



**State Fair
Art Contest**
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Dolls Sr**
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\$1.50

Mountain messenger

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

Greenbrier Humane Society releases 2025 impact report

By Sarah Richardson

The Greenbrier Humane Society (GHS) has released its 2025 Impact Report, which includes the numbers of animals served in the Greenbrier Valley area over the last year. According to the report, the shelter served a total of 1,307 animals in 2025, comprised of 387 dogs and 851 cats. An additional 69 dogs were taken in through Animal Control Officer intakes.

Outcomes for those animals included 605 adoptions, 379 transfers to rescue partners, and 46 reunifications with owners. Another 356 animals entered foster or foster-to-adopt homes. Overall, the organization reported a save rate of 91.28 percent, surpassing the nationally recognized 90 percent benchmark for no-kill shelters.

Medical care was a significant focus throughout the year. The Humane Society administered 2,842 vaccines, including rabies, distemper, and feline respiratory vaccines, and performed 2,420 diagnostic tests. Nearly 600 in-house spay and neuter surgeries were completed, along with additional surgical procedures. Staff also treated 27 puppies suffering from parvovirus, a highly contagious and potentially fatal disease.

GHS also worked to prevent animals from entering the shelter system altogether through its Responsible Pet Rehoming program, which saw 207 dogs and cats posted on their social media for rehoming. The shelter also issued 896 spay and neuter vouchers to help reduce unwanted litters in the community.

Food insecurity among pet owners remained a concern in 2025. The Humane Society distributed 19,735 pounds of pet food and supported six local food pantries.

As the organization looks ahead to 2026, Executive Director Mereda Doss and Shelter Operations Manager Jocelyn Clark stated, "As we look toward the year ahead, the need remains great - but so does our determination. With your continued support, we will keep strengthening the safety net for pets and people throughout Greenbrier County. Thank you for standing with us. Here's to 2026 - and to many more second chances."

Farmer's Market is offered a new home at Montwell Commons

By Sarah Richardson

The Montwell Community Market will open as a producer market soon at a new, dedicated location at Montwell Commons in downtown Lewisburg beginning with the 2026 season. Montwell Commons is an eight-acre tract that includes the historic Fort Savannah site, currently home to The Old Red Mill Tap-house and Grill, as well as Amy's Cakes and Cones. The market will be held on the center square in front of the Clingman Center building, an area that can accommodate more than 30 vendors and is equipped with ADA-compliant restrooms, WiFi, electricity, space for live music, a neighboring demonstration garden, parking, and other amenities.

According to the Montwell Commons website, the organization's mission is "to enhance the well-being of the community by providing a safe and attractive venue where people can connect in a social environment, have access to locally sourced healthy food, and participate in recreation and educational activities in a natural environment." Montwell Commons board member Florian Schleiff says hosting the farmer's market has long been central to that vision.

"I've been a board member for 12 years, and from the beginning we envisioned this as an ideal space for a farmer's market," Schleiff said. "We shared that vision with many people in the community and have now reached out to our original donors to help com-



The center square in front of the Clingman Center will be the new home of the Montwell Community Market starting this year.

plete the space with trees and a gazebo."

That long-term planning is already visible on the site. Several years ago, the board re-graded the sloped property into upper and lower levels to improve accessibility and poured a concrete circle in front of the Clingman Center for a future gazebo - steps taken with the farmer's market in mind.

The local Farmer's Market has experienced a period of moving to several different locations in recent years. Schleiff believes the move to a dedicated downtown location will ultimately benefit the farmers and producers who make the market possible. He emphasizes that vendor input has been, and will continue to be, essential to every decision.

"At the heart of this are the farmers and producers," Schleiff said. "We, the Montwell Commons board of directors, are stewards of this place and welcome farmers

See "Farmer's Market" ___ Page 3

Splatter & Sprout named West Virginia Hive's 2025 Startup of the Year

Greenbrier County mother and daughter offer youth creative arts

Splatter & Sprout in White Sulphur Springs was named the 2025 Startup of the Year by the West Virginia Hive, the entrepreneurial program of the New River Gorge Regional Development Authority (NRGRDA).

The mother-daughter team Brooke Kelley and Stephanie Braden, who created Splatter and Sprout - a creative play and art studio where children explore their environment through hands-on - open-ended experiences, were honored at the December 2025 Annual Awards Banquet and client showcase hosted in Beckley by NRGRDA/WV Hive.

In presenting the award, Devon Fitzgerald, a regional business advisor at the WV Hive, said, "Splatter & Sprout has quickly become a joyful and inclusive creative space for families in the Greenbrier Valley and surrounding areas. What began as a dream between a mother and daughter has grown into a thriving studio built around process-based art and sensory play - a place where children of all abilities can explore, experiment, and create without pressure."

Fitzgerald added, "Brooke and Stephanie overcame every challenge that comes with launching a first-time venture - securing a space, building an interactive studio from scratch, and designing programs that truly meet the needs of young learners. Since opening in August, they've hosted sold-out workshops, built a loyal and growing customer base, and created a community where creativity brings families together.

See "Splatter & Sprout" ___ Page 2



Accepting the WV Hive's 2025 Startup of the Year award for Splatter and Sprout are (left to right) co-founders Stephanie Braden, Brooke Kelley's daughter MerSadie, Brooke, with Devon Fitzgerald, regional business advisor at WV Hive.

(Photo of Splatter and Sprout Leaders courtesy of WV Hive / NRGRDA)

This Week in the House of Delegates

For the week ending Jan. 23, 2026

The West Virginia House of Delegates finished its first full week of the 60-day regular legislative session with seven House Bills having passed the full Chamber and been sent to the West Virginia Senate for deliberation.

"Nearly all our Delegates told us they wanted to double down on putting West Virginians to work because the best way we can fix so many other problems in our state is to help put as many West Virginians as possible to work in good-paying jobs," said House Speaker Roger Hanshaw, R-Clay. "These legislators have been consistent, focused and they have been hard at work having the necessary conversations to move these bills forward."

Many members of the House took time Wednesday during Trades Day at the Legislature to celebrate the success of the Skilled Trades Apprenticeship Nontraditional Degree (STAND) Program. The program allows those who complete their apprenticeships to apply their on-the-job and classroom training toward college credit. It was created during the 2024 legislative session

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(WV Legislature Photography by Perry Bennett)

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Greenbrier County Schools addresses enrollment-driven funding challenges

Greenbrier County Schools (GCS) is sharing information about enrollment and funding changes affecting the county's public schools and school systems across West Virginia.

Superintendent Jeff Bryant explains, "Greenbrier County Schools (GCS) is committed to keeping families, staff, and community members informed about the financial and enrollment factors affecting public education in our county and across West Virginia. We remain focused on transparency, responsible budgeting, and providing high-quality educational opportunities for all students."

Greenbrier County, like most West Virginia counties, has experienced a sharp drop in student enrollment over the last 10 years, losing around 750 students. Enrollment decreased by roughly 168 students this year. The number of students enrolled is the basis for West Virginia's state school funding formula. The decline in enrollment results in reduced state funding.

Public schools have suffered due to ongoing enrollment declines, the expiration of pandemic relief funds, and the state's outdated education funding formula, which has not kept pace with current needs. Additionally, the Hope Scholarship program is facilitating the transfer of more students from public schools to private, charter, or homeschool options, along with the public

and state financing that accompanies their enrollment. Several public schools in the state have had to close or consolidate due to enrollment and funding challenges.

County school systems rely on federal, state, and local money to operate and are required to comply with state laws governing budgeting, hiring, instruction, and school operations. These laws help ensure accountability for county school districts, but they do not apply to charter, private, or homeschool programs.

GCS Chief School Business Official Kasandra McClung states, "I always encourage people to contact us with any questions they have about how school funding works because it can be complicated. For example, Greenbrier County's school excess levy rate is 60%, while many counties have a 100% levy in place. In Greenbrier County, local levy funds support school safety, student support programs, the continuation of art and music programs, and several employee positions that are out of formula - meaning they are not covered by state funding. However, the levy funds do not cover all staffing needs outside the school aid formula - especially in large rural counties like ours."

Each year during personnel season, GCS reviews staffing levels. Some adjustments may be needed to align the number of employees with the number of students and the available funding.

Greenbrier County Schools understands that people may have questions about staffing changes during personnel season. These decisions are based on student enrollment and state funding requirements. The district follows a careful, state-guided process each year and works to limit disruptions for students. GCS has met the state's required minimum carryover threshold since 1996 and is expected to meet the requirement again this year.

Superintendent Bryant adds, "Personnel season is always challenging and sometimes requires very difficult decisions. Even as we face declining enrollment and the decreased funding ramifications that come with it, we remain committed to providing excellent educational opportunities for every student in Greenbrier County."

On behalf of the Greenbrier County Board of Education, School Board President Jeanie Wyatt states, "This board has a long history of strong financial leadership and making decisions that are in the best interest of students, staff, and the stability of our school system. The enrollment issue and decreased funding present real challenges for us, but we will continue working with Superintendent Bryant to ensure that our decisions are responsible and centered on what is best for our students and community."

Amid bad weather and office closures, Secretary of State Warner issues advice to possible candidates for May Primary Election

"Please don't wait until the last minute to file your candidate Certificate of Announcement," is the message that WV Secretary of State Kris Warner is sending loud and clear to citizens who are considering running for office in West Virginia's Primary Election scheduled for May 12. The same goes for county and local races in the state's 55 counties.

The deadline to become a candidate for statewide or judicial (other than magistrate) office is 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 31. Those candidates are able to file in person at the WVSOS office at the State Capitol, or either regional offices in Clarksburg and Martinsburg.

Candidates for a county office have until noon on Saturday, January 31, to file with the County Clerk at the

county courthouse, and candidates for municipal office have until the close of business on Friday, Jan. 30, to file at the town hall or city building.

More information on who has to file, where, and for what offices, can be found at GoVoteWV.com.

The recent weather has closed roads, businesses, and some in-person services at government agencies. Warner said that candidates who are waiting to file in person may want to consider mailing their Certificates of Announcement with the proper filing fee using the U.S. Postal Service, but to do so promptly to avoid potential delays.

"With the seriousness of the weather, candidates

should consider all of their options to be sure that they file before the deadline," said Secretary Warner. "And if they use the U.S. Mail, they should probably mail their forms and fees no later than this coming Wednesday."

Warner advised that mail dropped off at a post office one day may not be postmarked by the USPS on that day. He advised candidates to visit a post office while it is open and a postal worker is present to affix a postmark manually while the candidate is there. Candidate filings postmarked after January 31, or those with the wrong filing fee, cannot be accepted by law.

Candidates seeking more information should contact the WVSOS Elections Division at 304-558-6000.

Greenbrier Watershed seeks 2026 cleanup sites



A previous river cleanup. (Photo courtesy of Greenbrier Watershed)

Volunteers with the Greenbrier Watershed are asking for the public's input for sites along local waterways that need cleaned up. "We need your help! We are looking for areas in the Greenbrier River Watershed that needs trash picked up and tires pulled. Please - if you know of an area where we need to organize a cleanup and/or

get tires pulled out of the river, fill this Google form out. We are ready to schedule for 2026!" states Greenbrier Watershed on their social media.

Type this link into your web browser to access the Google form: <https://tinyurl.com/yczw7fma>

Splatter & Sprout

Continued from Front Page

Splatter & Sprout fills a real gap in our region, offering a sensory-rich environment that supports child development, confidence-building, and joyful learning. Their vision, perseverance, and passion for their community are exactly what we celebrate through this Startup of the Year award."

Nominees for the WV Hive Startup of the Year award are selected because they reflect a new business that embodies innovation, resilience, and community impact.

On Aug. 5, 2025, Kelley and Braden cut the ribbon and hosted a grand opening of Splatter & Sprout, 729 Main Street, East, White Sulphur Springs.

Kelley and Braden believe the WV Hive's small business assistance has made a tremendous difference. "We're truly thankful to Devon and the WV Hive for being such a bright light throughout our journey," said

Braden. "They have offered us the resources and guidance we needed and have always been ready to answer all of our questions. Their support helped us connect with the right people, and their encouragement has inspired us more than we can say."

Splatter & Sprout is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. More at https://www.facebook.com/people/Splatter-Sprout/61575860574065/?_rdr

WV Hive is the entrepreneurship program of the New River Gorge Regional Development Authority, serving Raleigh, Fayette, Summers, Nicholas, Webster, Greenbrier, Pocahontas, Monroe, Mercer, McDowell, Wyoming, Logan, and Mingo counties.

To learn more about the WV Hive, become a client, or book a tour of the new Business Hub, visit <https://wvhive.com>.

House of Delegates

Continued from Front Page

and funded during the 2025 session. The West Virginia Building and Construction Trades received the national Construction User's Roundtable Workforce Development Award for the program back in November and shared it with the House of Delegates this week.

"What we're seeing right now is a lot of young people are going straight into college," said Delegate Evan Worrell, R-Cabell, a sponsor of the STAND Program. "They're amassing a large amount of debt and then coming out still trying to find a job with whatever their degree program is.

"We have a slate of bills this year that sends a clear message of what we're here for, and that's to support workers, support fair competition, support local jobs and also making sure that we ensure accountability when taxpayer dollars are on the line."

The full house passed House Bill 4007, related to in-

dustrial access roads, Jan. 23, with only a few dissenting votes. The bill would update the 25-year-old program to account for inflation, doubling the amount of money a county or municipality could request within one year for industrial access road construction to help projects get completed faster.

House Bill 4008 also passed the full House Jan. 23. It is another measure aimed at flexibility for communities to cultivate right-sized and responsible economic growth in every corner of the state. The measure would expand the current grants to include 5-acre sites for grants of as much as \$75,000 in assistance, 20-acre sites for as much as \$100,000 and sites of more than 20 acres may be eligible for as much as \$250,000.

The last day to introduce bills is Feb. 17, and 798 bills have been introduced in the House. The 60-day, regular legislative session ends at midnight Mar. 14.

PICK OF THE LITTER



JENNY

Jenny is a one-year-old female terrier mix and weighs 32 pounds



PONG

Pong is a one-year-old female feist mix and weighs 32 pounds

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

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

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

Call 304-645-4775 for more information.

They also offer donation-based spay/neuter vouchers, and clinics are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. They use a lot of vets in the area but the clinics fill up fast! Fill out an application to help prevent animal overpopulation! Call 304-645-4775 for more information.

DON'T SHOP • ADOPT!

Briefly

Jack Goodman Memorial Scholarship Shooting Match

The Jack Goodman Memorial Scholarship Shooting Match will be held Saturday, 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.

Marriages

Jerika Faye Moore and Garrett Hayes Vandevender

Suits

New Cases from 1/14/26 to 1/21/26

New Civil Cases

Teresa Copeland v. Greenbrier Hotel Corporation d/b/a The Greenbrier Resort
Capital One, N.A., successor by merger to Discover Bank v. Christopher Delany

New Divorces

Justin Lyall Taylor and Brooke Rena Taylor
Toni Leigh Brown and Ryan Michael Brown
Michael Shannon Pinnell and Chyna Brooke Shiflett

New Cases from 1/21/26 to 1/28/26

New Civil Cases

Capital One N A Successor by Merger to Discover Bank v. Nina T Franklin
Credit Acceptance Corporation v. Cassandra Hunter
Capital One N A Successor by Merger to Discover Bank v. Aaron McCormack
Credit Acceptance Corporation v. Cynthia L Taylor
John Deere Construction & Forestry Company v. Michale Dale Brown

New Divorces

Katelyn Lynn McCoy and Dale Andrew Martin
Tabitha Lynn Withrow and Steve Eugene Withrow

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.

Farmer's Market

Continued from Front Page

and producers to the space we have created. We envision a place with music, art, a place focused on community and education."

To ensure vendors are actively represented, they plan to establish four vendor-designated seats within the market's governing structure. These positions will represent meat producers; agricultural and plant-based vendors; prepared food vendors such as coffee, bagels, and soup; and artisans.

"Each group will have a representative, and that representative becomes part of the market board" Schleiff explained. "Alongside them will be one or two Montwell Commons board members and one or two community members who are invested in the market. Decisions will be made together, by consensus."

It is anticipated that this board will meet monthly, or more often if needed, to address market operations and concerns. Schleiff stresses that listening to vendors is essential to the market's success. "We will make decisions as a group," he said.

The new location is also expected to improve accessibility for shoppers. "It's centrally located, so people can walk in from near the courthouse or while shopping downtown and just come down the hill," Schleiff said. "It feels like a good match."

All previous farmer's market vendors are encouraged to apply for space at the new location, and new local producers are also welcome. Vendor spots are limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Interested vendors can email farmersmarketatmontwell@gmail.com or call 304-992-2555 for more information.

The market's opening at Montwell Commons is scheduled to coincide with the Lewisburg Chocolate Festival on Saturday, Apr. 11, 2026.

For the Record

Deeds

Alice K. Lajolette (by AIF), Dearmond L. Arbogast, and Second Amended and Restated Revocable Trust Agreement of Alice K. Lajolette (by trustees) to Kim J. McCallister and Brenda E. Jude: 0.816 acres, White Sulphur District, Map 7 Parcel 11.

James L. Carroll to Edward Brackenridge: 1.5 acres with excepted and reserved, Quinwood District, Map 1 Parcel 0019.

Matthew W. Morgan and Amanda L. Asbury to Matthew L. Morgan: 85 acres, Irish Corner District, Map 11 Parcel 111.

Betty C. Vance to Michael Vance, Christopher Vance, and Patrick Vance: 100 x 438 x 100 x 450, Fort Spring District, Map 9M Parcel 10.

Christa L. Ogle to Zachary M. Ogle: 0.321 acres lot 9 block 1, Lewisburg District, Map 13G Parcel 9.

Glen R. Diehl and Twyla Diehl to Jallee Richmond and Chandler Jones: 10.92 acres, Falling Spring District, Map 66 Parcel 45.

Lanty C. Mullens to Laura Bennett and Jonathan Bennett: 2.09 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 47M Parcel 36.

Paul A. Witt and Laura Witt to Brandon L. Witt: 5 acres, Blue Sulphur District, Map 14 Parcel 0071.

John M. Wills to John M. Wills and Janet S. Wills: 26.501 acres and 7.89 acres, Williamsburg District, Map 7 Parcel 1.1.

Roger W. Kesterson and Marcia I. Kesterson to Roger W. Kesterson and Marcia I. Kesterson: 0.277, Lewisburg District, Map part of 29 Parcel part of 122.

Roger W. Kesterson and Marcia I. Kesterson to Roger W. Kesterson and Marcia I. Kesterson: 0.349 acres, Lewisburg District, Map part of 29 Parcel part of 122.

Glen R. Diehl and Twyla B. Diehl to Jallee Richmond and Chandler Jones: 10.92 acres, Falling Spring District, Map 66 Parcel 45.

Lanty C. Mullens to Laura Bennett and Jonathan Bennett: 2.09 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 47M Parcel 36.

Paul A. Witt and Laura Witt to Brandon L. Witt: 5 acres, Blue Sulphur District, Map 14 Parcel 0071.

John M. Wills to John M. Wills and Janet S. Wills: 26.501, and 7.89 acres, Williamsburg District, Map 7 Parcel 1.1.

Roger W. Kersterson and Marcia I. Kersterson to Roger W. Kesterson and Marcia I. Kersterson: 0.277 acres, Lewisburg District, Map part of 29 Parcel part of 122.

Roger W. Kersterson and Marcia I. Kersterson to Roger W. Kesterson and Marcia I. Kersterson: 0.349 acres, Lewisburg District, Map part of 29 Parcel part of 122.

Patsy J. Wood to Greg Skaggs: 150 x 300, Blue Sulphur District, Map 37J Parcel 0006.

William R. Leed and Diane L. Leed to Elam A. Leed, Emma Branch, Woody D. Leed, and Elijah J. Leed: 16.3 R/W, 0.35 acres, 24.898 acres, Falling Spring District, Map 51/52/52/52 Parcel 0008/0013/0014/0015.

John M. Gillenwater to Kristin Garman: 58.24 acres, Falling Spring District, Map 67 Parcel 28.

John M. Gillenwater to Zion Atkinson: 15 acres, Falling Spring District, Map 67 Parcel 37/35/34.

John E. Kyer and Mary H. Kyer to Sabrina Luikart: 4.45 acres, transfer on death deed, Anthony Creek District, Map 35B Parcel 44.

Ricky Heinbaugh Sr. and Jessica Baker to Ruh Roh LLC: lots 1-2, lot 15-16, block 22, Meadow Bluff District, Map 5 Parcel 22.24.

Stanley P. Bowden and Brittney B. Leonard to Kessler Real Estate Services LLC: lot 22 and part of lot 21, Meadow Bluff District, Map 5 Parcel 149.

Jebediah H. Corey and Rachel N. Coffman to Coco LLC: lot 15 Sunset Ridge, Blue Sulphur District, Map 24 Parcel part of 124.

Martha B. Wilson to Stephanie R. Jamison and Sara B. Wilson: 110 x 168, cons 3 tracts, part of lots 6 and 8 and lot 10, block 3, Lewisburg District, Map 29 Parcel 33.

Gov. Morrissey unveils 2026 West Virginia Vacation Guide

This week, Governor Patrick Morrissey unveiled the state's official travel magazine, the 2026 West Virginia Vacation Guide. He was joined by Secretary of Tourism Chelsea Ruby, legislators, and state tourism partners.

"The quality and usefulness of this guide is astounding," said Governor Morrissey. "From rich history and world-class outdoor recreation, to small businesses and amazing locals, it highlights every piece of what makes West Virginia truly special."

October alone brought more than 270,000 travelers to the Gorge, up from 215,000 the year before, a 25% increase, thanks to Governor Morrissey's efforts to keep national parks open during the Schumer shutdown. This follows a record-setting year where the state surpassed \$9.1 billion in annual tourism economic impact and over 77 million people in visitor volume.

"These numbers represent more than statistics," said Governor Morrissey. "They represent jobs, small businesses, and real opportunity in every corner of the Mountain State."

"Just when I think our Vacation Guide can't possibly get any better, it exceeds my expectations once again," said Secretary Ruby. "In just over a month, we've had nearly 81,000 pre-orders for the 2026 Guide, up more than 460% compared to pre-orders for last year's guide."

Request a free copy of this luxury Almost Heaven trip planner at wvtourism.com, and it will be sent directly to your doorstep. The new Vacation Guide will also be available for visitors at each of the state's welcome centers.

Andrew L. Stanley to Patch of Heaven Properties LLC: 5.742 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 9 Parcel 12.

Andrew L. Stanley to Patch of Heaven Properties LLC: 456.865 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 9 Parcel 12.1.

Matthew L. Mitchell and Jenna R. Mitchell Revocable Trust (by trustee) to Roclynd Land LLC: waiver of repurchase option, White Sulphur District, lot 129, Ridges phase VI, Map 22 Parcel 146.

Kenneth F. Daily (executor/beneficiary) to Fredrik E. Nelson III and Jessica H. Nelson: lot 4, Lewisburg District, Map 12 Parcel 101.

Romie Comer to Lennard G. Schleiff and Alexa Schleiff: 0.75 acres lot 4, Lewisburg District, Map 8 Parcel 0025 0003.

Cheryl H. Gum to Amanda L. Gum and Adam H. Gum: 21.543 acres, Anthony Creek District, Map part of 46 Parcel 11.1.

Cheryl H. Gum to Cheryl H. Gum: part of 42.82 acres and 21.543 acres, Anthony Creek District, Map part of 46 Parcel 11.1.

Jebediah N. Corey and Rachel N. Corey to Coco LLC: corrective deed, lot 15 Sunset Ridge, Blue Sulphur District, Map part of 24 Parcel part of 124.

Brandon J. Sears to Greenbrier Premier Rentals & Property LLC: corrective deed, 1.81 acres and 7.65 acres, and R/W, Map 6 Parcel 16.

Christina L. Hopkins to Christina L. Hopkins: 165 x 66, 66 x 82, or 0.125 acres, Alderson District, Map 6, 6 Parcel 0389, 0390.

Herman W. Farley to Gerald W. Farley, Nathaniel W. Farley, Ashly R. Farley, and Michael A. Farley: 0.82 acres, 350*100*370*102, lot 19, 7 acres, White Sulphur District, Map 23E, 23 Parcel 0052, 0018.

David J. Hunter and Kathy L. Hunter to Michael R. Hunter and Pamela L. Hunter: 26 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 65 Parcel 10.

My Ruby Slippers to Michale Donnally and Ruby Donnally: lots 160-161, Meadow Bluff District, Map 60L Parcel 72.

Randall Osborne to Kevin Jay Schiesz: 0.28 acres, Lewisburg District, Map 23F Parcel 18.

Matthew T. McMillion to Brett White and Carey White: 9.448 acres, Fort Spring District, Map 2 Parcel 0083 0000.

Cheryl H. Gum to Becky L. Childers and Jennifer D. Childers: 10 acres, 20.874 acres, part of 42.82 acre tract, Anthony Creek District, Map 46 Parcel 12, 11.1. Cheryl H. Gum to Becky L. Childers and Jennifer D. Childers: 20 & 35 acres, Anthony Creek District, Map 40 Parcel 43.

Grant County Bank to Salty Goat Investments LLC: 2.47 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 54C Parcel 0043 0000.

Chad Hefner to Richard W. Givens, Karen C. Givens, Jacob L. Givens, and Jessica L. Nicely: 61.95 acres, Anthony Creek District, Map 23 Parcel 5.

Richard Weinberg to Frank I. Weinberg: 8.52 acres, Falling Spring District, Map 38 Parcel 8.

Benjamin L. Plybon Jr. to Jennifer K. Penberthy and David R. Penberthy: 23.472 acres, Fort Spring District, Map 13 Parcel 42.

Trescabezas Trust (by co-trustees Andrea Kryszak and David M. Kryszak) to Joseph L. Osterman and Jennifer Osterman: 0.459 acres, Anthony Creek District, Map 22 Parcel part of 6.

Trescabezas Trust (by co-trustees Andrea Kryszak and David M. Kryszak) to Chad Hefner: 2.28 acres, Anthony Creek District, Map 22 Parcel 6.

Andrea Kryszak and David M. Kryszak to Richard W. Givens, Karen C. Givens, Jacob L. Givens, and Jessica L. Nicely: 3.53 acres, Anthony Creek District, Map 22 Parcel 2.

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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OBITUARIES

Patricia (Patt) Ann Barker-Legg



Patricia (Patt) Ann Barker-Legg loosened the tight shoe of life and stepped onward on her 78th birthday, Jan. 12, 2026. Born in Nettie, WV, she was the daughter of Lora Williams-Barker and Chris Barker - and her spirit never forgot those mountain roots.

She resided in North Carolina for the past two decades, where her reputation as a professional artist truly flourished. She treated creativity like a full-time calling. Patt was an artist to her bones - working primarily in oils, and sometimes in watercolor or acrylic with forays into sculpting - creative in the way some people breathe (constant, necessary, and with flair). Art was her life's work, her career, her lifelong mission, and the way she moved through the world leaving beauty in her wake. Her art left footprints up and down the East Coast and so did her joy: she was inspirational and friendly, an incredible hostess, a natural entrepreneur, and the life of the party with a spirit that could flip a bad day on its back. Her Phantom of the Opera - themed parties were the stuff of legend, equal parts spectacle, laughter, and love - the kind people talked about long after the last guest went home (you have been blessed if you had a chance to partake in her own self named cocktail, 'The Pattini')

Her homes were her living gallery - artful, welcoming, and styled with a warmth and beauty that made you feel instantly cared for. She gathered people the way she gathered ideas - everywhere she went - and she had friends, fans, art students, and kindred spirits who adored her and learned from her.

She loved her children even more - her kids were her everything. She is survived by her daughters, Michelle Smith-Jamison and Tammy Smith-Showell (spouse Michael Showell); her son, Gary Lee "Zeus" Smith (life partner Amanda Thompson); her stepchildren, Laurie Legg-Hedrick (spouse Gary Hedrick) and Clarence Andrew Legg (spouse Michelle Legg); grandchildren Jesse Jamison, Gabriel Jamison, Cassie McHale-Oso, Ezra Showell, Hunter Smith, and Imogen Smith; step-grandchildren Douglas Hedrick, Megan Hedrick-Brown, and Jessica Hedrick; and many step-great-grandchildren.

Patt was preceded in death by her mother and father, Lora Williams-Barker and Chris Barker; her husband, Clarence Kirwan Legg; and her brothers, Chris Barker and Roger Barker.

In lieu of flowers and in her honor, please support your local artists by buying a piece of their art. It made mom's day when someone supported her creativity.

A celebration of life event may be held at a later date.

Judy Carol (Alderman) Ramos



Judy Carol (Alderman) Ramos, 76, of Lewisburg, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026, at Peyton Hospice House in Lewisburg, with her family by her side. She was born on Nov. 18, 1949, in Charleston, WV, to the late Doctor Raymond Alderman and Jewell Audrey (Grimes) Alderman.

Judy was a homemaker and a baby-sitter. She attended Pocahontas County schools and was of the Christian faith. Judy enjoyed bowling, watching football, drinking her coffee, chatting with her loved ones on the phone, and had a special fondness for animals, especially her beloved fur baby Annie.

Survivors include her companion of 55 years, James Leonard Ramos, Sr. of Lewisburg; her sons, James L. Ramos, Jr. and his wife Becky, and Raymond Matthew Ramos both of Lewisburg; her daughters, Elizabeth Jewell "Liz" McCallister and her husband Aaron, of Lewisburg, Rebecca G. Vandall and her husband Jeremy, of Crawley; her 15 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and several loving nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her sister Clara Frye.

Family and friends are welcome to attend a memorial visitation at Lobban Funeral Home, 205 South Monroe St., Alderson, WV, on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Condolence and memories may be shared with the Ramos family at www.lobbanfh.com

Lobban Funeral Home is honored to be entrusted with the arrangements.

Nell Geneva Sue Boothe



Nell Geneva Sue Boothe, 90, of Greeneville, TN, formerly of Frankford, WV, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026.

Born on May 15, 1935, in Frankford, WV, Geneva was the cherished daughter of the late Joseph Lee and Virgie Lee Dolan Meredith. She was known for her love of shopping, her joy in baby-sitting, her passion for reading books, and her fondness for word search puzzles. Geneva and her late husband, Murl Dean Boothe, were often seen as the beloved "front porch sitters" of the Frankford community, sharing stories and welcoming neighbors with warmth and kindness.

In addition to her husband and parents, Geneva was preceded in death by all of her siblings and her son-in-law, Clifford "Tinker" Banton.

She is survived by her loving family: her son, Calvin Boothe (Erica); her daughter, Drema Banton; her granddaughter, Tia Salyers (Jamie); and her great-grandchildren, Austin Gilley (Jamie), Beau Gilley (Laura), Audrina Edwards, and Grady Gilley. Geneva is also remembered by her special great-nephew, Dr. Paul Dale Dietz, as well as several nieces and nephews who will cherish her memory.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 31, at Morgan Funeral Home Chapel, with Pastor Vince Deeds officiating. Friends and family are invited to a visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 30. Burial will follow the service in Rosewood Cemetery, Lewisburg, WV. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to her church, Susong Memorial Church, 1416 Susong Memorial Road, Greeneville, TN 37743.

Those who wish may leave condolences and sign the online guestbook at www.morganfh.net. Arrangements are entrusted to Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV.

Geneva's gentle spirit, loving heart, and welcoming presence will be dearly missed by all who knew her. Her legacy of love and kindness will continue to live on in the hearts of her family and friends.

Kathy Sue Porterfield Bailey



Kathy Sue Porterfield Bailey, 70, of Frankford went to her heavenly home on Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026. She is once again with her beloved husband, Elwin.

Born Nov. 2, 1955 in Alleghany County, VA, she was the daughter of the late Haskell and Louella Boone Porterfield.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Elwin in 2021 and a brother, Wayne Porterfield.

Kathy was an employee of The Greenbrier Hotel for 49 years and a member of the Ronceverte Christian Church.

She is survived by a sister, Patty Byer and husband Roger, a brother, Ronnie Porterfield and wife Jeanie all of Covington, VA, sister-in-law, Kathy Sampson and husband, Vance of Lewisburg and brother-in-law, David Bailey and wife, Dawn of Statesville, NC; a niece, Melissa Byer and fiancé, Jason Craft, nephew, Timmy Byer and wife Summer, niece, Leslie Podsiadlik and husband, Kenny; great-nieces, Mallory Podsiadlik and (Gus Graham) and Madelyn Podsiadlik, niece, Nikki Bailey and son, Caden Benfield, niece, Lynda Allen, nephew, David Bailey, II and a great niece, Rhannon Cook and husband, Evan.

A visitation will be Friday, Jan. 30, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg. Funeral will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31, at the funeral home with Pastor Cliff Stone officiating. Burial will follow in Rosewood Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Timmy Byers, Shawn Withrow, Joey Deem, Conley Deem, Dennis Bittinger, and Adam Bittinger.

In lieu of flowers, donations of sympathy may be made to Greenbrier County Humane Society or Ronceverte Christian Church.

Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com

Betty Lou Hinkley



Betty Lou Hinkley, 69, of Alderson, passed away unexpectedly at home on Jan. 26, 2026. She was born on May 13, 1956, in Hinton to the late James Paul and Gloria Bell (Ward) Hodge.

Betty was a 1974 graduate of Talcott High School. She was a loving mother, grandmother, and friend. She always put her family and those in need ahead of her own needs.

Other than her parents, Betty was preceded in death by her son William Joseph Hinkley and daughter Christy Hinkley.

She is survived by her daughter Carrie Hinkley; son Tristan Hinkley; sisters Patricia Hodge, Pam (Wayne) Wilson, Debra Hodge; and brother Lewis Hodge.

There will be no services as cremation will take place.

The directors and staff of Alderson Funeral Services and Smathers Funeral Chapel are honored to care for Betty and her family during their time of need.

Online condolences may be made at www.smathers-funeralchapelinc.com

Peggy Lee Loudermilk



Peggy Lee Loudermilk, 93, formerly of Frankford, South Charleston, and Morgantown, WV, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2026, at her residence in Morgantown following an extended illness.

She was born on Sept. 4, 1932, in Spring Creek, WV, a daughter of the late Fred and Gladys Neal Henning Loudermilk.

Other than her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Ralph Loudermilk of Covington, VA, and her sister, Juanita Hodges (John) of Ronceverte, WV.

Peggy was a proud graduate of Frankford High School in 1949 and attended Henning Church of God. While in school, she was the Vice President her senior year, the An-

nual Literary Editor, and won poetry contests.

While living in the Lewisburg and Frankford area, she started her working career at Richmond Flowers in Lewisburg, then began her banking career at Greenbrier Valley Bank. Peggy moved to Charleston and continued her banking career, retiring from BB&T many years later.

Peggy was known by all for her love of fashion, cooking, entertaining, and WVU football. She will be remembered for making the absolute best lasagna and her famous cheese balls every Christmas for her family. Those recipes, and many more, will be continued as holiday traditions. She loved literature, travel, gardening, singing, and dancing.

Peggy is survived by her daughter, Connie Stone (Jim); grandson, Adrian Stone (Gayle); granddaughter, Katie Green (Bella); and two great-grandchildren, Scarlett and Madeline, all of Morgantown, WV; sister-in-law, Norma Loudermilk of Christiansburg, VA; and many loved cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Funeral services for Miss Loudermilk are scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 1, at 2:30 p.m. at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg with Pastor Robert "Rick" Hefner officiating. Interment to follow in Rosewood Cemetery in Lewisburg.

The family will receive family and friends from 1:30 p.m. until time of services on Sunday, Feb. 1.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests that memorial contributions to Henning Church of God, 3399 Vago Road, Frankford, WV 24938.

Gary Lynn Glover



Gary Lynn Glover, 68, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026, at the Lindsides Healthcare Center in Lindsides, WV. Born Apr. 24, 1957, in White Sulphur Springs, WV, he was the son of Joyce Ann Glover of Gap Mills, WV, and the late Ira Bailes Glover. Gary was someone who never met a stranger and loved everyone. He enjoyed welding for Job Corp and loved animals. He was a beloved son, brother, uncle, and friend.

In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by one sister, Rebecca "Becky Helms.

In addition to his mother, survivors include three brothers, Darrell Wayne Glover and Beverly of Gap Mills, WV, Richard "Dean" Glover of Union, WV, and Larry Keith Glover and wife Lydia of Lexington, NC; one sister, Cheryl Ann Clarkson and James E. "Jimmy" Jackson of Union, WV; nephews, Kevin Glover of Gap

Mills, WV, Justin Glover of Lewisburg, WV, Christopher S. Glover of Gap Mills, WV, and Ronnie Helms of Reedsville, WV; nieces, Sheila Sanner of Rock Camp, WV, Shannon Parker of Union, WV, Miranda Glover and L'Oreal Glover of Lexington, NC.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the funeral home to help with Gary's funeral expenses.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 3, at Groves-Mann Funeral Home in Union, WV, with Pastor Michael Neel officiating. Burial will follow in Carmel Cemetery in Gap Mills, WV. Visitation will be held from 12 noon until time of services at the funeral home.

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

James Richard Ward



James Richard Ward, 87, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 25, 2026, at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center in Ronceverte, WV. Born Dec. 23, 1938, in Union, WV, he was the son of the late Stewart and Nannie Reynolds Ward. He retired as a supervisor for the WV Department of Highways. He was also a long-time farmer who enjoyed the old ways of farming. He attended the New Lebanon Presbyterian Church. He was a great storyteller and a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend who will be missed by all who knew him.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his daughter, Deborah Dunbar; an infant child; and two sisters, Virginia Miller and Wanda Pence.

Survivors include his loving wife of 68 years, Patricia Hoke Ward; one daughter, Sandra Arthur; son-in-law, Danny Dunbar; granddaughter, Nikki Weikle and husband Josh; step grandchildren, Danny Dunbar Jr. and wife Autumn, and Melody Spence and husband Danny; great-grandchildren, Jaxson and Kinley Weikle; step-great-grandchildren, Zach East, Danni Dunbar, Ireland Dunbar, and Rogan Dunbar; and several nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 2, at Groves-Mann Funeral Home in Union, WV, with Pastor David Deskins officiating. Burial will follow in Oak Grove Cemetery on Gates Road, Union, WV. Visitation will be held from 12 noon until time of services on Monday.

Continued on Page 5

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Club & Church

Commentary

WV physician organizations issue joint statement opposing House Bill 4715

A coalition of West Virginia physician organizations issued a joint statement recently opposing House Bill 4715, legislation that would expand the independent scope of practice for non-physician providers in the state. The joint statement was released by the West Virginia State Medical Association, West Virginia Osteopathic Medical Association, West Virginia Academy of Family Physicians, and several others.

In their statement, the organizations caution that similar scope expansion policies enacted in other states were frequently promoted as solutions to access challenges, particularly in rural and underserved areas. However, repeated analyses show those policies did not improve access to care, while being associated with higher health care utilization and increased overall costs, driven by greater emergency department use, additional imaging and testing, and more referrals, all without improved patient outcomes.

The organizations emphasized that West Virginia's health care system already operates with little margin for additional inefficiency or risk, and that any policy changes affecting how care is delivered must be evaluated not only for cost implications, but for their impact on clinical oversight, care coordination, and patient safety, particularly in complex and high-acuity settings.

The statement contrasts these outcomes with evidence supporting physician-led, team-based care, which has consistently demonstrated lower emergency department use, better care coordination, and lower total costs, especially for patients with complex medical needs. Removing physician leadership from the care team, the organizations note, undermines accountability and places

additional burden on hospitals and emergency departments.

While reaffirming strong support for collaborative models in which physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants work together to care for patients, the organizations stressed that eliminating physician leadership does not expand access and does increase cost and system burden. The coalition urged lawmakers to reject House Bill 4715 and instead focus on evidence-based solutions shown to improve access, including telehealth expansion, physician workforce recruitment and retention, loan forgiveness for rural practice, and residency training programs tied to service in West Virginia.

"West Virginians deserve health care policies grounded in evidence – policies that protect patient safety, control costs, and strengthen access to care," the organizations said in their joint statement.

...

The West Virginia State Medical Association (WVSMA) is the largest physician-led organization in the state, representing physicians and medical students across all specialties and practice settings. WVSMA advocates for policies that promote high-quality, patient-centered care; protect patient safety; and support a sustainable health care system for all West Virginians.

The West Virginia Osteopathic Medical Association (WVOMA) represents osteopathic physicians and medical students throughout the state. WVOMA is dedicated to advancing osteopathic medicine, supporting physician-led, team-based care, and promoting policies that ensure safe, effective, and coordinated health care for

West Virginia patients.

The West Virginia Academy of Family Physicians (WVAFP) proudly represents nearly 1,000 members across the state, as its largest physician specialty medical association, including active physicians, retirees, residents, and medical students. Its members serve as a key foundational piece of primary care in West Virginia, providing comprehensive, patient-centered care in communities large and small.

Church Bulletin

First Baptist Church of Rainelle Food Pantry - 2026 Saturday distribution schedule

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

Obituaries

Continued from Page 4

James Richard Ward obituary continued

day at the funeral home.

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

Joseph Lynn Knight



Joseph Lynn Knight Sr., 66, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026, at Peyton Hospice House in Lewisburg, WV. Born Nov. 28, 1959, in Bristol, TN, he was the son of the late Sidney Irving Knight Sr. and Patsy Mae Furrow Knight. Joseph was a retired truck driver who loved spending time outdoors and reading his newspapers. He was a beloved father, brother, and friend.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Sidney "Chip" Knight Jr. of Fredericksburg, PA, and Alvin Knight of Covington, VA; and two nephews, Travis Brown and Taylor Brown of Louisville, KY.

Those left to cherish his memory include one son, Joseph Lynn Knight, Jr. and fiancé Tiffany Lynn Callis of Peterstown, WV; siblings, Thomas Knight of Union, WV, Teresa Knight of Hinton, WV, Della Knight of Union, WV, Carla Easterling of Hinton, WV, and Randy Knight and Connie Cozort of Peterstown, WV; special friends, Bob and Pam Trent of Fort Meyers, FL; and his special dog, Teenie.

In keeping with Joseph's wishes, he will be cremated. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN Donation).

Those wishing to send online condolences or would like to sign the online guestbook, please do

so by visiting www.grovesmann.com. Arrangements by Groves-Mann Funeral Home, Union, WV.

Patricia "Pat" Ann Robinson VanDyke



Patricia "Pat" Ann Robinson VanDyke, 79, of Ronceverte, WV, went home to be with the Lord on Friday, Jan. 24, 2026, while surrounded by family and friends.

Born on Nov. 15, 1946, in Oak Hill, WV, Pat was the daughter of the late Claude and Wanda Robinson.

Pat was a well-loved housewife and mother who enjoyed raising Dorset sheep with her family. She loved attending the State Fair of WV where she worked with Jim as sheep superintendents for 47 years. Nothing made her happier than being a wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two of her beloved children Kevin VanDyke of Ronceverte, WV, and Deitra VanDyke Riggs of Valrico, FL, in-laws Henry and Ella Connell of Ronceverte, sister-in-law, Pat Dore of Sinks Grove, WV, and many more family and friends.

Those to cherish her memories are husband of 60 years, James "Jim" VanDyke of Ronceverte, WV; son, Chris (Lisa) VanDyke of Ronceverte, WV; grandchildren, Jessica (Gary) McBurney of Ronceverte, WV, Colton (Autumn) VanDyke of Renick, WV, Lexi (Jared) First of Tampa, FL, and Kolbie Ashman of Tampa, FL; great-grandchildren, Carter McBurney, Easton McBurney, Landon VanDyke, Brynlee McBurney, Reagan VanDyke.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, Jan. 31 at Mt. Pleasant Community Church in Sinks Grove, WV. Visitation begins at 1 p.m. with the service to

follow at 2 p.m. Pastors Freddie Bostic and Mike Teubert will be officiating.

Arrangements by Groves Mann Funeral Home in Union, WV.

Gerald Dean Hall



Gerald Dean Hall, 78, of Ronceverte, passed away Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026 at White Sulphur Springs Center.

He was born Nov. 11, 1947 at Ronceverte, WV, a son of the late John Walker Hall and the late Catherine Frances Howard Hall.

He was a devoted Christian, was a retired Carpenter and was a Vietnam Army Veteran.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 50 years, Mary Jane Camp-

bell Hall on Nov. 26, 2016 and 10 brothers and sisters.

Those left to cherish his memory are two sons, Dean S. Hall of Ronceverte and Robert G. Hall of Morganton, NC; five grandchildren, Joshua Dean Hall of Ronceverte, Jacob E. Hall of Natural Bridge, VA, Alexavier T. Hall of Portsmouth, OH, Ryan Hall of Weirs Cave, VA and Emily M. Thornton Virginia; also surviving is a sister, Polly Brammer of Ronceverte and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6, at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg, with Pastor Joey Morgan officiating. Burial with Military Honors will follow in Adwell Cemetery, Ronceverte.

A visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the funeral home in Lewisburg.

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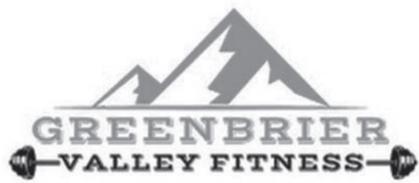
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Dear Recycle Lady



Dear Recycle Lady,

Why is West Virginia using beet juice to pretreat roads before the icy conditions arrive?

Puzzled

Dear Puzzled,

Beet juice is an environmentally friendly additive to the salt brine that the WV Department of Transportation (WV DOT) uses to pre-treat highways before a big snowstorm. They experimented with its use last year and found that an 80%-20% mixture of salt brine and beet juice is effective at near-zero temperatures, whereas just salt brine alone is effective only in the 15-to-20 degree range. While beet juice is more expensive up front than salt brine, according to Highway Engineer Jacob Bur-

garner, the mixture of beet juice with salt brine does less damage to the roads, so it actually saves money. In 2025, WV DOT spent more than \$19 million on snow removal and ice control.

Dear Recycle Lady,

When it snows, the man clearing my driveway uses a chloride mixture of ice melts to clear away the snow and ice. I've heard that these ice melts can be hazardous for my dog. Why are pet-friendly ice melts better for pets than some of the other mixtures?

Concerned for My Dog

Dear Concerned for My Dog,

There are several different kinds of ice melts. These may contain sodium chloride, potassium chloride, calcium chloride or magnesium chloride, all of which can be highly toxic to dogs according to PetMD.com. Magnesium chloride is considered more earth and pet-friendly because it contains less chloride than the others. Other pet-friendly ice melts are urea-based/glycol mixtures with no chloride salts. According to PetMD.com, there are three main potential health problems that can occur if your pet is exposed to ice melts. The first issue is irritation of your dog's skin, paw pads, eyes, mouth, and nose. Whenever you walk your dog on sidewalks or the road in the winter, wipe off its feet, making sure to clean between the toes and around their central paw pad. Paw wax and booties are available to help with this - if your dog will wear them! The second issue is gastrointestinal, such as drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain and bloating that can be caused by a large amount of ingested ice melt. If you think your pet has ingested ice melt call the Pet Poison Helpline at 855-764-7661. They have toxicology experts to help determine potential risk and if your pet needs to be seen by a veterinarian. The

third concern is neurologic. Typically walking through ice melt will not cause neurologic issues. However, be concerned if your dog ingests a large amount of ice melt from the bag. This can result in behavioral changes, such as seizures, weakness, unsteadiness, and coma. See your veterinarian immediately.

Dear Recycle Lady,

Does the Greenbrier Recycling Center recycle old cell phones?

Updating My Phone

Dear Updating My Phone,

Yes, old cell phones can be recycled at the Recycling Center with electronics. When you are at the Recycling Center go to the door for aluminum cans and put the phone in the yellow basket by the door. According to www.Earth911.com, for every million cell phones recycled, 3,500 lbs. of copper and 75 lbs. of gold can be recovered and reused. Plus, when electronics are recycled not only are valuable resources recycled, but toxic materials are disposed of properly and e-wastes are reduced.

Good News: Cold, salty water is denser than warm water, so it sinks and flows downward along the seafloor like a waterfall. Some of these underwater waterfalls are even taller than Niagara Falls! These hidden waterfalls play an important role in ocean circulation and help move heat and nutrients around the planet.

Kudos to the Recycle Center for recycling 888 TONS of recyclables, donated by the fantastic, caring citizens of Greenbrier and Monroe Counties!

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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SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Caramel;
2. Code;
3. Inside;
4. Inept

Today's Word

INCOME

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

ENTITLED	PEERAT	PSALMS
LEASHES	ALTARS	STREET
MAJORAPPLIANCE	ARMADA	
A FAR	ALDO	APSOS
OREOS	NOW	BLAIRWITCH
HEATHFAMILY	ALMOST	
AMSTEL	TOED	OAK
RAY	DUST	BROWNMUSTARD
APAR	IAMS	NEE
ENIGMA	ENT	AWARDER
BRITISHPRIMEMINISTERS		
EASTERS	TDS	ONTIME
NYTOL	AYE	UPTO
JOHNSONGRASS	ONEG	FIN
INE	PEI	SUEZ
APIARY	EDEN	PRAIRIE
MAYBEETLES	EER	NOELS
ADULT	EKES	TEED
RECOIL	CHURCH	ILLDOWNS
ALCOTT	PALLOR	IMADEIT
TEAMED	OWLETS	MODESTY



Photo from the National Register Nomination.

By William "Skip" Deegans

Sitting on a hill between Caldwell and White Sulphur Springs is the forlorn-looking Mountain Home. Completed in 1835 for the Robert Dickson family, this Fed-

eral/Greek Revival home has been a Greenbrier County landmark. The son of an Irish immigrant, Dickson was enterprising and he prospered. In addition to the farm, he was involved in other business ventures. With 30 slaves, he was one of Greenbrier County's largest slave owners who bought, sold, and rented them. As tourism grew in Greenbrier County, the Dickson family capitalized on it and built cottages where guests could stay for costs lower than those at area resorts. Some guests would stay for weeks - even months - at a time. The Dicksons bought, sold, and kept horses that were used to conduct trail rides for their guests as well as guests at The Greenbrier Resort. The home and 500-acre farm remained in the Dickson family for nearly 200 years before property began to be sold in the 1960s.

Over the years, there have been plans for repurposing the house. In the 1980s, some Lewisburg business people purchased it with the idea of turning the house into a restaurant. Their plans included restoring the bridle trails that would allow guests at The Greenbrier to ride or travel by horse-drawn carriages to the restaurant for meals and afternoon teas. Alas, those plans never materialized and the house continues to deteriorate. The house and about 20 acres are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Source: National Register Nomination forms (1980, 2019); Greenbrier Pioneers and Their Homes by Ruth Woods Dayton.

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SPORTS



The GEHS Wrestling Team. Photo by Frank Lusher, Cardinal Photography.

This Week in Wrestling, Week 7: Region 3 State Dual Championship Qualifying Tournament

By Rob Frank

The opening Shot:

Week seven of the 2025 – 2026 Greenbrier East Wrestling season is in the books. This week was the week of the important Region 3 State Dual Championship Qualifying Tournament. Because of the importance of this tournament, both the men and women of the team were needed to compete, and the women wrestled in the dual qualifier rather than the Cornelious Godfrey Memorial Tournament. The contributions of all of the GEHS wrestlers (men and women) were essential to the success achieved by the team at the tournament.

The Week in Review:

On Friday and Saturday, Jan. 16 and 17, GEHS wrestled in the Region 3 State Dual Championship Qualifying Tournament. This tournament determined who would represent Region 3 in the prestigious State Dual Championship Tournament to be held Feb. 7, 2026 at the State Fairgrounds in Fairlea. The ten teams in Region 3 include wrestling powerhouses Riverside High School, Woodrow Wilson High School, George Washington High School, and Oak Hill High School, as well as Capital High School, Princeton High School, South Charleston High School, and Saint Albans High School.

In the Region 3 Dual Championship Qualifier, GEHS achieved a record of seven wins and two losses, earning a fourth place finish. En route to the fourth place finish, GEHS upset the eventual tournament Champion Riverside High School by the score of 39 to 36. While GEHS did not qualify for the State Dual Championship Tournament, our team wrestled well.

A wrestling dual meet is scored by totaling individual team points earned from each match, with the higher total score winning the competition. Points are awarded based on the margin of victory: Pins, forfeits, and defaults earn six points; technical falls earn five points; major decisions (win by 8–14 points) earn four points; and decisions (win by 1–7 points) earn three points. In this scoring system, each individual match, and the points scored in each individual match, are essential to a win. Even a three point win can mean the difference between winning and losing a dual.

As an example, in the dual versus Riverside High School– the eventual first place team - GEHS was behind by a team score of 33 to 36 going into the last match of the dual. Heavyweight wrestler Harrison Smith stepped onto the mat needing a win to tie the match and needing at least a major decision to win. His Riverside opponent was ranked No. 4 in the state. A loss by Harrison would mean GEHS would lose the dual. Talk about pressure! Harrison was down 3 – 0 at the end of a hard fought first period. At the beginning of the second period, the Riverside wrestler escaped, scoring one point for a 4 – 0 lead. Harrison immediately scored a three point takedown of the Riverside wrestler, making the score 4 – 3. Harrison knew he needed the win for the team. Shortly after the takedown, Harrison pinned Riverside's

wrestler, winning the match, beating the fourth ranked wrestler, scoring six team points, and winning the dual against the eventual Regional Champion by the score of 39 to 36. Every wrestler and every match counts, and the pressure faced by these young men and women in these tournaments are part of the unique way in which wrestling builds character.

Part of the calculus wrestling coaches must consider in a dual meet is how to best position the individual matches to ensure team points. This requires that wrestlers sometimes wrestle up a weight class, or that the wrestler competing in a given weight class may change from match to match to take advantage of matchups against a given team or wrestler. As teams often do not disclose their lineups until a given wrestler steps on the mat, coaches must know and anticipate how another team will manage their lineup. In the Region 3 Dual Qualifier, Coach Solak and Coach Smith spent hours evaluating each team's rosters to best position Greenbrier East wrestlers for individual and team success in the dual.

This was a full team effort, with each wrestler scoring points necessary to win. Kaden Stone led all scoring, going undefeated 9 – 0 and scoring 53 team points, followed by Harrison Smith and Mason Miller, (each with eight wins and one loss) who scored 48 team points apiece. Maya Frank followed in the point totals with a tournament record of six wins and three losses, scoring 36 team points. Freshman Hunter Holcomb continued his successful season also earning a 6 – 3 record and scoring 36 team points. Kane Frank earned a 7 – 2 record and scored 34 team points; Carter Webb scored 33 team points; Keegan Barron scored 20 team points; Makaylee Bennett, Owen Edwards, and James Stewart each scored 18 team points; Elija Sherman and Izzy Blankenship each scored 12 team points; Austin Shockley scored 11 team points; and Hannah Gill and Ava Taylor each scored 6 team points, contributing valuable team points to the win. From the top to the bottom of the roster, the most experienced wrestler to the newest, from both the men and women, the team pulled together to compete.

The coaches, wrestlers, parents, supporters, and sponsors of Greenbrier East High School Wrestling congratulate the Tournament Champion Riverside High School and Runner Up Woodrow Wilson High School. Both will represent Region 3 at the West Virginia State Dual Championship. We wish them the best of luck and cannot wait to welcome them to Greenbrier County for the tournament. We also congratulate Oak Hill High School on its third place finish.

Wrestler of the Week – The Entire GEHS Wrestling Team

Sometimes a team win, and the way a team works together to achieve it, is noteworthy in itself. In the most important dual tournament of the year, the GEHS team pulled together to earn a 7 – 2 record and upset the tournament champions. Scoring contributions came not only from the team's state ranked wrestlers, but also from the newest and least experienced members of the team. The

teamwork and sacrifice seen every day in practice was evident in the tournament.

In the Coach Solak's own words:

We asked Head Coach Davis Solok about the win. Here are his responses:

1) What is the importance of winning duals?

Wrestling is both an individual and a team sport. Too often, people don't appreciate the team aspects. In a dual format, wrestlers need to wrestle for each other, for the team, and for their community. The effort of every wrestler, at every weight class, is necessary to win. When we work as a team we can see what each wrestler is capable of individually, and what we are capable of as a team.

2) What strategies go into planning for a winning dual?

One of the most important aspects of winning a dual is having multiple wrestlers at each weight class to move as chess pieces to take advantage of matchups and holes in another team's roster. It was essential that we had our women and JV wrestlers at the tournament to capitalize on opportunities presented by how other teams managed their own rosters. This required our wrestlers to sometimes wrestle at higher weights and in different circumstances than they would in a normal tournament.

3) What are the strengths of the GEHS wrestling team?

Our team has leadership from high level and ranked wrestlers such as Kaden Stone, Mason Miller, Harrison Smith, Maya Frank, Izzy Blankenship, and Makaylee Bennett. But we also have a core of young and improving wrestlers. Kane Frank and Keegan Barron may be the most improved wrestlers on the team, showing improvement from year to year. We have younger wrestlers such as Hunter Holcomb, Carter Webb, and Sativa Dunbrack who are already competing to win tournaments. We have a strong core of young wrestlers learning and growing in the sport. I could go through our entire roster and name each wrestler and the contributions they make and how they benefit the team. The point is that each of these wrestlers work together to make each other, and the team as a whole, better.

4) Why is the "Wrestler of the Week" the entire team?

This weekend was a total team effort. The 7 – 2 record and fourth place finish were not the result of one wrestler, but an entire team. You cannot pinpoint one or two wrestlers responsible for the win. In a dual, the 6 points scored by Ava Taylor and Hannah Gill can be just as valuable as the 53 team points scored by Kaden Stone (ranked 3rd in the state), the 48 points scored by Mason Miller (Ranked 7th in the state) or Harrison Smith's victory over an opponent ranked number 4 in the state. All of our wrestlers did well, and more importantly worked as a team. No one complained about being bumped around or wrestling up a weight class. The women showed no hesitancy to step on the mat against exceptionally good male wrestlers. This was a total

team effort, and the victory belongs to all of them.

Upcoming Events:

On Friday, Jan. 23 the women wrestled at the Oak Hill Her Story Maker Tournament. This tournament is one of the few remaining "local" tournaments. The GEHS sponsor of our team's participation in The Her Story Maker Tournament is Martha Hilton, Fathom Realty, 1034 Washington St East, Lewisburg. Phone: 304-645-7700; mhilton@fathomrealty.com; <https://marthahilton.com>. Martha has not only supported the program financially, but she has also been instrumental in early season organization, administration and fundraising. We are glad that GEHS wrestling is one of the many programs and nonprofit organizations Martha supports.

At the same time as the women's tournament, Oak Hill is hosting a tournament for first year high school and JV wrestlers. This tournament took place at the same place and time as the women's tournament.

On Friday, Jan. 23, the men wrestled at the Woodrow Wilson Quad Tournament at Woodrow Wilson High School in Beckley.

WV Dual Team State Championship:

The WV Dual Team State Championships will be held Feb. 7 and 8 at the State Fairgrounds in Fairlea. Wrestling will take place in The West Virginia Building starting at noon on both days with the Championship matches at 3 p.m. Doors will open at 10:30 a.m. This State Championship event brings together the top sixteen teams from across the state, including eight in Division 2 (Friday) and eight in Division 1 (Saturday). It is endorsed by the WVSSAC, sponsored by the West Virginia Wrestling Coaches Association, and hosted by the Greenbrier East Wrestling programs.

While GEHS was not successful in making the tournament, The Greenbrier East Wrestling family of programs, supporters, parents and donors, will host the program and have the great honor of running the premiere dual tournament format event in the state of West Virginia.

We look forward to crowning the 2026 champion in each division (Division 1 and Division 2). In Division 2, formerly division AA-A, Point Pleasant won the Dual State Championship in 2025, 2024, 2022, 2021, and 2020, their streak only broken by Fairmont Senior, winning the championship in 2023. In Division 1, formerly Division AAA, Parkersburg won the Dual State Championship in 2025. University High School won the tournament in 2024. In 2023, Parkersburg South capped a three year run of Championships winning the tournament in 2023, 2022, and 2021. In 2020, Parkersburg was the Tournament Champion. Greenbrier East High School last wrestled in the tournament in 2024.

The 2026 Division 1 teams are: University, John Marshall, Washington High School, Spring Mills, Riverside, Woodrow Wilson, Parkersburg, and Parkersburg South. The 2026 Division 2 teams

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

are: Williamstown, Oak Glenn, Keyser, Moorefield, Herbert Hoover, Independence, Ripley, and Point Pleasant. We congratulate each of these teams and wish them luck.

Each year the State Dual Championship hosts a featured speaker. Past featured speakers include: 2020 Tim Flynn, Head Coach W.V.U. Wrestling -- NCAA Coach of the Year; 2023 Ron Magruder, National Wrestling Hall of Fame Member (Great American); 2024 Dr. Michael Carr, 5x Academic All-American -- University of Illinois; and 2025 Coach Brian Miluk, National Wrestling Hall of Fame (Lifetime achievement award). Stay tuned for the announcement of this year's featured speaker.

The West Virginia State Dual Championship Tournament could not occur without the generous contributions of our sponsors. We are working diligently to confirm sponsors for this year's tournament. We thank our past sponsors: Ron Magruder -- National Wrestling Hall of Fame Member; The Bank of Monroe / Monroe Insurance Group; Dermatology Centers Inc. -- Thomas M. Karrs, MD; NursePro Plus -- Dan Estel; Peoples Bank -- Annual Supporter; Rudis -- Jesse Leng (M.O.W. Award); Defense Soap -- Guy Sako (Sanitizing Products); Greg Elinsky -- Penn State's First 4X Wrestling All-American; Cardinal Photographics (Frank Lusher); Novak Security; I.G.A. Supermarket; Lewisburg Walmart; Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation; James F.B. Peyton Fund; Grand Home Furnishings; Gillespies Flower and Production, Inc.; Dr. Roger Holliday / Dr. Brennen Wood; CSXIP; Jim Rohan; Mitchell Chevrolet; Alan T. Lee; LP Mineral (James L. Laurita Jr.); PAR MAR Stores; Dave Allen; FLY304 Productions; Eli-Jenny Hannan; WVMAT; Mat Time WV; Zach & Dan -- Bobby's Lawncare, LLC; Brier Properties; Northern Greenbrier Sprinkler Co.; Chic Fil A -- Richard Jarrell -- G.C. Sales; Gary Canterbury; Tim Holbrook Quartet-- National Anthem; Alleghany T-Shirts; John Harman; Angela's Offsite Catering; WVSSAC; Wayne Ryan / Dan Comer; W.V.S.O.M. Volunteers / E.M.S. / Security; MetroNews High School Sports -- Kyle Wiggs; Nicholas Dailey, MS, LAT, ATC, PA-s -- Tournament Trainer; Rob & Aby Frank -- Law Firm of Robert J. Frank & Assoc., PLLC; The Ickes Family; Stewart Farley -- TNT Communications.

Tickets can be purchased at the Door. All

Youth Wrestlers are admitted free. WVRC 104.7 will be Live Streaming all matches. Most importantly, Thank You to all the local supporters who have helped make this event the premier State Championship in West Virginia. If you would like to sponsor this event, please feel free to reach out to me at 719

322-3985 or email me at rob@rjflaw.com.

Next Week:

Next week's article will give results of the Her Story Maker Women's Tournament, the Woodrow Quad Tournament, further information on the State Dual Championship Tournament, will give updates on upcoming events,

and provide wrestler and donor highlights.

Live Stream. GEHS wrestling matches are now livestreamed and posted on the Greenbrier East Spartan Wrestling Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1400059887620954>. If you cannot join us live, please join us online.

LEGAL

NOTICE

THE CITY OF LEWISBURG

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to W. Va. Code § 8-12-17, that the City of Lewisburg, a municipal corporation, will hold a public hearing before the final vote on a proposed resolution to purchase the water distribution system of the Corporation of Falling Spring, West Virginia, a.k.a. the Town of Renick pursuant to a proposed Amended Asset Purchase Agreement by and between the City of Lewisburg, West Virginia, and the Corporation of Falling Spring, West Virginia, a.k.a. the Town of Renick. The final vote on adoption of said proposed resolution shall be held in the Paul R. Cooley Council Chambers at 942 Washington Street West, Lewisburg, WV, on February 17, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. Interested parties may appear and be heard at such time with respect to the passage of the proposed resolution. Copies of the proposed resolution and the proposed Amended Asset Purchase Agreement are available at Lewisburg City Hall.

LEGAL

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Division of Highways NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia until February 10, 2026 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project(s):

Call Contract	State Project	Federal Project	Description
015 2014000577	U313-LEW/IS-5.00	TEA-2014(132)D	PEDESTRIAN/BIKE FACILITIES Lewisburg Feamster Road Sidewalks 2013 DISTRICT WIDE COUNTY: FAYETTE, GREENBRIER, MONROE, NICHOLAS, SUMMERS

Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractor's license is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin. Registration is required with the Department of Administration, Division of Purchasing, in accordance with Chapter 5A, Article 3, Section 12 of the West Virginia Code. All contractors submitting bids on project(s) must include one of the following forms properly executed with each proposal: Proposal Guaranty Bond, Cashier's Check, or Certified Check for \$500.00 or 5% of the total bid, whichever is greater.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways reserves the right to defer, delay or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement. The deferment, delay, postponement, and the date that proposals will be received and publicly opened will be available on www.bidx.com.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award.

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

GREENBRIER COUNTY COMMISSION
912 COURT STREET N.
LEWISBURG, WEST VIRGINIA 24901

Separate sealed bids for the Greenbrier County Broadband Expansion Project for the Greenbrier County Commission, which consists of the installation of approximately 168 miles of new fiber in Greenbrier County, West Virginia, will be received by the Greenbrier County Commission at the office of 912 Court Street N., Lewisburg WV 24901, until 2:00 PM, local prevailing time, on March 3, 2026, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud. The approximate 166 miles of aerial fiber and approximate 2 miles of buried fiber will not be provided by the owner. This project will consist of the installation of primarily aerial fiber along existing utility right-of-way on new and existing utility poles and buried fiber in existing right-of-way. The primary purpose of this project is to deploy a fiber solution that will provide businesses and residents of the project area with broadband services of at least 100 Mbps download speed and 20 Mbps upload speed, and which are scalable to 100/100 Mbps.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be on February 12, 2026, at 10:00 AM. All interested parties are requested to meet the Engineer at the Greenbrier County Commission, 912 Court Street N., Lewisburg WV 24901 at that time. The Contract Documents may be examined at the Greenbrier County Commission, 912 Court Street N., Lewisburg, West Virginia 24901; at Thompson & Litton, 1105 Mercer Street, Princeton WV; and online at TRASCO (<http://www.trascoplanroom.com>). Copies of the Contract Documents (electronic and/or hard copy) are available for purchase through TRASCO at <http://www.trascoplanroom.com>. Bids must be accompanied by Bid security as specified in the Instructions to Bidders. MBE/WBE firms are encouraged to submit Bids.

The Contract(s) shall be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible Bidder(s). The Greenbrier County Broadband Expansion Project is funded through an award from the West Virginia Department of Economic Development (WVDED) GigReady Incentive Program ("Program"), through Federal funding awarded as part of the U.S. Department of the Treasury's (Treasury) Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Program. Authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Section 604 of the Social Security Act, as added by section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-2 (Mar. 11, 2021), codified as 42 U.S.C. § 804, this Program is governed by ARPA, Treasury's published rules and applicable regulations and guidelines, including but not limited to, Treasury's published compliance guides, 2 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) Part 200 (Uniform Guidance), as amended or revised, and the State of West Virginia Program rules, compliance guidance, and the applicable grant agreement requirements as agreed to between Greenbrier County Commission and the West Virginia Department of Economic Development. Greenbrier County Commission and any subcontractor selected shall be subject to all applicable provisions of ARPA, the above-referenced Treasury CPF and Uniform Guidance (2 CFR 200), and the terms and conditions of the grant agreement between Greenbrier County Commission and the subcontractor, as well as all applicable Federal, state, and local laws and regulations, and all other Program requirements of WVDED and the U.S. Department of the Treasury now or hereafter in effect.

January 23, 2026 Greenbrier County Commission
Date By

LEGAL

TRUSTEES' SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE

467 Peaces Knob Road, Quinwood, WV 25981

In a Deed of Trust dated May 16, 2016, and duly recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Greenbrier County, West Virginia, in Deed of Trust Book 764, at page 313 Gayle M. Keener and Randall G. Keener Sr. did convey unto Carl D. Andrews, ESQ., Trustee, certain real property. The beneficial holder of that Deed of Trust has elected to appoint Terra Abstract Trustee West Virginia, Inc. as substitute trustee by a Substitution of Trustee recorded in the aforesaid Clerk's Office. Default having occurred under the Deed of Trust and the beneficial holder having instructed the undersigned Trustees to foreclose, this real property will be sold at public auction at the front door of the Greenbrier County Courthouse, 200 North Court Street, Greenbrier County Courthouse, Lewisburg, WV 24901 on:

March 18, 2026

At 12:30 PM

The property for sale as described by the Deed of Trust is as follows: The following described lot or parcel of land, together with the improvements thereon and the appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate near the Town of Quinwood, on the Waters of Hominy Creek, in Meadow Bluff District, Greenbrier County, West Virginia, and more particularly bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a stake, beech and sugar pointers on the original line between O. G. McClung and R. O. McClung and corner to Edith McClung and with S 42-45 W 22 1/2 poles to a stake and large sugar stump pointer, S 27-30 E 39 3/5 poles to a stake on Edith McClung line, N 62-30 E 9 3/5 poles to a stake in Edge of Gearing on lower side of road. N 21 W 20 poles to a stake at gate N 8-45 W 14 poles to a stake below Spring baswood pointer, N 72-30 E 10 3/5 poles to a stake and ironwood pointer on O. G. & R. O. McClung Line and with same N 47-15 W 18 poles to the beginning, containing 4 and 1/10 acres.

The purchaser will take the property subject to all exceptions, reservations, rights of way, easements, conditions, covenants, restrictions, leases and other servitudes of record, if any, pertaining to said real property. The purchaser will be responsible for paying any transfer stamp, excise taxes, and recording costs associated with recording the Trustee's Deed into their name.

The purchaser will be responsible for paying any unpaid property taxes owed to the Sheriff of Greenbrier County prior to or following the sale directly to the Sheriff.

The purchaser will take the property subject to any deed of trust, judgment, lien, and any other encumbrance having priority over the deed of trust referred to herein.

The purchaser will take the property subject to any deed of trust, judgment, lien, and any other encumbrance that is junior ("junior claims") to this Deed of Trust and to which sufficient notice was not given. In that case, unless such right to notice is waived, the chain of title shall not merge with this Deed of Trust as to those unnoticed deeds of trust, judgments, liens, and other encumbrances and will be subject to a further noticed and published sale under this Deed of Trust pursuant to W.Va. Code 38-1-4, in which bidding shall resume at the last highest bid given. In the event of a surplus of such sale, the mortgagors and noticed junior lienholders are hereby on notice that if such surplus is less than Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00), then the Substitute Trustee will disburse those proceeds to the most senior interest holder as it sees fit, unless an objection is made in writing.

The Trustees do not guarantee or represent that the boundaries described above are accurate, are not encroached upon, or that any particular structure located on the property is contained within the described boundaries. The property is therefore sold subject to an accurate survey at purchaser's expense.

The Trustees reserve the right to adjourn the sale, for a time, or from time to time, by announcement at the time and place of sale described above or any adjournment thereof. Such adjournment will be noticed by posting a notice at the front door of the county courthouse or where such notices are traditionally posted at the county courthouse. Such notice will include the date and time when such sale will reconvene.

The Trustees reserve the right to reject any and all bids for any reason.

The Trustees make no representations as to the condition of the property. The property will be sold in "AS IS" condition.

The Trustees make no representations as to whether the property is occupied. The purchaser is responsible for gaining access and possession of the property. Trustee shall be under no duty to cause any existing tenant or person occupying the subject property to vacate said property.

The purchaser may assign its rights prior to the delivery of the trustee's deed by a signed request in writing to the trustee; the assignee of the purchaser shall be bound by all terms and conditions applicable to the purchaser.

The Trustees will deliver a trustee's deed to the purchaser without any covenant or warranty (express or implied) in the form prescribed by W. Va. Code §38-1-6. The Trustees make no representations and warranties about the title of the real estate to be conveyed. If the Trustees are unable to convey insurable or marketable title to purchaser for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit.

TERMS OF SALE: Purchaser must bring \$8000 cash in hand at the time of sale as a deposit in the form of a certified check or cashier's check made payable to "Stern & Eisenberg, PC, counsel for Terra Abstract Trustee West Virginia, Inc." Those appearing without their deposit will not be allowed to bid. The balance of the successful purchaser's bid must be proffered in cash within 30 days of the date of the sale. Purchaser shall pay for transfer stamps and recording fees. Additional terms of sale may be announced prior to the sale.

Terra Abstract Trustee West Virginia, Inc.
1581 Main Street, Suite 200

The Shops at Valley Square
Warrington, PA 18976

(215) 572-8111, Fax: (215) 572-5025

sternseisenberg.com

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 1:00 PM on February 4, 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.

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

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT At Charleston A PROCLAMATION By the Governor

WHEREAS, the passing of Justice Tim Armstead, has caused a vacancy in the office of Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia; and

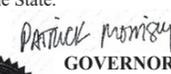
WHEREAS, article VIII, section 7 of the Constitution of West Virginia provides that if from any cause a vacancy shall occur in the office of a justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals, the Governor shall issue a directive of election to fill such vacancy in the manner prescribed by law for electing a justice of the court in which the vacancy exists, and the justice shall be elected for the unexpired term; and

WHEREAS, section 3, article 10, section 3 of the West Virginia Code provides that where an unexpired term of office for a justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals is for a period longer than two years, the vacancy shall be filled by a successor who has timely filed a certificate of candidacy, and has been elected in a non-partisan election and qualified to fill the unexpired term; and

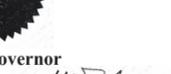
WHEREAS, at the time of Justice Tim Armstead's retirement, more than two years remained unexpired in the term of office for the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia.
NOW, THEREFORE,
I, PATRICK MORRISEY,
Governor of the State of West Virginia, under the authority vested in me by the Constitution of West Virginia and the laws of this State, do hereby proclaim and declare that the unexpired term of office for Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia shall be filled by the voters of West Virginia at the primary election to be held on May 12, 2026.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol in the City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this Ninth Day of January, in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand "Twenty-Six, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Third Year of the State.


GOVERNOR



By the Governor

SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT At Charleston A PROCLAMATION By the Governor

WHEREAS, the retirement of Justice Elizabeth D. Walker, has caused a vacancy in the office of justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia; and

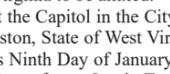
WHEREAS, article VIII, section 7 of the Constitution of West Virginia provides that if from any cause a vacancy shall occur in the office of a justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals, the Governor shall issue a directive of election to fill such vacancy in the manner prescribed by law for electing a justice of the court in which the vacancy exists, and the justice shall be elected for the unexpired term; and

WHEREAS, section 3, article 10, section 3 of the West Virginia Code provides that where an unexpired term of office for a justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals is for period longer than two years, the vacancy shall be filled by a successor who has timely filed a certificate of candidacy, and has been elected in a non-partisan election and qualified to fill the unexpired term; and

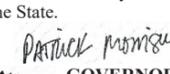
WHEREAS, at the time of Justice Elizabeth D. Walker's retirement, more than two years remained unexpired in the term of office for the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia.
NOW, THEREFORE,
I, PATRICK MORRISEY,
Governor of the State of West Virginia, under the authority vested in me by the Constitution of West Virginia and the laws of this State, do hereby proclaim and declare that the unexpired term of office for Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia shall be filled by the voters of West Virginia at the primary election to be held on May 12, 2026.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol in the City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this Ninth Day of January, in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand "Twenty-Six, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Third Year of the State.


GOVERNOR



By the Governor

SECRETARY OF STATE

LEGAL

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Division of Highways

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Bids will be received electronically by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways through the Bid Express Bidding Service (www.bidx.com) and by sealed proposals (only when prequalification is waived) being received at its office in Building 5, Room 843, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia until February 13, 2026 at 10:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time). The bids will be downloaded and/or opened and read publicly thereafter for the constructions of the following project(s):

Call Contract	State Project	Federal Project	Description
018 2020000733	S389-STR/IP-26 00	HSIP-2026(160)D	PAVEMENT MARKINGS ROADWAY STRIPING DISTRICT WIDE COUNTY: FAYETTE, GREENBRIER, MONROE, NICHOLAS, SUMMERS

Proposals will be received from prequalified and West Virginia licensed contractors only except that on Federal-Aid Projects a contractor's license is not required at time of bid, but will be required before work can begin. Registration is required with the Department of Administration, Division of Purchasing, in accordance with Chapter 5A, Article 3, Section 12 of the West Virginia Code. All contractors submitting bids on project(s) must include one of the following forms properly executed with each proposal: Proposal Guaranty Bond, Cashier's Check, or Certified Check for \$500.00 or 5% of the total bid, whichever is greater.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways reserves the right to defer, delay or postpone the date for receiving and publicly opening proposals for any project designated in this advertisement, without the necessity of renewing such advertisement. The deferment, delay, postponement, and the date that proposals will be received and publicly opened will be available on www.bidx.com.

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award.

SPORTS

Battle for the Springhouse returns to The Greenbrier this weekend

The Battle for the Springhouse will celebrate its fifth anniversary with a schedule filled with top-notch basketball competition this weekend at The Greenbrier. The most unique high school basketball tournament in the Mountain State is played inside Colonial Hall of the iconic Greenbrier resort. Games take place on a state-of-the-art floor, the same floor used for The Greenbrier Tip-Off college tournament in November.

Games begin on Friday, January 30, at 2 p.m., when Morgantown High School takes on Parkersburg High School for a Girls Division semifinal. That's followed by Wyoming East High School against Bridgeport High School in a Boys Division semifinal at 4 p.m. The host teams from Greenbrier East High School highlight the evening action, with the Spartan boys taking on James Monroe High School at 6 p.m., followed by the Lady Spartans against Riverside at 8 p.m.

Championship Saturday begins at 1 p.m., on January 31, with the Girls Consolation Game. That will be followed by the Boys Consolation Game at 3 p.m. The championship games begin with the Boys Championship at 5 p.m., with the Girls Championship concluding the action at 7 p.m.

In addition to incredible action on the floor, The Battle for the Springhouse prides itself on being more than just a tournament. GameChanger, the event's presenting sponsor, is making efforts to lessen the impact of drug abuse among student-athletes across the state. Former WVU women's basketball star Meg Bulger will be addressing the athletes on the morning of January 31, and teams in players will watch a video called, "One Pill Can Kill" on the dangers of fentanyl. There will also be elementary students from local schools coming to watch a video designed by GameChanger for their age group, focused on making healthy decisions.

All teams will stay at The Greenbrier and have an opportunity to learn more about the resort's incredible history. Bunker tours, ice skating, bowling, history tours, escape rooms and much more have been enjoyed by teams in the past.

The tournament also gives back to the student-athletes, with a scholarship presented to a player from each team at the conclusion of each of Saturday's games.

Watching the games is easy for all interested spectators. Parking is available across the street from The Greenbrier's main entrance in the Train Lot, and shuttles will transport spectators to and from The Greenbrier. Tickets are on sale now at Greenbrier.com/Springhouse at just \$5 per contest. Tickets must be purchased for each game. Seating is limited, and games have sold out in past years. Spectators are encouraged to purchase their tickets in advance.

Tournament Schedule:

- Friday, January 30:
 9 a.m. – GameChanger Elementary School Presentation in Greenbrier Theatre
 10 a.m. – GameChanger High School Presentation in Chesapeake Hall
 2 p.m. – Morgantown vs. Parkersburg Girls
 4 p.m. – Wyoming East vs. Bridgeport Boys
 6 p.m. – James Monroe vs. Greenbrier East Boys
 8 p.m. – Riverside vs. Greenbrier East Girls
- Saturday, January 31:
 1 p.m. – Girls Consolation Game
 3 p.m. – Boys Consolation Game
 5 p.m. – Boys Championship Game
 7 p.m. – Girls Championship Game

Boys Division:

Bridgeport – The defending Class AAA state champions, the Indians are off to a 10-2 start and ranked No. 2 in Class AAA this season. Head coach Dave Marshall's squad has picked up impressive wins over the likes of Fairmont Senior and University and are led by Ayrton Dodd (15.3 ppg) and Anderson McDougal (15 ppg).

Greenbrier East – The Spartans are off to an impressive 8-3 start that includes signature wins over Shady Spring, Bridgeport and rival Woodrow Wilson. Nathan Dixon (17.7 ppg) and Brody Hamric (16.6 ppg) lead the

scoring for head coach Jared Patton, who has his team ranked No. 6 in Class AAA.

James Monroe – The Mavericks are 8-3 and ranked No. 5 in Class AA. Their most impressive wins came over Princeton, Woodrow Wilson and Westside. Depth is a strength of head coach Kelly Mann's squad, and they're led in scoring by Kady Hines, Lane Taylor and Ryan Mann.

Wyoming East – Ranked No. 2 in Class AA, the Warriors are 10-1 on the year, the only loss a one-point setback to Shady Spring. Big wins include Woodrow Wilson, Bluefield, James Monroe and rival Westside. Leading the offensive attack for head coach Kent McBride are Keegan Davidson, Konnor Fox and Talar Muscari.

Girls Division:

Greenbrier East – Coached by United States Senator Jim Justice, the Lady Spartans are 14-0 and ranked No. 1 in Class AAA. They have already claimed wins over John Marshall, Nitro, Martinsburg and Woodrow Wilson and are led by dynamic guards Kennedy Stewart (18.4 ppg) and Ava Workman (17.9 ppg).

Morgantown – The No. 4 team in Class AAAA, the defending Class AAAA runners-up are off to a 10-3 start that includes wins over John Marshall, Nitro, Keyser and rival University. Head coach John Fowkes' club is led by Maddie Ancell (15.1 ppg), Sydney Duesenberry (10.7 ppg) and Carper Messerly (10.7 ppg).

Parkersburg – The No. 3 team in Class AAAA, the Big Reds are 9-3 with signature wins over Morgantown, Hurricane and St. Albans. Head coach Christopher Murray's club is led by Frances Guice (16.6 ppg), Kennedy Porter (14.9 ppg) and Lauren Flanagan (13.5 ppg).

Riverside – The Warriors are 6-8 on the year but have big wins over the likes of Oak Hill and Wayne. Head coach John Frisby has a talented roster, led by junior forward Ava Ward, who's averaging a double-double with 15.2 points and 10.6 rebounds per game. Jada Ward isn't far behind with 11.5 points and 10.1 boards per contest.

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Back of chair is different. 2. Box is different. 3. Collar is missing. 4. Burner is missing. 5. Refrigerator handle is lower. 6. Stove hood is wider.

SCRAMBLERS

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

Sweet: MEALCAR

Cipher: DECO

Exclusive: INDIES

Clumsy: TIPEN

"Sure, I've got a great diet — the low-_____ diet!"

TODAY'S WORD: _____

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
 ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Super Crossword U.K. PLAY

- ACROSS**
- 1 Give a right to
 - 8 Eye narrowly
 - 14 Choir songs
 - 20 Dog collar attachments
 - 21 Ends of bridal paths
 - 22 See 1-Down
 - 23 Refrigerator, stove or dryer
 - 25 Warship fleet
 - 26 Over yonder
 - 27 Designer Gucci
 - 28 Lhasa — (little dogs)
 - 29 Mega Stuf cookies
 - 33 This second
 - 35 Legendary figure in a 1999 horror film
 - 39 Azaleas are members of it
 - 43 Not quite
 - 44 Dutch beer
 - 45 — the line (obeyed)
 - 47 Sturdy tree
 - 48 Slimy gunk
 - 51 Shaft of light
 - 52 Common allergy trigger
 - 55 Condiment spicier than its yellow cousin
 - 59 On — with (similar to)
 - 61 Big name in dog food
 - 63 Born
 - 64 TV announcer
 - 65 Riddle Don
 - 68 Strep-treating doc
 - 69 Person giving out prizes
 - 71 Eight of their last names are featured in this puzzle
 - 76 Egg-hiding holidays
 - 77 Gridiron stats
 - 78 Punctual
 - 79 Sominex or Unison rival
 - 80 Passing vote
 - 81 As many as
 - 82 Big lamb cut
 - 86 Common weed of North America
 - 90 Universal donor blood type, in brief
 - 93 Shark feature
 - 94 Ending for alp or salt
 - 95 Architect I.M. —
 - 96 Red Sea canal
 - 98 Get there
 - 100 Hive house
 - 103 Suburb of Minneapolis
 - 106 June bugs, by another name
 - 110 Poetic "always"
 - 111 Yule songs
 - 112 Post-teen (out)
 - 113 Squeaks (out)
 - 116 Ticked (off)
 - 118 Spring back
 - 120 Kentucky Derby venue
 - 126 "Little Women" author
 - 127 Wanness
 - 128 Cry upon getting there
 - 129 Joined (up)
 - 130 Baby hooters
 - 131 Vain person's lack
- DOWN**
- 1 With
 - 22-Across, film "nightmare" locale
 - 2 Teachers' gp.
 - 3 — Mahal
 - 4 Equal: Prefix
 - 5 Walloped
 - 6 Foliage bit
 - 7 Barcelona's land, to natives
 - 8 Bud
 - 9 Director Kazan
 - 10 Plus others: Abbr.
 - 11 Music genre for TLC
 - 12 Chachi's last name on "Happy Days"
 - 13 Mao — -tung
 - 14 Free TV ad, for short
 - 15 Drink inserts
 - 16 Target of antiperspirant
 - 17 Minimal
 - 18 Bordeaux wine
 - 19 Secret store
 - 24 Grads' event
 - 29 Fictional Scarlett
 - 30 Plan a new route for
 - 31 Cushy class
 - 32 Mel the Giant
 - 34 Jokester
 - 36 Solo
 - 37 Mosque officiant
 - 38 Streaming set-top box
 - 40 Viral misery
 - 41 Soft throws
 - 42 "— out!" (ump's call)
 - 46 "Death Be Not Proud" poet
 - 48 Avant —
 - 49 Mandate
 - 50 Smells
 - 53 Exhales wistfully
 - 54 Pack firmly
 - 56 Cleaning tool in a bucket
 - 57 Muscle jerk
 - 58 More citrusy, say
 - 60 Mary Lou of gymnastics
 - 62 One suffering for a belief
 - 66 Atom studier Bohr
 - 67 Leb. neighbor
 - 68 911 gp.
 - 69 Susan of "Spring Fever"
 - 70 Nintendo console
 - 71 1974 dog film
 - 72 Artificial silk
 - 73 "Orange — New Black"
 - 74 Thoughts
 - 75 Taken with
 - 80 "Two Guys and —"
 - 81 Operated
 - 83 In flames
 - 84 Courteous
 - 85 Midleg joints
 - 87 Sheriff Taylor's tyke
 - 88 Mess-free
 - 89 Take to court
 - 91 Jug handle
 - 92 Pa's pa
 - 97 Last letter of '16 Olympics site
 - 100 Flowering size
 - 101 Small dress size
 - 102 Cowboy's whoop
 - 104 — pot (sinus cleaner)
 - 105 Early tourney round
 - 106 Safin who won tennis' 2000 U.S. Open
 - 107 She sang the hit "Hello"
 - 108 New Mexico's state flower
 - 109 Brain protector
 - 114 — Stanley Gardner
 - 115 "Nae" sayer
 - 117 Red Muppet
 - 119 Inc., abroad
 - 120 U.S. Navy noncom
 - 121 Divs. of days
 - 122 Lyric verse
 - 123 Film director Craven
 - 124 Little peeve
 - 125 Hog hangout

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
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71	72	73						74				75								
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112									113		114	115		116		117				
118						119			120				121				122	123	124	125
126									127						128					
129									130						131					

PLEASE SEE THE PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 7

Got Legals? Email Us!

legalads@mountainmedianews.com

(304) 647-5724

SCHOOL

WV Board of Education appoints new superintendent with emergency vote to intervene in Hancock County

The West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE) voted unanimously to fully intervene in Hancock County Schools during an emergency meeting in Charleston this week. The vote is the result of the fiscal crisis in the county that threatens ongoing operations of the school system. The Board vacated the positions of county superintendent and assistant superintendent effective at the close of business today.

Over the course of several months, the financial stability of Hancock County Schools has diminished, with imminent material shortfalls risking the ability to meet payroll and other statutory obligations. The West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) is considering approval of an advancement of the county's school aid formula. The county is operating with approximately 140 positions over formula, which threatens solvency and school operations.

Although the county was at risk of not meeting payroll, WVBE President L. Paul Hardesty assured that this would not happen. "I've received a lot of calls because the teachers and staff are scared about not getting paid. Nothing is further from the truth. You will get your pay," he said.

"This Board has to make some very tough decisions," Hardesty said. "But we must operate within code while also protecting the children and taxpayers of our state. We have told our counties for several years that using one-time Covid money for personnel would lead to a day of reckoning. That day has come in Hancock County."

Over the past several months, Hancock County

escalated from a monitored status to a full fiscal emergency. Personnel overages at a cost of approximately \$10 million and using general fund revenue to fully fund sports-related projects have contributed to the current situation.

As a result of the intervention, State Superintendent of Schools Michele L. Blatt has appointed Walter Saunders as the Hancock County Superintendent of Schools.

Saunders has served as the director of Federal Programs and Assessment for Ohio County Schools for the past 10 years. He holds an undergraduate degree in mathematics education from West Liberty University and a graduate degree in educational leadership from West Virginia University. He is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, a role he served before his education career that includes experience as a classroom teacher, assistant principal and principal. Saunders' new appointment begins at the close of business today.

"We are grateful for the service of Mr. Saunders, and we look forward to supporting him and his team to address the crisis in Hancock County," said Superintendent Blatt. "We appreciate the work of the WVBE and know that together, we will resolve the challenges and protect the students and education community of the county."

To view Walter Saunders' full bio and the intervention resolution, visit today's WVBE meeting page on the WVDE website.

The next meeting of the WVBE is at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026, Suite 600, Building 6, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, WV 25305.



Walter Saunders, newly appointed Hancock County Superintendent of Schools

WV Dept. of Ed. Launches 2026 Governors Schools Applications

The West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) is accepting applications for the 2026 Governor's Schools of West Virginia. This program offers summer residential learning experiences at designated universities for high school students.

Founded in 1984, West Virginia Governor's Schools offer students unique experiential learning opportunities in the humanities and the arts, computer science, business communications, entrepreneurship, leadership and more. In addition to refining talents and workable skills, young scholars develop lifelong personal and profes-

sional networks and receive instruction from practicing professionals in their areas of interest.

"Governor's Schools take student learning to the next level, empowering them to recognize their potential and exceed what they thought was possible," said State Superintendent of Schools Michele L. Blatt. "From experiencing the multi-disciplinary impact of the arts to learning from industry-leading professionals and building elaborate business proposals, students leave these programs well-equipped for future success in their chosen career paths."

Host universities are planning events to celebrate America250. This initiative, spearheaded by the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, honors the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Each Governor's School will embed a variety of activities to recognize the historic occasion.

Learn more about the Governor's Schools program by visiting the WVDE website.

The grade level is the grade the applicant currently holds. Application deadlines are as follows:

School Name	Location	Grade Level	Application Due Date	School Duration
Governor's Computer Science Institute	West Virginia University (WVU) Tech	9, 10	April 3	July 6 – July 12
Governor's Honors Academy	WVU	11	April 3	July 11 – July 25
Governor's School of Entrepreneurship	Marshall University	9, 10, 11	March 13	July 17 – July 26
Governor's School for the Arts	West Virginia Wesleyan College	10	March 6	June 21 – July 11
Governor's School for Tourism	WVU, various travel destinations	9, 10	May 1	June 20 – June 29

James Madison University announces fall 2025 Dean's List

James Madison University is pleased to announce the following students who made the Dean's List for the fall 2025 semester.

Mary Driscoll of Lewisburg, who is majoring in Dance - BA, and Ashlee Thompson of White Sulphur Springs, who is majoring in Media Arts and Design - BS.

Greenbrier County Schools announces 2026–2027 School Calendar Forum

Greenbrier County Schools will host a 2026–2027 School Calendar Forum on Tuesday, Feb. 10, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Ann & Kyle Fort Arts & Sciences Building on the New River Community and Technical College (NRCTC) Campus.

The forum will provide families, staff, and community members the opportunity to learn more about the calendar development process, review calendar options under consideration, and share feedback

with district leadership.

Detailed explanations of the calendar options, along with factors considered in the development process, are available online at www.greenbriercountyschools.org.

The Greenbrier County Board of Education will hold its regular board meeting immediately following the forum at 6 p.m., also at the Ann & Kyle Fort Arts & Sciences Building.

New River CTC announces Marsha Hicks as Dual Enrollment & Early College Coordinator

New River Community and Technical College is proud to announce that Marsha Hicks has been appointed as the College's Dual Enrollment & Early College Coordinator. Hicks has been part of New River CTC for just over two years and brings more than 20 years of experience in public education to the role.

As Coordinator, Hicks will oversee dual enrollment and early college programs across the College's 10-county service region. She will serve as a key point of contact for high schools, students, and families, ensuring high-quality academic experiences and helping students transition seamlessly into college after graduation.

In collaboration with Academic Af-

fairs and student services teams, Hicks will support program compliance, faculty credentialing, scheduling, enrollment processes, and the development of partnerships with school districts. She will also lead outreach efforts to increase awareness of dual enrollment opportunities and encourage students to continue at New River CTC after high school.

"I'm excited to take on this new role and continue supporting students across southern West Virginia," Hicks said. "Helping students discover early pathways to higher education is work I truly value."

For more information about dual enrollment opportunities at New River CTC, visit www.newriver.edu.

WSS resident graduates with honors from James Madison University

James Madison University is pleased to announce the following WSS resident graduates with honors from James Madison University.

Ashlee Thompson of White Sulphur Springs graduated Magna Cum Laude with a degree in Media Arts and Design

- BS from James Madison University during commencement exercises in December 2025.

Thompson was among nearly 1,000 students who received undergraduate and graduate degrees. Congratulations to all graduates and their families!

Dean's List recognizes academic excellence at Radford University

Radford University has released its dean's list for fall 2025. Appearing on the dean's list is the most prestigious academic recognition students can receive for their performance during a semester.

Students will be placed on the dean's list if they meet four specific criteria. They must have 12 semester hours of

coursework graded A-F; earn GPA's of at least 3.4 for courses not graded on a pass-fail basis; obtain no grade lower than "C"; and receive no incomplete grades.

Local students who earned a spot on the Dean's List include Haley Christy-Woods of Asbury and Karys Jones of Ronceverte.

Christina Withrow named to Dean's List at University of Maryland Global Campus

Christina Withrow of Union was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2025 term at University of Maryland Global Campus. To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earned a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC.

University of Maryland Global Campus was founded more than 75 years ago specifically to serve the higher educa-

tion needs of working adults and military servicemembers. Today, UMGC is the largest provider of postsecondary education in Maryland and continues its global tradition with online and hybrid courses, more than 175 classroom and service locations worldwide, and more than 135 degrees and certificates backed by the reputation of a state university and the University System of Maryland. For more information, visit umgc.edu.



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ENTERTAINMENT



Previous winners of the annual art contest for the State Fair of West Virginia.

State Fair announces fourth annual Art Contest

The State Fair of West Virginia is excited to announce the return of its Annual State Fair Art Contest. The winning entry will be featured as the 2026 State Fair Print of the Year, and will receive a cash prize, as well as a percentage of sales.

“We’ve been able to feature some amazing local artists over the last few years with the official fair portrait,” State Fair CEO Kelly Collins stated. “We are excited to continue to promote our local artists and can’t wait to

see what folks come up with!”

The official State Fair print should portray a positive image of the State Fair of West Virginia or reflect activities in anticipation or preparation of the annual event. Guidelines include:

– Image should be 11”x14”, or 11”x17” vertical or horizontal will be acceptable.

– Medium may include oil, acrylic, watercolor, or pastels. Must be able to copy for print production purposes.

– Both professional and amateur artists are permitted to enter.

To enter: Please submit a copy and/or picture of your work to Kellyt@statefairfww.com by April 27, 2026.

The 101st Annual State Fair of West Virginia is scheduled for August 13 – 22, 2026.

For more information, please contact the State Fair Office at 304-645-1090, or email kellyt@statefairfww.com.

Local residents embracing Guys & Dolls Sr. at Greenbrier Valley Theatre

Performances begin next week

Greenbrier Valley Theatre will present *Guys and Dolls Sr.*, a joyful, concert-style production performed by community actors ages 55 and older, Feb. 4 through 7, 2026.

Guys and Dolls Sr. showcases the talents of older adult performers in a vibrant, accessible format that

highlights music, character, and community. The production reflects Greenbrier Valley Theatre’s ongoing commitment to inclusive programming and creative opportunities for artists of all ages.

The opportunity to perform has injected excitement into the community and talented local seniors are embracing this opportunity to perform at a professional theatre. Performers of all backgrounds and experiences are performing roles in the production.

Charley and LJ Fauber jumped at the chance to be part of *Guys and Dolls Sr.* The Faubers have been married for 54 years and have lived in Lewisburg since 1986. Charley, a music teacher for 33 years and church choir director for 25 years, is playing the part of Nicely-Nicely Johnson. LJ, a retired speech therapist who sang in the church choir and other productions will be playing the part of Bertha.

“I love doing something out of my box,” says LJ. “It is fun to meet new people and to be part of the production. We are very lucky to live in a place where activities are offered for people of all ages. Thank you to Greenbrier Valley Theatre for offering an experience for older adults.”

The opportunity to work with his wife is special for Charley. “I have worked with LJ for 54 years,” says Charley. “She is my right hand person and my biggest cheerleader. We have always made a good team.”

The Faubers are excited to share this experience with friends and family. “My children and grandchildren will be front and center at our performances,” says LJ. “Many of the church choir members and community friends have already bought tickets.”

The Faubers are hopeful that additional opportunities to perform will happen in the future.

“I would love to be a part of future productions,” says Charley. “It has been wonderful to work with people with talents and different abilities. It is always good to challenge yourself in new ways.”



Charlie and LJ Fauber will be performing in *Guys and Dolls Sr.* at Greenbrier Valley Theatre February 4 through February 7.

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

For tickets and additional information, visit <https://gvtheatre.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.gvtheatre.org.

Discounted Wild Trails Festival tickets end Saturday, Jan. 31

Officials with the State Fair of West Virginia are reminding music fans that discounted tickets for the Second Annual Wild Trails Festival will end this Saturday, Jan. 31.

The Wild Trails Festival returns June 18–20, 2026, to the State Fairgrounds in Lewisburg and will feature headlining performances by Koe Wetzel, Tucker Wetmore, and Dylan Gossett. Additional artists include Kolby Cooper, Kaitlin Butts, Larry Fleet, Bayker Blankenship, Evan Honer, The Creekers, The Jack Wharff Band, and more local and regional acts.

Early bird pricing and discounted VIP passes are currently available for a limited time. Ticket prices will increase after Jan. 31.

“The response to Wild Trails has been incredible, and we want to encourage fans to take advantage of the discounted pricing while it’s still available,” said Kelly Collins, CEO of the State Fair of West Virginia. “Last year, we welcomed festivalgoers from 41 states and five Canadian provinces, and we expect even more excitement in 2026.”

The festival takes place in the carnival midway at the State Fairgrounds. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own blankets or chairs for seating.

In addition to three days of live music, the Wild Trails Festival highlights travel and tourism in West Virginia, showcasing the state’s trails, outdoor recreation, and adventure opportunities.

Discounted tickets are

available through Saturday, Jan. 31. For tickets, VIP packages, and camping information, visit www.wildtrailswv.com.

The State Fair of West Virginia, with a \$42.8 million statewide economic impact, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to the traditions of agriculture, family entertainment, and education. The 101st Annual State Fair of West Virginia is scheduled for August 13 – 22, 2026. For more information, visit www.statefairfww.com.

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