Healing Home is located at 1500 Maplewood Avenue in Ronceverte. More information is available by emailing WVHealingHome@gmail.com, calling 304-520-0180, or visiting wvhealinghome.org. Any groups wishing to use the space for classes and meetings should call and leave a voicemail. Follow "West Virginia Healing Home, Inc." on Facebook for up-to-date information on ongoing classes and events.

For the Record

Deeds

Greenbrier Legacy Cottage Development Company II Inc. to Carter Bank & Trust: waiver and release of right of first refusal and repurchase option, Unit D, Dogwood Cottages.

Greenbrier Legacy Cottage Development Company II Inc. to Saratoga West LLC: Unit E Dogwood, White Sulphur District, Map 26 Parcel 236.

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

Greenbrier Legacy Cottage Development Company II Inc. to Dogwood Cottages at South Carolina Row: first amendment to declaration of planned community of Dogwood Cottages at South Carolina Row.

Karen M. Bragg Estate (by administrator and heir) and Harold Lipker (by AIF) to Lewis J. Winnings and Deborah R. Winnings: 17,000 square feet or 0.68 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 56P Parcel 42.

Kellie A. Maroney Beeson, Patrick K. Maroney, Michael W. Maroney, Kathryn L. Maroney Morris, Eileen M. Maroney, Thomas A. Maroney, and Anne E. Maroney McMillion to Bridget K. Hylton and Daniel W. Hylton: 62 acres, Falling Spring District, Map 53 Parcel 27.

Brenda F. Harris to Hazel D. Fleshman: 0.11 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 3 Parcel 64.

Terence J. Casey to Harless Realty LLC: 4.246 acres, Frankford District, Map 23 Parcel 11.

Greenbrier Co. Commission

Continued from Front Page

ing Fund loan, while \$24,734.01 will come from the DWTRF principal forgiveness program. Smarr also noted that the next invoice from Chojnacki will be fully covered by principal forgiveness funds in the amount of \$115,869.42. Additionally, RDR Utility Services Group will submit an invoice for Contract #4, totaling \$175,938.24, which will be paid entirely from the Economic Enhancement Grant Fund (EEGF).

Continuing with financial approvals, another invoice discussed during the meeting was from Tribute Contracting & Consultants for Contract #5. That payment, totaling \$299,202.85, will also be funded through EEGF. Smarr added that The Thrasher Group will receive \$64,599.50, which will be paid from commission funds. Altogether, Draw Request # 16 totals \$753,173.56, with \$64,599.50 coming directly from the commission.

The Commission then considered Payment Resolutions #3 and 5 related to the Ridges Project and the Maple Dale Water Storage Tank Project. E.L. Robinson Engineering will be paid \$7,500 for each project, totaling \$15,000. The payments will be made using available Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds. Both of these resolutions were approved.

Commissioners also approved an unpaid legislative leave of absence for State Sen. Vince Deeds from the Greenbrier County Prosecutor's Office.

Following that action, the commission voted to reject the sole bid submitted for the FEMA-funded Fort Springs elevation project, citing that the bid exceeded the amount approved by FEMA. As a result, commissioners also withdrew their earlier commitment to front county funds for the project ahead of FEMA reimbursement.

Moving forward, the Greenbrier County Commission stated it will no longer participate in FEMA projects that require county funds to be advanced prior to reimbursement.

The next regular meeting of the Greenbrier County Commission is set for Tuesday, Jan. 27, at 10 a.m.

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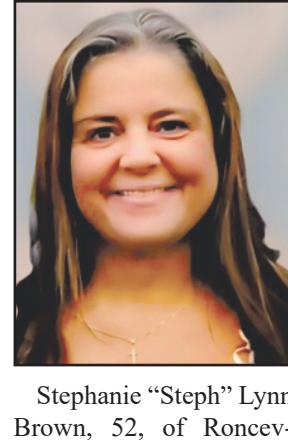
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Mountain Messenger

OBITUARIES

Stephanie "Steph" Lynn Brown



Stephanie "Steph" Lynn Brown, 52, of Ronceverte gained her wings and went to be with the Lord Jan. 14, 2026.

Stephanie was born on Aug. 25, 1973 in York, PA.

Stephanie is survived by her mother, Gale Seager of Felton, PA, her father, Harry Scott and Dee of Stewartstown, PA; sons, Tyler McKinsey, Koi McKinsey, Jeffrey McCarty, Tanner McCarty; daughter, Whitney Rogers; sister, Christine Wire and brother Ryan Seager; fiancé Jeff McCarty and daughter-in-law Briana McKinsey; mother-in-law, Ollie McCarty; numerous nieces and nephews which she loved dearly, Izzy Wire, Hailey Scott, Zack Hoffacker, Shane Blymire and many more; nine grandchildren which she absolutely loved so much they always gave her a glow when they were near her.

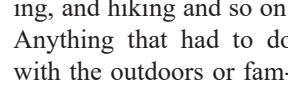
Stephanie was a true outdoorsman who loved hunting, fishing, kayaking, and hiking and so on. Anything that had to do with the outdoors or family was her life!

Stephanie did not want a service but there will be a celebration of life for family and friends at a later date for her at the river lot she loved so much in Pennsylvania.

Stephanie also did not have any life insurance coverage to help with any of the costs, so if you would like to contribute to help the family with costs, please do so at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home, 884 Jefferson St. N., Lewisburg, WV 24901.

Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com

Eula Belle Malcolm White



Eula Belle Malcolm White, 93, of White Sulphur Springs passed away on Jan. 14, 2026 at Peyton Hospice House in Lewisburg.

She was born June 19, 1932 in Neola, WV, the daughter of the late Charles William and Avis Irene Boswell Malcolm.

Eula Belle was of the Presbyterian Faith. She had worked with the Greenbrier County School Board as an aid, PT instructor and a cook. Eula Belle then worked as a Registered CNA at the former Greenbrier Valley Hospital. She then did private setting in various family homes as well as baby-sitting and helped raise some of her grandchildren.

Other than her parents she was preceded in death by her husband Charles Houston White; son, Charles Houston White II; grandsons Charles H.

"Trey" White III and son-in-law Ronnie Hepler.

Mrs. White is survived by her daughters; Kyletha Hepler (Rodger Tucker) of White Sulphur Springs and Kimberly Campbell (Gerald) of White Sulphur Springs; daughter-in-law Debbie White of White Sulphur Springs; grandchildren, Adam O'Brien, Wesley O'Brien, Robin White, John Campbell, Zondra Campbell, Beth Gould (Dan), Teresa Barrett (Vinnie) and special great-grandson Zevin Campbell; 12 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren; sister and brother-in-law Mary and Bill Baum of White Sulphur Springs and their children, Rebecca (Chad) Ryder and Matthew (Heather) Baum.

Funeral services for Eula Belle White are scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 18, at 2 p.m. at the Alton Living Word Church, Neola, WV, with Pastors Bobby McClintic and Buck Caldwell officiating with interment to follow in the Alleghany Memorial Park, Low Moor, VA.

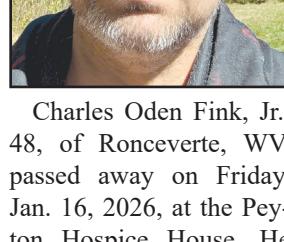
The family will receive family and friends on Saturday, Jan. 17, from 6 until 8 p.m. at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in White Sulphur Springs.

Pallbearers serving the White Family are, Wesley O'Brien, Dan Gould, Joseph Gould, Chad Ryder, Matthew Baum and Roger Tucker.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests that memorial contributions be made to Peyton Hospice House, 1265 Maplewood Avenue, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in White Sulphur Springs is in charge of arrangements. Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com

Charles Oden Fink, Jr.



Charles Oden Fink, Jr., 48, of Ronceverte, WV, passed away on Friday, Jan. 16, 2026, at the Peyton Hospice House. He was born Aug. 10, 1977, in Ronceverte, the son of the late Charles Oden Fink, Sr. and Sherry Ann Sofil Fink.

Charles will be remembered for his warmth, kindness, and the impact he had on those around him.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Charles Oden Fink, Sr. and Sherry Ann Sofil Fink.

Survivors include his brothers, Johnny Fink and David Fink (Anna) and sisters, Della Crawford (Daniel Adkins) and Nicole Fink, and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service to honor Charles's life will be held at 12 Noon, Thursday, Jan. 22, at Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV. Family and friends may visit with the family one hour prior to the service at the funeral home, Thursday.

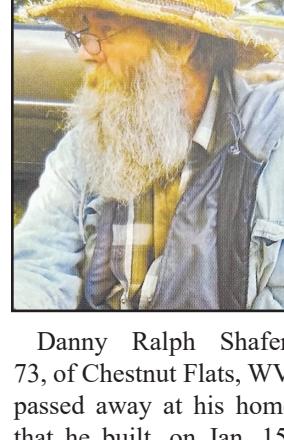
The family extends their gratitude to the staff at Peyton Hospice House for their compassionate care and support.

Charles's legacy of love

and kindness will be cherished forever. May he rest in peace.

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

Danny Ralph Shafer



Danny Ralph Shafer, 73, of Chestnut Flats, WV, passed away at his home that he built, on Jan. 15, 2026. He was born on Oct. 21, 1952 at the old homeplace in Smoot, WV, to Kenna Rufus Shafer and Ruth Faye Allen Shafer.

Danny was a construction worker earlier in life, having worked on the tunnel at Back Creek, VA (East River Mountain Tunnel), The Capital Beltway (I-495) encircling Washington, DC, the Maryland Cup Factory in Baltimore and the Surry County Power Station in Virginia, among others. After injuring his back, Danny transitioned into crafting and artisanship. He worked with fabric, crocheting rugs and baskets, knitted sweaters and textiles with Appalachian by Design, and later wove copper wire into jewelry, animals, trees, crosses and other unique pieces. He loved to vend at events and often won 'best artisan' awards. Some markets and events he would attend ranged from Blacksburg, VA, Monterey, VA, Hinton, WV, Pence Springs, WV, Roanoke, VA, Elkins, WV, the State Fair of West Virginia, and many others.

Danny loved to play guitar and pick music. He loved to wander the mountains around Chestnut Flats, Burns Run and Spice Run, on over towards Williamsburg, scouting for ginseng and golden root. He had a sensitive and kind heart and loved all living creatures.

Danny was preceded in death by his parents, and two brothers, Steve Michael Shafer and Kenna Rufus Shafer, Jr.

Those left to cherish his memory are his devoted wife, Yevette Marlene Shafer, his loyal companion (Australian Shepherd) Peanut Butter, his two cats Bobby and Midnight; his loving daughters Sonya Michelle Shafer and Danielle Renee Hawkins, Danielle's husband Sam and their two daughters Heather and Kira; his sister Carolyn Shawver and her husband Bill and their three children, and his brother Scott Allen Shafer and his wife Tiffany and daughter Taylor.

Danny will be deeply missed by those who knew and loved him. May he be rejoicing in being reunited with those who have been waiting for him in Heaven.

The family would like to thank the congregation at Shuck Memorial Baptist Church and Richie at Morgan Funeral Home in Lewisburg, WV, for your kindness and support during this devastating time of loss.

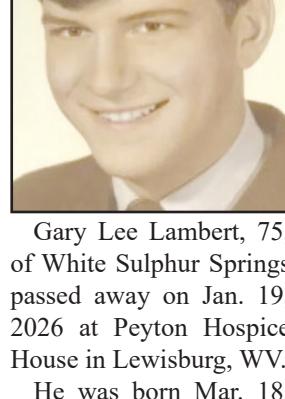
In lieu of flowers and to honor Danny's love for animals, the family wel-

comes donations to the local animal shelter, or a charity of your choice.

A visitation will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 20, at Shuck Memorial Baptist Church in Lewisburg, WV, starting at 1 p.m., with a celebration of life starting at 2 p.m., followed by a light meal of foods that Danny liked. A Mausoleum side Memorial Service will be held at a yet to be determined later date, at Wallace Memorial Cemetery, in Crawley, WV.

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

Gary Lee Lambert



Gary Lee Lambert, 75, of White Sulphur Springs passed away on Jan. 19, 2026 at Peyton Hospice House in Lewisburg, WV.

He was born Mar. 18, 1950, the son of the late Earl F. and Rosa Violet Fury Lambert.

Gary had worked at The Greenbrier Hotel first as a bus boy and then went to the security department, he then worked construction until he could no longer work. Gary was an avid hunter and fisherman and enjoyed playing the guitar.

He is preceded in death other than his parents by a granddaughter Kaylyn Spence; brothers, Danny Earl Lambert and Billy L. Lambert.

Surviving Gary are his daughters Kim Ruby (Chris) of White Sulphur Springs, Kristie Sizemore of White Sulphur Springs and Sarah Sparks (Andy) of Caldwell; three granddaughters; four great-grandchildren; sister Janice Fixk (Doug) of South Carolina and several nieces and nephews.

It was Gary's wishes to have a graveside service. His graveside service will be held Friday, Jan. 23, at 2 PM in the Hillcrest Cemetery with Pastor Gene Sizemore officiating

Gracie Ellen Rexrode

Gracie Ellen Rexrode, 84, of Lewisburg, formerly of Clintonville, passed away Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026 at Peyton Hospice House.

Born Sept. 29, 1941, at Hico, WV, she was a daughter of the late Harry Warden Metheney and Mildred Edith Perry Metheney.

She was a member of Shuck Memorial Baptist Church in Lewisburg and was a retired school teacher.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by a sister, Verna Maurer and a brother, Richard Andrew Metheney.

Survivors include her husband of 60 years, William Lee Rexrode; children, Rebecca Lee Aken

(Jeremiah) and Mark Lee Rexrode (Amy); two grandchildren, Bethany and Eden; sisters, Betty Sorrell (Gary) and Linda Leake (Joe); two brothers, Harry W. Metheney, Jr. (Kathy) and Harlan Leroy Metheney (Joy); a sister-in-law, Judy Metheney and special niece, Debbie Hanson.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21, at Shuck Memorial Baptist Church, Lewisburg, with Rev. Ron Miller and Rev. Jonathan Turner officiating. Entombment will follow in Wallace Memorial Mausoleum at Crawley, WV.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church on Wednesday.

The family requests in lieu of flowers, donations of sympathy be made to the Shuck Memorial Baptist Deacon Assistance Fund, 133 Burdette Lane, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg is in charge of arrangements. Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com

Marie Annette (White) Sanford



Marie Annette (White) Sanford, 76, of Crawley, went to her heavenly home on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026, at the Lindsdale Healthcare Center. She was born on Dec. 28, 1949, in Mount Vernon, OH, to the late Leonard and Edna (Keckley) White.

Her love for her family was second only to her love of the Lord. She was a lifetime member of the Grace Bible Church in Asbury. She was the woman who made everyone laugh. Marie was mom to many children besides her own. Her home was open to anyone in need so someone could finish school, have a roof over their head, or a warm home-cooked meal.

Her church family knew her as the Kool-Aid and cookie woman.

In addition to her parents, Wanda was preceded in death by her husband, Gary Coulter, and her brother, Bobby Barrett.

Left to cherish her memory are her beloved children, Roy Coulter and daughter Stephanie Elmore (Travis); her brothers, Larry "Sam" Barrett (Becky) and Ronnie Barrett (Dottie); her sisters, Joyce Moore, Rose Hamons (Joe), and Bev Mitchell (David); and her precious grandchildren, Gracie, Brayden, and Kaiden Elmore, who were the light of her life. Wanda is also survived by several nieces and nephews who will miss her dearly.

A celebration of Wanda's life will be held at a later date when the weather is warm, as she never liked the cold. Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at www.morganfh.net.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV.

ing with everyone.

She waited until her children were in high school before she went to work. Marie worked for 28 years as a paralegal for Preston and Weese. She went on to retire as a secretary from the Greenbrier County Board of Education.

Marie was preceded in death by her parents.

Those left to cherish the fond memories, and her love are her daughters Paula Sanford Dunford (Steve), Jessica Sanford Robinson (single and still looking); her son Billy Sanford; sister Charlotte Vernon; brothers John White (Vicky), Phillip White (Marcia); grandchildren Jordan Robinson (Bridgett), Ty Sanford (Cindy), Madison Anderson (Robert), MacKenzie Hundley (Caleb), Cierra Robinson, Lance Robinson (Emma), Bethany Dunford; great grandchildren Delilah, Riven, Evie, Jensen, Ridlee, Dominic; and several nieces and nephews.

Services will be at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 24, at Smathers Funeral Chapel, Rainelle. The family will receive friends and family from 5 p.m. until the time of the service.

The directors and staff of Smathers Funeral Chapel are honored to have been entrusted to care for Marie and her family during their great time of need.

Online condolences may be made at www.smathersfuneralchapelinc.com

Wanda Ann Rehm Coulter

Wanda Ann Rehm Coulter, 63, of Renick, WV, passed away on Monday, Jan. 19, 2026, at JW Ruby Hospital in Morgantown, WV. She was born on Jan. 14, 1963, in Marlinton, WV, the beloved daughter of the late Melvin Ira Rehm and Lilly Elizabeth Barrett Rehm.

Wanda had a profound love for gardening and found great joy in planting flowers and continually redecorating her home. Her greatest treasure in life was her grandchildren, whom she adored with all her heart.

In addition to her parents, Wanda was preceded in death by her husband, Gary Coulter, and her brother, Bobby Barrett.

Left to cherish her memory are her beloved children, Roy Coulter and daughter Stephanie Elmore (Travis); her brothers, Larry "Sam" Barrett (Becky) and Ronnie Barrett (Dottie); her sisters, Joyce Moore, Rose Hamons (Joe), and Bev Mitchell (David); and her precious grandchildren, Gracie, Brayden, and Kaiden Elmore, who were the light of her life. Wanda is also survived by several nieces and nephews who will miss her dearly.

A celebration of Wanda's life will be held at a later date when the weather is warm, as she never liked the cold. Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at www.morganfh.net.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV.

Continued on Page 5

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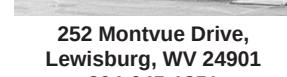
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Club & Church

WV Blue Ribbon Classic archery tournament held on State Fairgrounds

The State Fair of West Virginia Blue Ribbon Classic was held this past weekend, Jan. 16 and 17 in the West Virginia Building on the grounds at the West Virginia State Fairgrounds.

The Blue Ribbon Classic is a National Archery in Schools NASP tournament that was a collaboration between Ronceverte Elementary School archery and Old Greenbrier Baptist archery teams.

Twenty one different school teams throughout the mountain state attended the event which consisted of over 600 archers. Greenbrier County Schools had a great showing at the tournament with first place in the Bullseye and 3D elementary division going to Ronceverte Elementary School. Second place went to Alderson Elementary, third place went to Frankford Elementary, and fourth place went to Lewisburg Elementary.

In the middle school Bullseye division, first place went to Peterstown Middle, second place went to Eastern Greenbrier Middle, third place went to Independence Middle, fourth went to Shady Spring Middle, and fifth went to Mountain View Middle. James Monroe High School took first place in the high school Bullseye division with Independence, Shady Spring, Summers County, and Moorefield coming in second through fifth place.

In the 3D middle school division, Eastern Greenbrier Middle School took first place. Herbert Hoover took first place in the High School 3D division.

The State Fair of West Virginia Blue Ribbon Classic was a success due to all of the local businesses and the Greenbrier Sportsman's Alliance who sponsored the event, as well as all of the parent volunteers and vendors that made this a unique event for our area.

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

Greenbrier Valley Sportsman's Alliance



Ronceverte Elementary School archery team placed first in the bullseye and 3D elementary divisions.

OPINION

Letter to the Editor

Democrats looking for candidates

Dear Editor:

If you have the social awareness to be reading this newspaper, then you probably realize that now is the time that decent citizens must step forward to save our democracy.

If you are tired of the chaos, corruption, and cruelty of our national government, the incompetence of our state government, or the mediocrity of our local government, then stop complaining and do something about it. Run for public office, become involved in any way you can. Democracy requires the public have choices. Your community needs you now.

Democrats are looking for candidates with intelligence and integrity. We respect people who think independently and for themselves. All we ask is that our candidates support the Constitution and believe the government must be "of the people, by the people and for the people."

If you are interested in running for

local office as a Democrat, call me: Paul Detch at 304-645-1993, or 304-645-2488 and I will try to answer your questions. Don't wait, time to file for office is running out.

As a concerned citizen, you should be aware of the upcoming dates:

Candidate filing period: Jan. 12-31

Voter registration deadline: April 21

Early voting: April 29 - May 9

Deadline for absentee ballot application: May 6:

Primary and nonpartisan Election Day: 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. May 12

Voter registration deadline: Oct. 13

Early voting : October 21-31

Absentee ballot submission deadline: October 28

General Election Day: November 3

Paul Detch

 Chairman Greenbrier County
 Democratic Executive
 Committee

Secretary Warner says WV will join national efforts to recruit poll workers on Help America

Vote Day, January 27

WV Secretary of State Kris Warner announced today that West Virginia will celebrate Help America Vote Day on Jan. 27. Help America Vote Day was established by the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission to encourage people to get involved in the electoral process by signing up to be a poll worker. The observance is also designed to create an opportunity for the WV Secretary of State's Office and our county clerks to share information on how to register and cast a ballot.

"Poll workers play a critical role in ensuring free, fair, and accessible elections in West Virginia," said Secretary of State Kris Warner. "We have had tremendous success in registering new voters across our state, and we look forward to celebrating Help America Vote Day to recruit more poll workers to be the face of elections in our state."

To serve as a poll worker in West Virginia, residents must be registered to vote in their county, be able to read and write the English language, attend training, and be available to work all of Election Day. Each county commission determines how much a poll worker earns.

For more information on how to become a poll worker, visit GoVoteWV.com and click the "Become a Poll Worker" button.

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Dear Recycle Lady,

I know #1 clamshell containers are not recyclable here but what about the clear, solid (no holes or perforations) tops to take out and other food containers that are #1? And what about the large, deep clear #1 containers that fresh spinach comes in? Does the recycle center only want bottles?

Recycler

Dear Recycler,

Plastic food containers, regardless of the recycle symbol, are not recyclable. These containers are made of a low-melt #1 PET, so are not as durable as bottle-grade #1 PET. Plus, most of these containers are mixed with additives to make them moisture resistant. Additionally, plastic food containers often contain food residue and are thus a contaminant, which is the number one reason that plastic food containers are not recyclable. Greasy takeout containers and containers with glossy stickers or ink-printed designs are also contaminants, a serious problem for recyclers. One un-rinsed plastic container that has food residue left in it can contaminate an entire load of recyclables. According to <https://blistera.com/why-are-clamshell-containers-not-recyclable/> regulatory pressure is mounting and states like California are now requiring that all packaging, including clamshells, be recyclable or compostable by 2032. You are correct in saying that bottles and jugs are the only plastics that the Recycle Center accepts, as they are made with a higher grade of PET plastic.

Dear Recycle Lady,

What is the difference between global warming and climate change?

Curious

Dear Curious,

Global warming and climate change are often used interchangeably, but they are not the same. In fact, global warming is one aspect of climate change. Other aspects of climate change, according to nasa.gov, are rising sea levels, shrinking mountain glaciers, accelerating

ice in Greenland, Antarctica and the Arctic, and shifts in flower/plant blooming times. Deserts are expanding, heat waves and wildfires are becoming more common, as is water scarcity, disease and economic loss. All of these factors are consequences of global warming. The earth Science Division of NASA operates more than 20 satellites in orbit looking for new ways to observe changes in oceans, land cover, ice, atmosphere and life and to study potential solutions.

Dear Recycle Lady,

Several packages that we have received in the mail lately have been in envelopes lined with thin plastic bubble wrap inside. Can these envelopes be recycled?

Questioning Recycler

Dear Questioning Recycler,

Unfortunately, the envelopes with bubble wrap are difficult to recycle because the bubble wrap is glued inside the envelope and is very difficult to separate. Thus, these envelopes that are both paper and plastic are not recyclable, unless they have a recycle symbol on them. However, all of these envelopes can be reused for future mailings. It's good to know you are considering different kinds of items for recycling. Thanks for asking.

Interesting Information: Scientists have confirmed that by feeding and pooping, whales are heroes of the ocean. Since whale poop is rich in nutrients like iron, it helps phytoplankton grow. These tiny ocean plants of phytoplankton absorb large amounts of carbon dioxide during photosynthesis, helping reduce the carbon dioxide (CO₂) that goes into the atmosphere. Phytoplankton is the basis of the food chain for all ocean life. The tiniest creatures like krill depend on it for their food, and they in turn are the food source for larger organisms such as fish, penguins and other sea birds, on and on up the food chain!

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.

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Today's Word

WEALTHY

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

A	T	T	E	N	D	S	H	E	M	P	S	P	A	B	U	S	H	U
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T	O	S	S	I	T	E	E	G	T	A	L	I	A	S	O	I	S	E

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Advertisement courtesy of the West Virginia Daily News.

Sources: Grosse Pointe Historical Society, Hemmings,

SPORTS

This Week in Wrestling, Week 6: Nicholas County Dual, Inaugural Par Mar Stores Lady Blue Devil Invitational, and Allegheny Duals Tournament

By Rob Frank

The opening Shot

Week six of the 2025–2026 Greenbrier East Wrestling season is in the books. Nicholas County High School traveled to Greenbrier East for a home dual meet and celebration of Greenbrier East's graduating seniors. The women's team made the three and half hour drive to St. Mary High School for the Inaugural Par Mar Stores Lady Blue Devil Invitational. The men's team crossed the border into Virginia to participate in the Allegheny Dual Tournament.

The Week in Review

On Wednesday, Nicholas County High School came to Greenbrier East for a home dual meet and Senior Night celebration. We thank all of our supporters and fans who turned out for the meet. It was a large crowd full of energy. We cannot thank you enough for coming out to support our program. Greenbrier East won the meet by the score of 54-30. Way to go East.

There were many notable performances during the meet. Maya Frank earned two pins on the women's side, and Isabella Jones had an epic dual, finally winning by the score of 15-10. Six minutes may not seem like a long time until you are on the mat in a six minute battle against another exceptionally good wrestler. Way to hang tough Isabella. Sativa Dunbrack and Izzy Blankenship both wrestled on the men's side of the bracket acquitting themselves well. GEHS had wins all up and down its bracket including Hunter Holcomb, Sonny Herbert, Kaden Stone, Carter Webb, Mason Miller, Keegan Baron, Harrison Smith, and Cire Brown.

We must also acknowledge our seniors Kaden Stone and DeAndre Toliver. Each prepared a statement regarding the importance of wrestling in their lives and thanking those who helped them along the way. Kaden, thanking his parents, noted that he almost did not wrestle, only joining youth wrestling when basketball was not available. Basketball's loss was

wrestling's gain. DeAndre noted the impact of wrestling in his life, thanking Head Coach Davis Solak for always believing in him, and sticking with him. DeAndre noted "[i]n wrestling, circumstances change, but growth does not." A profound statement from a very bright young man. Coach Solak said of our seniors "both of the wrestlers are tremendous assets for the team and are excellent people."

GEHS Women's Division: At the Inaugural Par Mar Stores Lady Blue Devil Invitational, the women's team once again was down a wrestler due to injury, but still had a great tournament, placing sixth out of nineteen teams - a mere four points out of fourth place. Izzy Blankenship continued her winning ways, earning a second place finish in the 138 pound weight class, with only one loss on the day. Maya Frank also had one loss on the day, placing third in the 120 pound weight class.

GEHS Men's Division: Greenbrier East High School was the only West Virginia team to wrestle in the Allegheny Dual tournament in Covington, VA. GEHS finished fourth in the tournament. GEHS was part of a three way tie for second place; however, GEHS lost on tie-breaking criteria. When asked his impression of the tournament, Coach Solak commented, "I am extremely happy with the way they have been wrestling. They are starting to come together and step in for each other to win dual meets." All of the wrestlers had important wins. Past wrestlers of the week Kaden Stone and Harrison Smith were undefeated with a record of 6-0. Hunter Holcomb, in the last two dual meets has a record of 6-1.

Greenbrier East Wrestling Club (youth): A quality wrestling program must start with its youth wrestlers. The Eastern Greenbrier Wrestling Club traveled to Braxton County this weekend with twelve wrestlers! Congratulations to all for their hard work and dedication! The following wrestlers placed at this tournament. Open Division: Brayden -



Hunter Holcomb (Photo by A. Wisner)

4th, Camden - 3rd, Kellan - 2nd, Luke - 2nd, Weslan - 4th, Wyatt - 4th; Girls Division: Harper - 1st; Paisley - 3rd.

Sponsor Spotlight

We thank our week 6 tournament sponsors: Nicholas County Dual: Patriot Painting; Allegheny Duals Tournament DAI Developers; and the women's 185 pound weight class, the Fisher Family. Without the support of 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) - Elizabeth (Izzy) Blankenship

Greenbrier East High School's Week 6 Wrestler of the Week (Women's Division) is Izzy Blankenship.

Izzy is coming off of her second top two finish of the year, having earned First Place at the Fallen Heroes Tournament and Second Place at the Inaugural Par Mar Stores Lady Blue Devil Invitational. Izzy has a 9-4 record, including her matches against men. While losses are not always celebrated, hard fought battles should be. Izzy's match against a good male wrestler

at the Nicholas County dual meet showed her ability to match up well against any wrestler that steps on the mat against her. She will be wrestling for the varsity team in the upcoming Regional Dual Championship Qualifying Tournament. Izzy is known to many teams as one of the toughest wrestlers on the mat, and one of the most socially outgoing off of the mat.

In her own words:

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

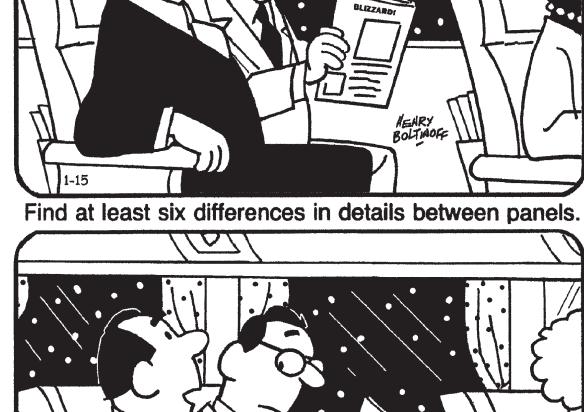
1) *Why wrestle?* Wrestling more than anything else helps build determination and requires constant growth. Wrestling gives me the skills to take on anything that comes at me in life and to keep growing in all circumstances.

2) *What are your primary goals as a person, a student, and an athlete?* As a person, I try every day to be better, and to do better. To make my home and my society a better place. As a student, my goal is to keep my grades high and be accepted into college. As an athlete and a wrestler, I want to continually improve, but I also want to be kind to others, to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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SPORTS



Izzy Blankenship (Photo by A. Taylor)

help them, and to form relationships. In wrestling I have formed friendships with numerous wrestlers from other teams.

3) *What contributes the most to your ability to achieve these goals?* The most valuable thing I have in achieving my goals is my interaction with other people and the relationships I form.

Carnegie Hall Mainstage Performance Series continues with 3 Redneck Tenors

Carnegie Hall's Mainstage Performance Series is delighted to present the musical comedy of the 3 Redneck Tenors on Friday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m. Guests are invited to come early for the free Club Carnegie Preshow Reception from 6 to 6:45 p.m. in the Board Room located adjacent to the Hamilton Auditorium. A cash bar and snacks are available.

The 3 Redneck Tenors are a new breed in the "tenor genre" - their musical comedy featuring classically trained veteran artists is like the Blue-Collar Comedy Tour goes to Carnegie Hall - down home laughs with big city music! It has been said that if Larry the Cable Guy, Il Divo, and Mrs. Doubtfire had a baby, that child would

be the 3 Redneck Tenors. Written by opera-veteran Matthew Lord with music arranged by award-winning composer Craig Bohmler, and starring Mr. Lord, Blake Davidson, and Sean Steele, the 3 Redneck Tenors were top finalists on "America's Got Talent" and have been thrilling audiences since 2004.

Matthew Lord is a native of California. He is recognized as a versatile performing artist whose stage work is consistently praised for its naturalness, intensity, and commitment. Mr. Lord also has performed with almost every major opera house in the U.S. and made his New York Metropolitan Opera debut in January 2004 in Boris Godunov and performed in Andrew Lloyd Weber's

Phantom of the Opera as Piangi in the Hamburg Germany production. He is a graduate of the prestigious Juilliard Opera Center.

Blake Davidson is an award-winning singer who has performed all over the world, and whose range of experience includes opera, symphony, and musical theatre. He has been presented in solo concerts at NYU, Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and the Tokyo Opera House. Mr. Davidson has sung with the Anchorage Opera and the Dallas Opera and is a featured soloist on the Dallas Symphony's Christmas CD. Early in his career he was seen off-Broadway at 2nd Stage, and as the ringmaster for the Shrine circus.

Born in Corpus Christi,



3 Redneck Tenors

TX, Sean Steele is known for his vocal versatility, easily able to float from Mozart to Sondheim to Diamond Rio and more. He's completed multiple degrees and had quite a bit of training, but it all started singing hymns and folk songs with his family. Sean made his NYC debut in Kinky Boots as the big and burly Don. Working with Cyndi Lauper might be the biggest highlight of his career! Sean can often be found in New York City singing at The Greenroom

42, 54 Below, and other cabaret clubs.

Get ready for one side splitting ride as we go on an excursion only the 3 Redneck Tenors could have had... delighting audiences with their vocal prowess and a smorgasbord of songs, ranging from Country to Broadway to Classical and everything in between!

Tickets are \$42/adult and \$20/student and only a limited number of tickets are still available. Thanks to the Carnegie

Cardinal Fund, Greenbrier County Students attend for free, but still must reserve a seat. Call to take advantage of the discounts that are available for Carnegie Hall members, students, senior citizens, and military.

To purchase tickets, call Carnegie Hall, visit www.carnegiehallwv.org, or stop by at 611 Church Street, Lewisburg. Carnegie Hall Box Office is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

BUSINESS

Sunset Berry Farms announces 2026 expansion

Growing with the community through SEED, agritourism, and new experiences in Alderson

Sunset Berry Farm is taking agritourism to a new level in 2026 with a bold, new mission to strengthen families, food security, and community resilience. After years of selling to the community, the farm is shifting toward a new approach: Sunset Berry Farm is no longer just selling to the community - it is growing with the community.

This transition is a direct response to changing needs across the region, including the soaring cost of living, job loss, rising electric bills, increasing housing instability, homelessness, and more multigenerational families living under one roof. At the same time, grocery prices continue to rise while the quality has declined.

"We're hearing it and seeing it every day," said Jennifer Gilkerson, founder of Sunset Berry Farm. "Families are trying to do more with less. They need affordable opportunities to grow food, learn life skills, and create income - while also having access to joyful, outdoor family fun."

Gilkerson added that many families are also losing gardens year after year due to deer damage, weeds, lack of irrigation, and limited access to equipment and support. "That's why it's crucial for farms with the right infrastructure and safeguards to partner with families," she said. "We want to give our community access to a successful garden system - with the safety nets, tools, and support that increase the odds of success."

Introducing SEED: Skills for Eating, Earning & Developing community

At the heart of Sunset Berry Farm's 2026 mission is SEED: Skills for Eating, Earning & Developing community - a community-driven initiative designed to help individuals and families build practical skills that increase food security, reduce costs, and create income opportunities through agriculture and entrepreneurship.

SEED is rooted in hands-on learning, shared resources, and local economic development - helping participants gain the tools needed to thrive in today's economic reality.

New Programs and Experiences Launching in 2026

1) Sprout Garden Club (Age 4-15). A monthly club for children featuring essential life skills through interactive farm learning. Members meet on the first Saturday of every month at 11 AM to learn about gardening, feeding chickens, collecting eggs, fishing, entrepreneurship, teamwork, and more, followed by active play in the new Adventure Farm Park.

2) Affordable Community Garden Rental Plots - Grow Extra, Earn Extra. A simplified gardening program designed for ease and accessibility, featuring deer-free fencing, raised beds, plastic mulch for weed suppression and water conservation, and automatic irrigation.

Participants can grow food for their families and also create income by selling or trading surplus through the on-site marketplace. The program is open to everyone, but folks within up to three hours of Alderson are encouraged to participate. Folks can plant and forget, then harvest and enjoy, since frequent trips to tend garden plots are not required.

3) Appalachian Marketplace (On-site). A social enterprise designed to bring together gardeners, entrepreneurs, and artisans to barter, trade, and sell products to one another and to the community. The marketplace supports a sustainable local food system and a thriving Appalachian economy built on connection and creativity.

4) Educational Field Trip Opportunities - "Find Leo the Lion" Farm Scavenger Hunt. New interactive educational tours guide students through farm stations that teach where food comes from, including irrigation systems, raised-bed production areas with plastic mulch, deer-exclusion fencing, pollination zones, chicken coops, fishing ponds, and more. The scavenger hunt also includes an Alderson history lesson tied to the legend of Leo the Lion, with the mission of finding him hiding somewhere on the farm.

5) Adventure Farm Park (Age 2 to 92). A family-friendly outdoor destination featuring a miniature zipline, giant bounce pad, working excavators, tractor-pulled rides, racing tracks, a huge Lego tunnel, and more. The park offers affordable recreation for families and opportunities for rest and wellness, including relaxing by the pond and optional chair massages.

Beginning in April 2026, Sunset Berry Farm will also host a Food Truck Festival on the first Saturday of every month (April-October), creating a consistent gathering space for the community.

The farm is actively seeking a diverse lineup of food trucks so guests can experience a variety of food cultures - along with traditional food truck favorites. Local ingredients and Appalachian regional foods will also be featured alongside classic food truck eats.

2026 Festival Highlights Include:

Food Truck Festival - First Saturday of Every Month (April-October)

April 4 - Food Truck Festival & Easter Egg Hunt

May 23 - Alderson Strawberry Festival

July 4 - Freedom Festival & Food Trucks

Aug. 1 - Monroe County Peach Festival

Aug. 22 - West Virginia Watermelon Festival

Sept. 5 - West Virginia Sunflower Festival

Oct. 3, 10, 17 & 24 - Food Truck Festivals + Spooky Tractor-Pulled Trail Rides

Registration Links:

- Sprout Garden Club Sign-Up: <https://grownbry.com/farms/sunset-berry-farm-produce-llc/shop>

- Community Garden: <https://grownbry.com/farms/sunset-berry-farm-produce-llc/shop>

- Educational Field Trip Registration: <https://sunsetfarm.ticketspice.com/2026-field-trip>

- Vendor Registration: <https://sunsetfarm.regfox.com/2026-vendor-registration-at...>

About Sunset Berry Farm:

Sunset Berry Farm is an agritourism destination in Alderson, WV, dedicated to strengthening families, supporting local food systems, and providing fun, affordable outdoor experiences for all ages. In 2026, the farm expands its mission through education, entrepreneurship, community gardening, and immersive family programming.

Sunset Berry Farm is co-led by Farmer Kent, a third-generation strawberry grower with roots in Fayette County, West Virginia. The farm is known for growing "the sweetest strawberries on the East Coast," according to customers, and has won the Sweetest Strawberry Contest at the State Strawberry Festival in Buckhannon multiple times.

In addition to strawberries, the farm grows peaches, watermelons, triple-sweet corn, green beans, pumpkins, and flowers, celebrating the richness of Appalachian agriculture through seasonal harvests and community events.

Family Refuge Center hosts annual tea party in celebration of International Women's Day

Family Refuge Center (FRC) is proud to announce its 4th Annual International Women's Day Tea Party, a community celebration honoring the achievements and leadership of women throughout the region. The event will be held at FRC's main office in Lewisburg on Friday, Mar. 6, at noon.

This annual gathering brings community members together to celebrate connection, belonging, and empowerment. Guests will enjoy a selection of teas and light refreshments while participating in a warm, welcoming event that uplifts the voices and accomplishments of women.

International Women's Day is recognized globally as a time to celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political contributions of women. FRC's Tea Party provides a meaningful space for attendees to reflect on progress, honor local women leaders, and reaffirm the community's commitment to gender equity.

"We are thrilled to host this event as part of International Women's

Day," said Stephanie Moore, Executive Director of Family Refuge Center. "It's a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the incredible accomplishments of women in leadership in our community and to reflect on the progress they have made."

FRC welcomes

community members, local businesses, and partner organizations to join in this celebration and show their support for women who lead, inspire, and strengthen our community every day.

To RSVP email t_y_r_a_n_d_a_m@familyrefugecenter.org or call the main office at 304-645-6324.



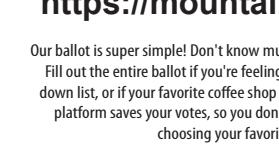
VOTE NOW!

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



Cast your votes from

December 28th to January 25th



More than 100 categories—from

• Steakhouse • Wineries • Pizzerias

• Event Centers • Law firms • Jewelry Stores

• Ice Cream Shops • and much more,

You can cast your votes in each Category

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

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

Fill out the entire ballot if you're feeling ambitious, or pick and choose among our categories. Select from our drop down list, or if your favorite coffee shop or spa isn't listed, write in your own winner. And, take your time. Our voting platform saves your votes, so you don't have to feel rushed. That means you can return to the ballot to continue choosing your favorites without worrying about any of your votes being lost.

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