



Happy
Valentine's
Day!



Greenbrier
Artists in Old
Stone Room
Page 12

\$1.⁵⁰

Mountain messenger

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

February 14, 2026

Greenbrier County Grand Jury announces local Indictments

The Greenbrier County Grand Jury convened earlier this month and returned the following indictments:

26-F-3(B), Michael Niswander, Lewisburg, DOB 4/7/71, obtaining property by false pretenses - value of \$1000 or more

25-F-4(B), Kevin Kipp, Lewisburg, DOB 10/20/59, possession with intent to deliver a schedule II controlled substance - fentanyl

26-F-5(V), Lucas Reynolds, Lewisburg, DOB 1/28/95, shoplifting - 3rd or subsequent offense

26-F-6(V), Aaron Green, White Sulphur Springs, DOB 7/10/91, burglary, destruction of property, petit larceny

26-F-7(V), Aaron Green, White Sulphur Springs, DOB 7/10/91, grand larceny

26-F-8(B), Knesha Jackson, Lynchburg, VA, DOB 12/13/94, fraudulent use of an access device (x3)

26-F-9(B), Jenny Sizemore, Ronceverte, DOB 3/22/87, embezzlement, fraudulent use of an access device (x14), forgery (x7)

26-F-10(B), Dale Boone, Ronceverte, DOB 1/10/50, sexual assault in the Third Degree, incest, sexual abuse by a parent, guardian, custodian or person in a position of trust to a child (x2)

26-F-11(B), Kenneth Neff, Lewisburg, DOB 1/8/75, forgery of a credit card (x3)

26-F-12(V), Misty Trent, Ronceverte, DOB 10/10/79, grand larceny

26-F-13(B), Ryan Brown, Lewisburg, DOB 3/13/88, solicitation of a minor via computer

26-F-14(V), William Edmond, Caldwell, DOB 1/31/60, delivery of a schedule II controlled substance - cocaine (x6), possession with intent to deliver a schedule II controlled substance - cocaine, prohibited person in possession of a firearm

26-F-15(B), Beverly Burdette, Rainelle, DOB 4/16/74, embezzlement

26-F-16(V), Frank Leilich, Victor, DOB 5/14/82, attempt to commit a felony, to-wit: kidnapping, use or presentation of a firearm during commission of a felony,

See "Indictments" _____ Page 3

SkyWest American Eagle begins air service at Greenbrier Valley Airport



Rodney Howard (left), Matt Wyant, Commissioner Holliday, Jerry Cook (GCAA Board), Mike Rose, James Seadler, Dale Vass and Trish Roberts.

By Sarah Richardson

On Wednesday, Feb 11, Greenbrier Valley Airport (LWB) welcomed the inaugural SkyWest flight to the region. SkyWest, a third-party carrier for American Airlines, has previously served the LWB in years past. This new air service replaces Contour Airlines under the federal Essential Air Service (EAS) program.

Airport Director Martha Livesay said, "Earlier this week we welcomed American Eagle Service operated by SkyWest Airlines to our airport. This partnership brings meaningful upgrades for our passengers, from larger aircraft and first-class seating to restored Chicago service. We are excited about what it means for our business travelers and our community moving forward."

"We are sincerely grateful to everyone who joined us for the ceremony," posted LWB on their social media. "Board Chairman Mike Rose spoke about what this new air service means for our region and the opportunities it creates. Commissioner Richie Holliday, also a member of our Board, emphasized the importance of

reliable air service and recognized the dedicated team who work every day to make it possible. Joslyn Barnhart, Public Information Officer for Senator Jim Justice, shared a greeting on behalf of the Senator's office highlighting how expanded air service strengthens economic growth and connectivity for our area. James Seadler, representing American Airlines, concluded the remarks by encouraging the community to pack a bag, board a flight, and allow their team to safely take passengers to their destination- and back home to LWB."

The first American Eagle flight was then welcomed as it arrived from Charlotte, North Carolina (CLT).



SkyWest American Eagle at the Greenbrier Valley Airport.

Gov. Morrisey visits WVSOM to announce water infrastructure project



Gov. Morrisey speaks at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine.

The West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM) hosted a press conference by West Virginia Gov. Patrick Morrisey on Feb. 9. Morrisey announced a public water line extension project in western Greenbrier County, parts of which currently rely on private water sources such as wells.

Morrisey said a \$2 million grant through the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Abandoned Mine Lands Economic Revitalization (AMLER) program will be used to extend water service from Sam Black Church to Smoot Elementary School. The AMLER program assists projects located on or adjacent to mine sites that have ceased operations, with the goal of reclaiming these sites as platforms for growth.

"I'm excited about what this project means for Smoot Elementary School

and the reliability, safety and peace of mind of our kids. Schools depend on consistent water for sanitation, food service, student health and emergency preparedness," Morrisey said. "Connecting these water lines also helps residential and commercial customers and sends a bright message about our future."

Morrisey said the extension is one of a series of infrastructure projects he plans to announce this week, and that it will help promote economic development in southern West Virginia.

"Access to public water is one of the key criteria for whether homes can be built, businesses can expand and employers can consider a location," he said. "It is critically important, so we've been looking at ways to take some of the dollars available through different programs and convert as much into water and sewer money as possible. The thesis behind this is that if you have enough investments in the fundamentals, then more people

See "Infrastructure Project" _____ Page 2

This Week in the House of Delegates

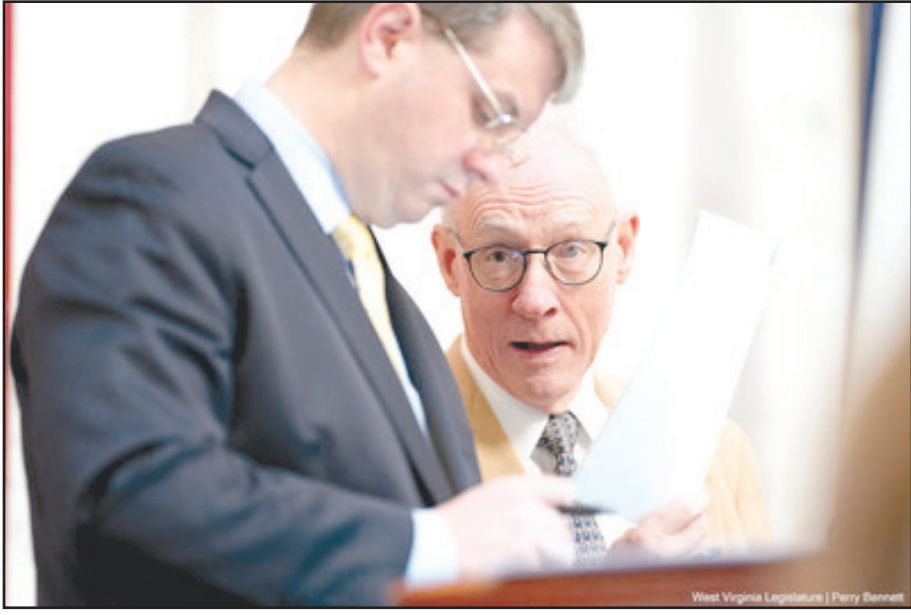
For the week ending Feb. 6, 2026

Members of the West Virginia House of Delegates continue to move bills through the legislative process as the 60-day regular session nears its halfway point. A total of 42 House bills had passed the full House as of Feb. 6, and they now are with the West Virginia Senate for deliberation.

Among them is House Bill 4004, which passed the House Feb. 4 by a vote of 86-7. It would create the Re-charge West Virginia Program to support companies in the state that give their employees an expansion in skills along with at least a 25% boost in pay.

Delegate Clay Riley, R-Harrison, presented the bill and answered questions about it before the vote. He told his fellow Delegates it was important to ask questions and be deliberative when casting votes about how to invest the state's tax dollars.

"I can't think of a better place to invest than the state's people ... and building a stronger economy for our state," Riley said. "It creates a smart incentive for



(WV Legislature Photography by Perry Bennett)

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Babydog correctly picks Super Bowl winner, misses final score by 1 point

ESPN analysts, the NBC Super Bowl crew, former coaches and players, dolphins, tigers, elephants and even a kangaroo made their predictions for Super Bowl LX over the course of the last week. None came as close as West Virginia’s favorite dog.

Near the end a news conference earlier this week, Babydog, the English Bulldog owned by U.S Senator Jim Justice and his family, made her prediction. Holding Babydog in his lap and a white board in the other hand, Justice displayed the score prediction that read, Seahawks 28, Patriots 13. Seattle ended up winning 29-13, one point off of Babydog’s prediction.

What’s even more amazing is that the accuracy of the 60-pound, 6-year-old bulldog wasn’t a one-time phenomenon. Babydog first started making Super Bowl picks in 2021 and is now 4-1 in predicting



Babydog and Sen. Justice

the big game.

Babydog has become a national celebrity, known for her big smile and her love for chicken nuggets. She appears with Justice at events across the country, including the Republican National Convention and on national television shows. Fans, journalists and politicians all attended her sixth birthday party in October, held in the Hart Senate Office Building.

Infrastructure Project

and businesses are going to be coming to your state.” James W. Nemitz, Ph.D., WVSOM’s president, thanked Morrissey for his visit to the osteopathic medical school. “I’m pleased to have the opportunity to welcome Governor Morrissey to our campus. We are all working toward the same goal of improving the well-being of West Virginians, and initiatives like this water line extension play an important role in advancing the state,” Nemitz said. Justin McAllister, WVSOM’s vice president of finance and facilities and chief financial officer, said Morrissey’s announcement marks a step forward for the region, and ultimately promotes the same goals the school supports. “Reliable, modern infrastructure is essential for supporting rural communities, and this investment will strengthen the foundation on which residents, businesses and institutions depend. For WVSOM, enhanced

water capacity directly supports our mission to train the next generation of physicians by ensuring a safe, resilient and fully supported campus environment. Projects like this help us continue serving our students - and, through them, the rural communities they will one day care for,” McAllister said. Public leaders in attendance included Woody Hanna, Richie Holliday and Lowell Rose of the Greenbrier County Commission; Misty Hill, Lewisburg city manager; Valerie Pritt, Lewisburg City Council member; Ruthana Beezley, executive director of the Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corp.; Samantha Smith of the West Virginia Division of Economic Development; John Tuggle and Jamie Baker of the Region 4 Planning and Development Council; Jeff Bryant, superintendent of Greenbrier County Schools; Molly Judy, principal of Smoot Elementary School; and WVSOM officials.

Continued from Front Page

West Virginia State Parks Foundation launches online store

Just in time for Valentine’s Day, the West Virginia State Parks Foundation is excited to announce the launch of its official online merchandise store. This new online shop makes it easy for supporters of West Virginia’s iconic parks, forests, and rail trails to purchase apparel they love - while directly supporting important park projects around the state.

The store features a collection of T-shirts and sweatshirts showcasing the stunning and distinctive Love WV State Parks

logo. Whether you’re shopping for an outdoor enthusiast or someone who simply cherishes our state’s natural beauty, this merchandise is a meaningful way to show your support for the West Virginia State Park system - #1 in the nation.

Visit the West Virginia State Parks Foundation Online Merchandise Store at: <https://www.lovewvstateparks.com/>

“We’re thrilled to offer people from across the country a convenient way to wear their love for WV State Parks,” said Foundation Executive Director Brad Reed.

House of Delegates

companies to grow here and hire here - West Virginians. “It creates real opportunities for West Virginians to earn industry-recognized credentials and move into higher-paying jobs; it’s what we always talk about. Let’s raise people up - help them up. It closes the skills gap. It keeps talent in West Virginia, which is our biggest export right now, and it prioritizes regions with economic distress - those southern coalfields who said we need something. This is something.”

Delegate Kayla Young, D-Kanawha, who voted for the bill after asking several questions, said she thought it was “a great idea.”

“I think anything we can do to help with upskilling our employees is fantastic,” Young said just ahead of the vote. “I really think this is going to help with manufacturing.”

House Bill 4456 unanimously passed the House Feb.

4. It would allow law enforcement agencies in West Virginia to enter into written agreements with law enforcement agencies in border states to better help with investigations.

The measure, sponsored by Delegate Scot Heckert, R-Wood, passed unanimously Feb. 4. It came about after the sheriffs in Wood and Pleasants counties met with their counterparts in the Buckeye State and discussed ways to better aid and cooperate with one another.

“Especially with the nature of our state and so many borders we share, I thought this would be a simple but important way to better help our law enforcement officers easily cut through red tape and get to the jobs they’re trained to do,” Heckert said.

The last day to introduce bills is Feb. 17, and 1,316 bills have been introduced in the House. The 60-day, regular legislative session ends at midnight March 14.

Red Cross: 20K donations uncollected due to winter storms, give blood now

Severe blood shortage intensifies as snow, ice and extreme temperatures impact blood drives

The American Red Cross urges people to take action now to help offset the severe impact of recent winter storms on efforts to rebuild the blood supply during an ongoing blood shortage. Donors of all blood types are asked to make a blood donation appointment as soon as possible.

Over 500 blood drives have been canceled since the beginning of the year, causing more than 20,000 blood and platelet donations to go uncollected. In the Central Appalachia Region, 30 blood drives have been affected, with nearly 850 blood product donations going uncollected. In addition to the disruption of blood drives, dangerous weather conditions have also made it tougher to transport vital blood products, which could potentially affect deliveries to hospitals in some locations.

Local blood drives include:

- Monday, Feb. 23: Lewisburg United Methodist Church, 214 E. Washington Street, Lewisburg, 12 noon to 6 p.m. (Note: drive is currently full. Visit redcross-blood.org for more information.)
- Wednesday, Feb. 25: Clintonville Ruritan Club, 18918 Midland Trail W., Crawley, 1 to 6 p.m.
- Monday, Mar. 9: Lewisburg United Methodist Church, 214 E. Washington Street, Lewisburg, 12 noon to 6 p.m.

Patient care is at risk - donors in unaffected areas are asked to book an appointment to give blood now by using the Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Those in areas facing extreme winter weather are asked to give when it’s safe to do so. All who come to give Jan. 26 - Feb. 28, 2026, will receive a \$20 e-gift card to a merchant of choice. See RedCrossBlood.org/Heart for details.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation’s blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or CruzRojaAmericana.org, or follow us on social media.

PICK OF THE LITTER



RIVER

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



SNARE

Snare is a four-month-old male domestic shorthair

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

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

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

Call 304-645-4775 for more information.

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

DON'T SHOP • ADOPT!

THANK YOU FOR READING THE MOUNTAIN MESSENGER

Briefly

Williamsburg Shooting Match delayed

The Williamsburg Shooting Match scheduled for Feb. 7 has been delayed until Feb. 21 due to weather. Concessions will open at 5 p.m. with the Match starting at 6 p.m. The Jack Goodman Scholarship Shooting Match is set for Feb. 21. Hope to see you there.

Baked Steak Dinner at Williamsburg

Williamsburg invites you to treat your family to a delicious home cooked Baked Steak Dinner on Feb. 14 from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Williamsburg Community Building. The meal will feature baked steak and gravy, real mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, salad, roll/bread, a variety of desserts and tea/coffee. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children under 12 years old. Call 304-520-2196 for more information.

The American Heritage Music Hall Valentine’s Day Dance

Saturday, Feb. 14, 6-10 p.m., Clingman Center, 980 North Jefferson Street, Lewisburg. There is a \$10 cover charge for adults. Children under the age of 10 free. All ages are welcome to attend.

Marriages

Deanna Lynette Loy and John Andrew Hicks
Kristi Lyn Gavalier and Gregory Wenzl Brown

Suits

New Cases from 2/4/26 to 2/11/26

New Civil Cases
John Theodore Argyrakis v. Leah Argyrakis
Capital One N A Successor by Merger to Discover Bank v. Cameron M Huffman
Capital One N A Successor by Merger to Discover Bank v. Derrick Van Meter
Capital One N A Successor by Merger to Discover Bank v. Amy S Patterson

New Divorces
Richard Alexander Herndon and Ashley Mae Herndon

Bethlehem Farm assists local residents with home repair needs

Bethlehem Farm, a nonprofit organization serving parts of Summers, Monroe, and Greenbrier Counties, is accepting applications for its 2026 low-income home repair program.

Bethlehem Farm partners with low-income individuals and families to make necessary repairs on their homes. Applicants must provide the home repair supplies or consistent monthly payments for these supplies, while Bethlehem Farm provides free skilled and volunteer labor to enact the home repair projects.

For example, if a person would like assistance building a wheelchair ramp, that person would provide the money for the lumber and fasteners up front, or make (zero-interest) monthly payments to Bethlehem Farm to cover the cost of these supplies. Bethlehem Farm would contribute knowledge, tools, and labor to the project.

Eligible projects can include wheelchair ramps, painting, siding, insulation, roof repairs, windows and doors, flooring repairs, and health & safety related porches or decks.

We do NOT perform two-story roof repairs, steep roof repairs, electrical work, plumbing work, or help paying utility bills.

Bethlehem Farm is located near Alderson. The Bethlehem Farm home repair program’s Eastern limit is White Sulphur Springs, Southern limit is Pickaway, Western limit is Nimitz, and Northern limit is Rupert. Residents of Summers, Monroe, and Greenbrier Counties in these limits who are prepared to provide supplies or monthly payments and who are interested in applying should call Marcus at Bethlehem Farm at 304-445-7143.

www.bethlehemfarm.net/need-home-repair, or homerepair@bethlehemfarm.net.



For the Record

Deeds

Leonard Waid to Aaron R. Parker: 0.46 acre, Rupert District, Map 3 Parcel 0038.
Appalachian Headquarters Inc. to Jeremy M. Gioia to Jacquelyn M. Gioia: 0.073 acres, Lewisburg District, Map 19 Parcel 46.
Joann L. Chrisman and Kenneth Chrisman to Tracie L. Talany: 7.00 acre, Meadow Bluff District, Map part of 69 Parcel 52.
Paul F. Barb and Annalew B. White-Barb to Paul F. Barb and Annalew B. White-Barb: 3 tracts, 24.33 acres, Frankford District, Map 15 Parcel 98.
Jana L. Dunn to Aaron Dunn, Golda L. Dunn, and Talia S. Dunn: 6.92 acres, 38.88, 42.23 acres, less easement 31.00 acres, Frankford District, Lewisburg District, Map Frankford/22, Lewisburg/9 Parcel 00530001/00530002/0019000/001.
Douglas Lyall to Paul C. Lyall: one acre, Falling Spring District, Map 72 Parcel 7-2.
Paul C. Lyall to Michael K. Lyall: one acre, Falling Spring District, Map 72 Parcel 7.1.
Paul C. Lyall to Michael K. Lyall: one acre, Falling Spring District, Map 72 Parcel 7.1.
Paul C. Lyall to Garnett C. Bowers: 1 acre, Falling Spring District, Map 72 Parcel 702, 7.1.
Margaret A. White to Joan M. Walkup: 1.00 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 75 Parcel 0031.
Ralph Sandy to Sharon Ervin: 0.52 acres, Lewisburg District, Map 14K Parcel 0034.
Larry F. Large to Pamel F. Doering lots 76-77, Meadow Bluff District.
B. David Ballengee Jr. to Judy Dean: 1.39 acres & 22.00 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 47/47 Parcel 13/11.
Richard Givens, Karen C. Givens, Jacob L. Givens, and Jessica L. Nicely to Tresabezas Trust (by trustees David M. Kryszak and Andrea C. Kryszak): right of way and easement deed, Anthony Creek District.
Susan L. Walker (by AIF) and Richard A. Williamson to Jerry Roberts: right of way deed, Falling Spring Dist.
Mark A. Hunt State Auditor (by appointee) to Jeffrey Bennett: lot 89, Rainelle District, Map 4 Parcel 0050.
Mark A. Hunt State Auditor (by appointee) to Jeffrey Bennett: lot 88, Rainelle District, Map 4 Parcel 0051.

Public Meetings

Rainelle Town Council

meetings are held every second and fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Rainelle City Hall. The public is invited to attend.

Greenbrier County Farmland Protection Board

meets on the 4th Thursday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the Greenbrier County Courthouse, 912 Court Street North, Lewisburg, WV 24901 in the County Commission Meeting Room. The public is invited to attend. Call 304-520-3221 for more information.

Lewisburg City Council

will meet Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. in Paul R. Cooley Council Chambers, 942 Washington Street, West. Also available via Teleconference. For information on how to participate on ZOOM contact Lewisburg City Hall 304-645-2080 by 3 p.m. on the day of the meeting. On the agenda:

- Ordinance
 - Ordinance 327 - City Code update sidewalks
- Resolution
 - Resolution 593 - Water System Improvement Pay Request 46
 - Resolution 594 - Corporation of Falling Springs a.k.a. Town of Renick Water System
- Communications from Mayor White
 - Appointment of unexpired City Council vacancy
- Communications from City Manager Hill
 - 2025 Year in Review
 - Merit Pay Approval
 - GovWell Software Purchase for Planning Zoning and Permits
- Communications from City Council Members
- Communications from Chief of Police Teubert
- Communications from Fire Chief Thomas
- Communications from Council Committees
 - Finance Committee Report
 - Arts & Humanities Funding Greenbrier Valley Home & Garden Tour
 - Video Lottery Funding Greenbrier East High School Project Graduation 2026
 - So. Lafayette St. Stormwater Improvements Project:
 - Approval of Change Order No. 5 \$3,105.00
 - Approval of Final Adjusting Change Order No. 6 - (\$19,701) A decrease in contract amount. Pay Request No. 5 (Final) from Lynch Construction in amount of \$35,911.56, which is final payment
 - Chapman Technical Group Invoice 0021769
 - Pay Increase & Reclassification - John L. White
- Public Works Dept. Report from Director Legg
- Approval of Minutes - Jan. 20, 2026
- Visitors' Reports: (3 min. limit per subject not on agenda)

Lewisburg Planning Commission

will meet Thursday, March 5, at 5 p.m. in Paul R. Cooley Council Chambers, 942 Washington Street, West, to hear the following applications.

- Henrietta Rausenberger, 725 Washington St West - minor subdivision, Tax Map 19, parcel 25
- William Wayne Hoover and Patricia Hoover, 311 Raven View - lot line adjustment
- Florian Schleiff, 170 Preston Blvd - lot line adjustment
- Approval of Minutes
- Comments from the Public
- Comments from the Planning and Zoning Officer
- Comments from the Commissioners

The next meeting scheduled for the Lewisburg Planning Commission will be held Thursday, April 2, at 5 p.m. with deadline of Wednesday, Mar. 11, at 10 a.m.

Indictments

Continued from Front Page

prohibited person in possession of a firearm (x2), obstructing an officer

26-F-17(V), Andrew Fisher, Alderson, DOB 1/7/94, failure to register as a sex offender or provide notice of registration changes - second offense (x2)

26-F-18(V), Jerry Whitlock, Leivasy, DOB 1/16/62, grand larceny, destruction of property

26-F-19(B), Erica Simms, Rainelle, DOB 6/4/90, financial exploitation of an elderly person, conspiracy to commit forgery and/or uttering, forgery (x15)

26-F-20(B), Richard Haddway, Seaford, DE, DOB 5/28/98, reckless fleeing from an officer, driving while license suspended or revoked

26-F-21(B), Nickolas Bragg, Rainelle, DOB 1/8/87, grand larceny

26-F-22(V), Michael Dolan, Clarksburg, DOB 8/12/73, distribution and display to minor of obscene matter (x6), use of obscene matter to seduce a minor (x6), patronizing a victim of sexual servitude, solicitation of a minor via computer or attempted solicitation of a minor via computer

26-F-23(V), Shannon Gwinn, Meadow Bridge, DOB 9/10/81, person in position of trust allowing sexual exploitation of minor, sexual servitude, distribution and display to minor of obscene matter (x4)

26-F-24(B), John Lafferty, Smoot, DOB 6/7/84, grand larceny (x2), conspiracy to commit grand larceny

26-F-25(B), Eugene Harmon, Jr., Rainelle, DOB 7/9/87, grand larceny (x2), conspiracy to commit grand larceny

26-F-26(B), Alphrin Norman, Caldwell, DOB 7/17/93, domestic battery, 3rd or subsequent offense, unlawful restraint

26-F-27(V), Steven Petro, Caldwell, DOB 10/17/89, robbery in the First Degree, attempt to commit extortion, domestic battery

26-F-28(V), Amanda Canfield, Ronceverte, DOB 11/8/91, malicious assault

26-F-29(B), Nathaniel Clevenger, Gap Mills, DOB 2/11/02, domestic battery, brandishing a deadly weapon, domestic assault, wanton endangerment involving a firearm

26-F-30(V), James Honaker, Jr., Lewisburg, DOB 5/10/65, driving while impaired state - 3rd or subsequent offense, driving while license revoked for driving under the influence of alcohol - 3rd or subsequent offense

26-F-31(V), Ellis Wilson, Quinwood, DOB 9/15/75, prohibited person in possession of a firearm (x2)

26-F-32(B), Jacklyn Manspile, Rainelle, DOB 1/8/88, grand larceny

26-F-33(B), James Martin, Rainelle, DOB 5/30/89, breaking and entering, petit larceny, grand larceny

26-F-34(B), Larry Phipps, Crawley, DOB 5/20/65, breaking and entering, destruction of property, obstructing an officer

26-F-35(V), Travis Hinkle, Lewisburg, DOB 8/1/86, breaking and entering, conspiracy to commit breaking and entering

26-F-36(V), Wesley Holliday, Ronceverte, DOB 5/23/90, breaking and entering, conspiracy to commit breaking and entering

26-F-37(V), Tyler Truman, Dixie, DOB 7/18/88, attempted murder in the First Degree, wanton endangerment involving a firearm, malicious assault, use or presentation of a firearm during commission of a felony

26-F-38(V), Nathaniel Gunn, Lewisburg, DOB 12/2/88, burglary, battery (x2)

26F-39(B), Nathan Hubbard, Second Creek, DOB 7/6/91, burglary

Arraignments are scheduled as follows:
Judge Via - Feb. 18 at 9 a.m.
Judge Richardson - Feb. 23 at 2 p.m.

Mountain Messenger

The Weekend Newspaper for the Greenbrier Valley

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1985

Strengthening Community and Promoting Diversity in the Greenbrier Valley

Mountain Messenger’s Properties & Lifestyles

Our high-gloss, magazine style featuring area real estate

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OBITUARIES

Jack Harold Smith



Jack Harold Smith, 98, of Ronceverte, WV, passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026, at Peyton Hospice House in Lewisburg. Born on Apr. 13, 1927, in Logan, WV, Jack was the son of the late Mark Haymond and Christine Bare Smith.

Jack spent his professional life as a dedicated Programmer for CSX Railroad, retiring after a long and accomplished career. Known affectionately as “Mr. Jack” by the congregation of First Baptist Church of Fairlea, he was a cherished member, always greeting others with a warm smile and a piece of candy. Jack’s generosity and friendly spirit touched countless lives within his church and community. Jack loved the Lord and witnessing to people, sharing his faith openly and inspiring those around him with his unwavering devotion. His commitment to serving others was deeply rooted in his spiritual beliefs, leaving a lasting impact on everyone he met.

An avid outdoorsman, Jack also loved golfing and bowling. He took pride in maintaining an immaculate home and was renowned for his storytelling abilities, often entertaining his nieces and nephews with tales both imaginative and heartfelt. Alongside his late wife, Virginia Lee Smith, Jack enjoyed traveling in their RV and devoted many hours to volunteer work, embodying a spirit of service and adventure.

Jack was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Virginia Lee Smith, his parents, and his brothers: Mark (Nellie) Smith, Herbert (Virginia) Smith, Bob Smith, and John (Betty) Smith, as well as his brother-in-law, George Raines. He is survived by his daughter-in-law, Ann Dickinson Smith; his grandchildren, Steven Smith (Tracy) and David Smith; and his great-granddaughter, Avery Smith. Jack also leaves behind sisters, Mary Ellen Raines and Ida Lea Gosik (Joe); his sister-in-law, Jewell Smith; and a large extended family including several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and many friends who will miss his kindness and generosity.

A funeral service in honor of Jack’s life will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 15, at Morgan Funeral Home Chapel in Lewisburg. Family and friends are invited to attend a visitation one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Jack will be laid to rest at Riverview Cemetery in Ronceverte, WV, at a later date. In lieu of flowers donations should be made to the First Baptist Church of Fairlea Scholarship Fund or to Gwens Meals c/o Shepherds Center of Greenbrier Valley.

The online guestbook is available for condolences and memories at www.morganfh.net. Arrangements have been entrusted to Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV.

Jack may not have

reached his 100th birthday, but he truly lived a full and meaningful life. He will be remembered for his faith, his love for family, his generosity, and the joy he brought to everyone around him. His legacy will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

Brenda Gay Johnston



Brenda Gay Johnston, 76, of Lewisburg passed away on Feb. 6, 2026 at the Lewisburg Healthcare Center in Ronceverte following a short illness.

She was born Dec. 31, 1949 in Havre De Grace, MD, the daughter of the late William Pershing and Opal Virginia Wyatt Johnston Workman.

Brenda in her early working career was a caregiver and baby-sitter, follow by employment at ABB. She then went to work and retired from Appalachian Electronics.

Other than her parents she was preceded in death by her siblings; Vicki Anthony (Andy), Perkie Johnston (Suzanne), John David Johnston (Marie) and a sister-in-law, Teresa.

Those left to cherish the many fond memories of Brenda are her sisters; Margaret Johnston Bovee (Rich), Donna Johnston Legg and Debbie Johnston Smith (Chuck); brother Richard Johnston; half sisters, Micki Oshiro (Jamie) and Melissa Buckland (Bryan); and numerous nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life will be held in the Spring of 2026 for Brenda.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg is in charge of the arrangements. Online condolences may be sent by visiting: www.WallaceandWallace-FH.com.

Orville Linwood Sams



Orville Linwood Sams, 75, of Ronceverte, WV passed away at home from complications of chronic illness on Feb. 6, 2026, with his wife by his side. Born Mar. 11, 1950, in Ronceverte, he was the son of the late Earl L. and Catherine Massie Sams.

Orville graduated from high school in Alderson, WV in 1968. He attended Marshall University for two years, majoring in political science, then transferring to Olivet Nazarene University in Kankakee, IL, beginning his junior year. It was there he met and married Sandra (Lehrke) on Aug. 5, 1972. He graduated from ONU in 1973 with a BA in Social Studies and a minor in Psychology.

In 1974 Orville and Sandra moved to Springfield, MO where he went to night school to

study electrical wiring and plumbing as well as working for a building contractor, framing and roofing houses during the day. Upon moving back to WV in 1976 he started his own contracting business, working alongside his brother, Doug. Eventually his business grew to including building Greenbrier Valley Urology and Greenbrier Valley Church of the Nazarene in Greyrock Professional Park.

Orville is survived by his wife, Sandra, son, Jared Sams (Christi), granddaughters, Jaci and Madelynn and grandsons, Nicholas Trent and Dravin Ambler. Orville was the seventh of eleven children, preceded in death by three sisters, Lucille Hefner, Joyce Wickline and Sue Perry. He is survived by one sister, Ruth Starr of Charleston, brothers, Earl (Sonny) and Barry of Georgia and Robert, Roger, Doug and John locally. Orville was also preceded in death by his oldest son, Nathan Sams in April 2025.

Funeral service will be held at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 18, at Morgan Funeral Home with Rev. David Harris officiating. Family and friends may pay respects one hour prior to the service at the funeral home, Wednesday. Orville will be interred later in the Rosewood Cemetery, Lewisburg, WV.

The family would like to offer a sincere special thank you to Dr. Marilyn Glasser for her treatment and supportive care throughout Orville’s illness.

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

Carlos Lee Hoke



Carlos Lee Hoke, 82, of White Sulphur Springs, WV, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital.

Born on June 10, 1943, in Glace, WV, Carlos was the beloved son of the late Edward Burdle Hoke, Sr. and Etta Spence Hoke. He spent his career at The Greenbrier, where he dedicated over 30 years of service in Security and as a Plumber, earning the respect and friendship of co-workers and guests alike.

Carlos found great joy in the outdoors and his hobbies. He was an avid hunter and woodworker and found fulfillment in training both horses and dogs. His love for animals was evident throughout his life.

In addition to his parents, Carlos was preceded in death by his daughters, Diane Lovell and Susan Hoke; his siblings, Posie Hoke, Jerry Hoke, Shirley Boggs, Mildred Alderson, Hilda Martin, Bernice Fury, Arlene Bunch, and Edward “June Bug” Hoke Jr.; and his beloved canine companions, Kasey and Chase.

Left to cherish his memory are his loving wife, Rose Mary Bostic Hoke; his son, Carlos Duane Hoke (Vanessa); his brother, Marshall

Hoke; his sisters, Louise Feury and Sharon Emily Hoke; his granddaughter, Ashley Lovell; his faithful dog, Rex; as well as several nieces and nephews.

Honoring Carlos’s wishes, he will be cremated and no service will be held. Friends and family may share condolences and memories by signing the online guestbook at www.morganfh.net.

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

Carol Morgan Ramsey



Rejoice with the family and friends of Carol Morgan Ramsey as they announce her earthly death on Feb. 8, 2026.

Carol’s life speaks for itself. She was the epitome of a Christian woman - a loving wife and mother. Proverbs 31 could have been written about her.

There are intangible gifts a mother can give her children. The first is faith. The second is loving their father. The third is teaching them what is right while loving and supporting them when they are wrong.

Carol was born in Ronceverte, WV, and graduated from Greenbrier High School. She volunteered in the Children’s Ministry at Connelly Memorial Baptist Church and North Roanoke Baptist Church. She was a volunteer at Westside Elementary School throughout her children’s time there. She volunteered with Meals on Wheels for 17 years. Carol received great joy in sending Veterans Day cards each year to those who served their country.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lambert and Kathleen Morgan; siblings Delbert Morgan (Sarah) and Dayton Morgan (Poochie); and brothers-in-law Paul Wong and Manfred Bennett.

She is survived by her loving husband of 62 years, Ernest Ramsey; her children, Lori Morgan (Eric), Dean Ramsey (Sharon), and Darin Ramsey (Reid); her grandsons, Spencer Ramsey (Emily) and Andrew Ramsey; her miracle great-grandsons, Samuel Ramsey and Zachariah Ramsey; her sisters, Charlotte Wong and Linda Bennett; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation was held Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 1 p.m., with the funeral following at 2 p.m. Both services were held at Oakey’s North Chapel, 6732 Peters Creek Rd., Roanoke, VA.

Graveside following at Blue Ridge Memorial Garden.

The family gives thanks to God for the compassionate Amedisys hospice team. He assembled to walk with Carol and her loved ones

during this time.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the North Roanoke Baptist Church Building Fund at <https://pushpay.com/g/nrbcroanoke> then select “Gift for Phase I Renovations.”

Dewey Melvin Eary



Dewey Melvin Eary, 88, passed away peacefully on Feb. 9, 2026, in Lewisburg, WV. A man of unwavering work ethic and devotion to his family, Dewey leaves behind a legacy of service and love.

Born on Oct. 30, 1937, in Alderson, WV, Dewey was the son of the late Frank James Eary, Sr. and Essie Pearl Eary. Growing up, Dewey was a standout athlete at Alderson High School, where he excelled in both football and basketball. Following graduation, Dewey answered the call to serve his country by enlisting in the United States Army and served as an Armor Intelligence Specialist and an Armor Crewman. It was during his time stationed in Germany with the 67th Armored Brigade that he met the love of his life, Gisela. The two were married and shared 64 beautiful years of marriage together.

Upon returning to West Virginia, Dewey settled in Lewisburg and began a career defined by dedication. He worked at the paper mill in Covington, VA, for 39 years, followed by another 20 years at his local Wal-Mart. When he wasn’t working, Dewey was an avid sports fan. He could often be found cheering on Greenbrier East High School and his beloved West Virginia University Mountaineers in football, basketball, and baseball. Dewey also shared a love for animals and valued his time with his pets.

Dewey was preceded in death by his parents and his eight siblings: John, Frank, Jr., James, Samuel, Eugene, George, Annie, and Helen Donlon. He is survived by his devoted wife, Gisela Eary; his children, Richard Eary and Christine Eary; his grandchildren, Eric Eary, Charles Eary, his wife Laura Eary, and Lindsey Eary and her partner Joseph Baker; and his great-grandchildren, Dylon Boone, Aiden Boone, Jaxon Baker, and Lane Alderman. He also leaves behind many nieces and nephews across the country who will miss his presence dearly.

Dewey was a man who loved his country and cherished his roles as a husband, father, and Opa. In accordance with his final wishes, he will be cremated. A celebration of life will be held for family and close friends at a later date to honor his remarkable journey.

Donations can be made to Greenbrier County Humane Society in lieu of flowers <https://www.greenbrierhumane.org>.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg is in charge of arrangements. Please send online condolences by visiting: www.WallaceandWallace-FH.com

Orville Lee Childers February 26, 1952 – February 9, 2026



Orville Lee Childers, 73, of Fairlea, WV passed away peacefully on Feb. 9, 2026, surrounded by love at Peyton Hospice House in Fairlea.

Orville was born Feb. 26, 1952 in White Sulphur Springs, WV to the late Opha Orville and Catherine Waid Childers.

Orville graduated from Greenbrier East High School. He married his beloved wife, Helen, in 1974, and together they raised one daughter, Amanda.

He retired from the West Virginia Division of Highways District 9, where he dedicated 38 years of service.

Left to cherish his memory are his loving and caring wife of 51 years, Helen Childers; his daughter Amanda (Daren) Campbell and his two brothers: Wayne Childers and Sam Childers, several nieces and nephews, special friends, and his feline companion, Lily.

Orville found joy gardening, hunting, watching NASCAR races and sporting events, and spending time with his beloved pets and family.

Orville’s kindness, humor, and love for his family will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew him.

A funeral service celebrating Orville’s life will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14, at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg. Family and friends are invited to gather for visitation from 12 noon to 1 p.m. Orville will be laid to rest in Wallace Memorial Mausoleum in Clintonville, WV.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to the Peyton Hospice House, 1265 Maplewood Avenue, Lewisburg, WV 24901 and/or Greenbrier Humane Society, PO Box 926, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

The family wishes to express their gratitude to the Greenbrier County Emergency Ambulance team, medical staff at CAMC GVMC ER, and Peyton Hospice House for the care they showed.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg is in charge of arrangements.

Continued on Page 5

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Club & Church

Carnegie Hall community volunteers create handcrafted bowls for Empty Bowls Throwdowns

Carnegie Hall’s Pottery Studio once again became a hub of creativity, generosity, and collaboration as community volunteers gathered to support the United Way of Greenbrier Valley through the inaugural Empty Bowls Throwdown events.

Held in the Carnegie Hall Pottery Studio on Dec. 18 and Jan. 17, the throwdowns brought together artists and volunteers of all experience levels to create functional works of art in support of a long-standing partnership between Carnegie Hall and United Way. Under the direction of Sean O’Connell, Carnegie Hall Pottery Studio Manager and Teaching Artist, participants worked side by side throwing and hand-building bowls with care and intention.

Over the course of the two sessions, volunteers produced more than 150 unique bowls, each one a handcrafted piece of functional stoneware. Every bowl reflected the individual maker’s creativity while contributing to a shared mission: supporting United Way’s

efforts to address food insecurity and strengthen the Greenbrier Valley community.

In appreciation of the volunteers’ time and dedication, the United Way of Greenbrier Valley provided pizza parties on both dates - adding a celebratory and communal spirit to the long studio hours.

Carnegie Hall extends heartfelt thanks to the community members who generously gave their time and talents to this meaningful effort. Participating volunteers included Eugene Worlledge, Sophie Wiley, Nate Wiley, Amy Dennison, Harold Butler, Sarah Clapham, Abigail Clapham, Bobbi Loos, Maggie Karrs, Kellen Leef and Wendy Friedman.

Through collaboration, creativity, and community spirit, these volunteers helped transform clay into a powerful tool for positive change. Carnegie Hall is proud to continue its partnership with the United Way of Greenbrier Valley and looks forward to future opportunities to create art with purpose.

Church Bulletin

First Baptist Church of Rainelle
Food Pantry - 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

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 Wilson Jackson



James Wilson Jackson, 78, of the Wolfcreek community, went home to be with the Lord unexpectedly on Monday, Jan. 26, 2026, at his residence. Born Mar. 26, 1947, in Wolfcreek, Jim was the son of the late William Cecil Jackson and Zula Virginia (Wilson) Jackson, and he carried their legacy of faith, hard work, and devotion throughout his life.

After graduating from Alderson High School in 1965, Jim traveled to Munroe Falls, Ohio, to work for Sonoco Products. Those years were especially meaningful to him, as he lived with and formed lifelong memories alongside his beloved big brother and family-stories he fondly shared throughout the years.

Jim later returned home to West Virginia and proudly served his country in the United States Army Reserves as Military Police in many locations. His working years reflected his strong hands and even stronger work ethic-from Hercules, Inc. in Covington, VA, to helping construct the iconic New River Gorge Bridge. He operated Jim’s Ashland Station in Alderson before following his passion for building as a licensed contractor. With skill, patience, and pride, he built numerous homes and contributed to important community structures, including a building at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, the Robert C. Byrd Clinic in Lewisburg.

A farmer at heart, Jim honored his family’s roots as an Angus cattle farmer, faithfully tending the Jackson estate from the age of 16. No matter how demanding his full-time work was, the farm was always part of who he was.

Jim’s faith was the foundation of his life. A devoted member of Broad Run Baptist Church, he served willingly and humbly as a deacon, Sunday School Superintendent, and trustee. He also enjoyed fellowship through the West Virginia Cattlemen’s Association and his time at Monroe County Cattlemen’s Association events.

He found joy in farming, hunting, attending classic

car shows, and especially showcasing his prized 1961 Ford Starliner, which earned countless awards and trophies over the years. Above all, Jim will be remembered for his unwavering love and dedication to God, his family, and his many friends. His quiet kindness, steady presence, and warm smile had a way of putting people at ease. Truly, to know him was to smile.

Jim’s greatest joy was his family. He is survived by the love of his life and best friend of 56 years, his wife, Donna Sue (Cole) Jackson; his cherished daughter, Amanda Kuhner and her husband Scott of Jacksonville, FL; his treasured granddaughter, Victoria Elizabeth Kuhner, of Jacksonville, FL; his sisters, Dreama Jane “Patty” Carter, of Alderson and Laura “Penny” O’Brien, of Frankfort, WV, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins who loved him dearly.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his beloved son, James Andrew Jackson; and his siblings, William Walter Jackson (at birth), Marie E. Comer, B. Ruth Frazier, and Virgil C. “Buck” Jackson.

Jim leaves behind a legacy of faith, integrity, hard work, and love - a life well lived and deeply felt by all who were blessed to walk beside him.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can made to Lobban Funeral Home to assist with funeral expenses or to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 840692 Dallas Texas 75284-0692.

Services will be held Saturday, Feb. 7, at 11 a.m. at Lobban Funeral Home Chapel in Alderson, WV, with the Reverend Sam Groves officiating.

Military funeral honors will be conducted by the West Virginia National Guard from Camp Dawson. Friends may call Saturday from 10:30 to 11 a.m. prior to the service. Private interment will be in the Alderson Cemetery.

Condolences and memories may be shared with the Jackson family at www.lobbanfh.com

Janis Goode Salmons

Janis Goode Salmons of Lewisburg, WV, passed away on Feb. 7, 2026.

Janis was born on July 4, 1938 to Freeman and Joyce Bowles Goode. The eldest of five siblings, she grew up on a tobacco farm in Griffithsville, WV. Upon her marriage to Melvin Salmons, Lewisburg became their lifelong home. Janis retired from

Farm Credit where she worked as a loan processor. She was a member of Edgewood Presbyterian Church.

Preceding her in death were her parents, husband and sister Loretta Tullis.

Janis is survived by daughter, Tina (Tim) Stover of Lewisburg, grandchildren, Caitlin (Tommy) Sykes of Lewisburg, and Jacob (Morgan) Stover of Beckley; great-grandchildren, Addy Sykes and Harlan Stover, brothers David (Helen) Goode of Providence Forge, VA, William (Sue) Goode of Griffithsville, WV, and Kenneth (Kathy) Goode of Levelland, TX.

A private Service was held with Pastor Stewart Farley officiating.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg was in charge of arrangements. Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallace-FH.com

Katharine Williamson



On Feb. 5, 2026, Katharine Williamson, 45, was reunited with her grandmother Mae Welch; father-in-law, Robert Williamson; lifelong father figure, Edward “Satch” Kersey, Sr; son, Austin Kersey; daughter and three grandsons, Oreanna, Kian, Aarikyle, and Haiken Myers. Born in Low Moor, VA, but a resident of Chesapeake, VA.

Katharine is survived by her husband, William “Joey” Williamson; daughter, McKenzie; granddaughters, Mary and Ella; mother, Annette Feury, Gerald; father, Warren Douglas “Doug” Myers, Rene; mother-in-law, Freedom Williamson; sisters, Brittini Feury and Ashley Vance; brother, Kraig Feury, McKenzie; aunt, Bessie Bittinger; numerous aunts, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Katharine was a big personality in a small package. She had an impact on each person she interacted with. She was courageous, inspirational, kind, loving, funny, full of joy, a ball of fire that showed us what can be accomplished with determination and persistence. She lived her life to the fullest, despite any challenges. Her greatest joys and accomplishments were the love of her husband, the chance to be a mother and the gift

of being a grandmother of five, whom she held as her pride and joys.

A service will be held on Feb. 15, at 4 p.m. at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home, White Sulphur Springs, WV. The family will receive family at the funeral home the hour before the service.

In lieu of Contributions the family will be accepting flowers that can be sent to the Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home.

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

Anna A. (Boggs) McDowell



Anna A. (Boggs) McDowell, 90, of Ronceverte, WV, passed away on Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026.

She was born in Monroe County, WV, on Jan. 10, 1936, the daughter of the late Fauncy D. and Minnie E. (Henry) Boggs.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, William H. McDowell, sisters Virginia Saunders, Marie Dowdy, and Priscilla Cochran.

She is survived by her children, William Edward McDowell (Terri) and Janet R. King (Kent); grandchildren Jonathan McDowell (Elizabeth), Rebekah McDowell, Krista King, Emily Hinkle (Anthony), and Jarrod King (Dee); great-grandchildren Jude McDowell, Charlee McDowell and Hattie King; and several nieces and nephews.

Anna and Bill were faithful members of Zion’s Light Baptist Church where she was active in the ladies’ circle. She was an avid gardener and loved harvesting and canning vegetables. During the winter months she kept busy by making quilts and her family would anxiously wait to see who would get the finished product.

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 1 p.m. at Zion’s Light Baptist Church in Organ Cave with the Reverend Gary Baker officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service. Interment will follow in

the McLean Cemetery in Organ Cave.

In lieu of flowers the family suggest donations be made to Peyton Hospice House, 1265 Maplewood Avenue, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Ronceverte is in charge of arrangements. Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallace-FH.com

Charles “Charley” Lester Clay



Charles “Charley” Lester Clay, 64, of Alderson passed away on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, at his home surrounded by his family following a brief battle with Parkinson’s disease and Lewy body dementia. Charley was born on Mar. 15, 1961, in Alderson to the late Paul A. Clay and Lenora Olive Armentrout Clay.

Charley served ten years in the United States Air Force as a C-5 Loadmaster in Special Operations. He then returned to his hometown and began his career in carpentry. With dedication, patience, and pride, he built and restored several beautiful homes alongside his brother-in-law Rodger Thomas before going out on his own, performing his passion for painting until he retired.

Charley loved riding the back country roads and taking in all their beauty. He loved spending time with his children, watching his grandchildren play, and the joy of a great-grandson. He was very proud of each of them and loved them dearly. Charley always reminded them he loved them “whole bunches and bunches with all of his heart.”

Those he left behind to cherish his memories are his wife of 31 years, Tammy Clay, his one true love; daughters Ashley Holiday (Jordan) of Union, Brandy Clay of Asbury, Brittany Burdette, a niece that he raised and considered a daughter; son Adam Clay (Hannah) of Alderson; step-son Michael Cales; brothers Joe Clay (Mary),

Sam Clay (Sai), Jim Clay (Barbara); sisters Mary Ann Withrow, Betty Thomas; grandchildren Arianna Holliday, Charles Holliday, Madeline Clay, Elijah Clay; great-grandson Azriel Clevenger; mother-in-law Madeline Cutlip; brothers-in-law Curtis Cutlip (Darlene), Ray Cutlip; sisters-in-law Christine Ernst (Rick), Betty Young, Doris Delay (Larry); and several nieces and nephews.

Charley will be cremated and a celebration of life will be held at the Fort Springs Missionary Baptist Church Saturday, Feb. 21, at 1 p.m.

The family requests for those who wish to help cover expenses please contact Alderson Funeral Services and Smathers Funeral Chapel at 304-438-6141.

The directors and staff of Alderson Funeral Services and Smathers Funeral Chapel are honored to have been entrusted to care for Charley and his family during their great time of need.

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

Virginia May Henson



Virginia May Henson, 88, of Crawley, WV passed away Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026, at her home. Born June 13, 1937, in New Madison, OH she was the daughter of the late George H. and Evalee Stocker Eubank.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, Merle Henson and her siblings, Glenna Batten, George M. Eubank, Sharon Shuttleworth and Sue Best.

Survivors include her children, Vonda Aikman and Vickie Balka, sister, Lois Delk, several grandchildren, great grandchildren and many friends.

It was Virginia’s wish to be cremated and there will be no service.

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

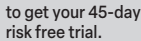
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1. Caliph; 2. inlay
3. Burden; 4. Dodge

Today's Word
BALONEY

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Answers

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Dear Recycle Lady,

I have been tearing off the corner of stapled papers before putting them in recycling. Is it possible to recycle paper with staples in it?

Interested Recycler

Dear Interested Recycler,

Yes, paper can be recycled with staples left in it. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), “paper mills that process recovered paper are set up to remove common contaminants such as staples, from the pulped paper.” Therefore, it is not necessary to remove staples before recycling the paper. However, all paper clips **MUST** be removed as they can tear up the belts during processing. As with all recyclables, the paper must be dry and clean.

Dear Recycle Lady,

When I receive my prescriptions in the store or delivered, they are packaged in a white paper bag. Are these bags recyclable with office paper?

Savvy Shopper

Dear Savvy Shopper,

I am happy to say that today most every kind of single-use bag is recyclable. Your white paper bags are recyclable with office paper. Brown paper bags are recyclable with cardboard and single-use plastic bags are recyclable at Kroger, Wal-Mart, and Lowe’s. Have you considered taking your own bags when shopping, especially at the grocery store? Many sizes and shapes are available that are environmentally friendly. It takes a while to get into the habit of taking your own bags, but it is worth the effort.

Dear Recycle Lady,

What are plant-based cleaners?

Cleaner-Upper

Dear Cleaner-Upper,

Good question. Plant-based cleaners are cleaners

made with environmentally friendly ingredients. Natural ingredients such as vinegar, lemon juice, and baking soda have excellent antibacterial, degreasing, and stain removing properties. Used properly, they can be just as effective as chemical cleaners, however, they work more slowly so let them sit a while before removing them. See <https://thenerdyfarmwife.com/natural-cleaning-recipes/> for making your own cleaning products. There are several commercial cleaners that are plant-based. Look for the EPA Safer Choice label or USDA BioPreferred certified. Tide PurClean ingredients are 75% plant-based and Clorox Ecoclean is made with 99% plant-based cleaning ingredients. Seventh Generation has many plant-based cleaning products, as does Mr. Clean. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also approves natural cleaners with ingredients like thymol (from the oil of thyme), including Seventh Generation Disinfecting Wipes and Cleaners. There are several brands of laundry detergents available now that come in the form of laundry detergent sheets. These sheets are eco-friendly as they are plastic free and light weight, so no more heavy plastic bottles of detergent. They dissolve in the wash and are as tough on stains as liquid detergents. Even the packaging is environmentally friendly so there is no leftover waste to send to the landfill. You may have to try more than one brand to find the perfect one for you, but I highly recommend them. Google laundry detergent sheets for more information and choices available.

Good News: Coral reefs in the southern Pacific Ocean are showing signs of recovery from the natural disasters that have occurred in recent years. Coral is growing again and clownfish, starfish and turtles have been seen in the corals.

Have questions about recycling, or interesting information about recycling? Send questions or requests Recyclelady7@gmail.com. Dear Recycle Lady is sponsored jointly by the Greenbrier Recycling Center and Greenworks Recycling.

A Look Back

By William “Skip” Deegans

Tragically, in 1905, Sine Slyman, a pack peddler and native of Syria, was shot, murdered, and robbed of \$28 in Pocahontas County. Similarly, A. Salome, a Syrian pack peddler (see photo) who had taken to farming in Summers County was shot twice in the back with a high-powered rifle. He left a wife and two children. They were called pack peddlers because they were merchants who carried their merchandise on a back pack and traveled throughout rural West Virginia selling their goods. As they accumulated capital, they would travel by horse and wagon to carry more merchandise. These merchants were commonly from Syria or Lebanon.

Nathan Haddad, who immigrated to the United States from Syria in 1909, had better fortune than Slyman and Salome. He was a pack peddler in Boone County, WV, and settled in Clothier where he opened a store. His son, Fred Haddad, joined him in the mercantile business and together they operated a successful clothing store in Madison, WV. In 1959, Fred Haddad, and three other Boone Countians, brothers Thomas and Lester Ellis (also Syrian-Americans) and Douglas Cook started the HECKS discount store chain in 1959. By the 1980s, HECKS had 127 stores (including one in Lewisburg) and 8,000 employees. At that time, it was the only West Virginia business that was listed on the New York Stock Exchange. However, as a result of competition from Wal-Mart and other issues, HECKS slid into bankruptcy in 1987, and the company was sold. The stores never rebounded and the last ones closed in



Photo courtesy of the West Virginia University West Virginia & Regional History Center.

1990. Reflecting on his life as a peddler, Nathan Haddad said, “Most of us came with no education, no knowledge of the language, and no money. We didn’t expect to reach the top ourselves, but we certainly meant to give our children every chance to do it.”

Sources: Greenbrier Independent, The Independent-Herald Boone County Community Foundation, Aramco World, WV Encyclopedia.

**COGNITIVE DECLINE
RISK AWARENESS &
HEARING HEALTH DECISIONS**

A 25-year study shows hearing aid use can reduce the progression of cognitive decline in older adults.

Using your hearing, just like exercising a muscle, makes it stronger and more effective. Reduced hearing stimulation due to untreated hearing loss can lead to atrophy of functional brain pathways. This can negatively impact hearing ability and speech comprehension and **may increase the risk of dementia.**

**did
YOU?
know**

THE SOONER, THE BETTER.
Many people with gradual hearing loss delay vital testing.

**206 Dawkins Drive, Lewisburg
304.647.4327
greenbrieraudiology.com**

Schedule your expert hearing consultation today.

SPORTS



GEHS’s Elijah Sherman (Photo by Sarah Delany)

football at Muskingum University in New Concord Ohio. Why did you choose Muskingum? Muskingum has very strong academic programs that will be important when I go from college to medical or dental school. The campus is beautiful and the people are truly kind. The school has a faith based culture which is important to me. The way they run their football program is consistent with this culture and I can’t wait to play.

4) What position do you expect to play? Right now, it looks like I will play receiver. I still may have chance to play defensive back as well. I would love to be a two - way starter.

5) Any chance you may wrestle at Muskingum? There is a chance. I love to wrestle and have had some very preliminary discussions with the wrestling program.

Congratulations Kaden! After a STELLAR career for the Spartans, he’ll be counting his BIG PLAYS at the NEXT LEVEL

Events:

On Thursday, Feb. 5, GEHS traveled to Oak Hill for a dual meet. It is Oak Hill’s Senior Night, and the GEHS family sends its best wishes to Oak Hill senior wrestlers Kirclyn Coleman and Bryson Lego. On Friday Feb. 6, the GEHS women wrestled in the Red Dragon Tournament at St. Albans High School. As a team, GEHS is ranked twelfth. These last large women’s tournaments will go a long way to determining seeding for the State Championship Tournament.

The WV Dual Team State Championships were held Feb. 7 and 8 at the State Fairgrounds in Fairlea. This State Championship event brought 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.

KB3 Towing assisted Greenbrier East wrestling Coach Davis Solak by transporting mats from Clifton Forge, VA and Greenbrier East to the State Fairgrounds of WV today.

Each year, a highlight of the WV Wrestling Dual Team State Championship is the guest speakers who present at the program. This year’s special guest speakers are Nick Hylton and Noah Adams.

Friday’s guest speaker is Nick Hylton. Nick is a two time WV State Champion from Liberty High School. Saturday the guest speaker is Noah Adams. Noah is a three time State Champion from Independence High school.

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, 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 Oak Hill Dual, the Red Dragon Tournament, and the WV Wrestling Dual Team State Championship.

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

PUBLIC ONLINE AUCTION

Secure Store - 1367 Maplewood Avenue, Ronceverte, WV 24970, has a possessory lien on all of the goods stored in unit(s) 286. The auction will end on February 19, 2026 at 12 noon. All these items of personal property are being auctioned online through lockerfox.com. These auctions will run until February 19, 2026. Pictures of the unit can be inspected online. Credit Card payments only. For more details visit www.lockerfox.com/storage-auctions/us/

LEGAL

PUBLIC ONLINE AUCTION

Fulton BSH WSSWV, LLC/Secure Store - 38515 Midland Trail E, White Sulphur Springs, WV 2492, has a possessory lien on all of the goods stored in unit(s) 145, 52. The auction will end on February 19, 2026 at 12 noon. All these items of personal property are being auctioned online through lockerfox.com. These auctions will run until February 19, 2026. Pictures of the unit can be inspected online. Credit Card payments only. For more details visit www.lockerfox.com/storage-auctions/us/

LEGAL

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLE

1957 Studebaker Transtar Vin# E77849
Junked over 20 years ago at Shawvers Crossing, Rupert, West Virginia, 24931. Currently held at 1065 Twin Springs Lane, Alderson, WV 24910. This notice is to inform the owner and any lien holders of record of their right to reclaim the motor vehicle within 10 days after the date of notice by the owner or lien holder, upon payment of all towing, preservation, and storage charges resulting from taking and placing the motor vehicle into custody and possession.
Failure of the owner or lien holders of record to exercise their right to reclaim the motor vehicle within the 10 day period shall be deemed a waiver by the owner and all lien holders of record of all right, title, and interest in the motor vehicle and of their consent to the sale or disposal of the abandoned or junked motor vehicle at a private sale, public auction, to a licensed salvage yard, or demolisher.

LEGAL

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF GREENBRIER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

IN RE: Name Change from Jasmine Raye Blankenship to Jasmine Raye Parkinson

Case # 26-D-17

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLICATION CHANGE OF NAME PROCEEDING

FAMILY COURT OF GREENBRIER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

Notice is hereby given that on the 4th day of March, 2025 at 3:30 o'clock p.m., on said day, or as soon as the matter may be heard, Jasmine Raye Blankenship, will apply by Petition to the Family Court of Greenbrier County, West Virginia, located at 912 Court Street N., Room EB-60, Lewisburg, WV 24901 for the entry of an order by said court changing the name of her child or ward from Jasmine Raye Blankenship to Jasmine Raye Parkinson, at which time and place any interested person may appear and be heard, if they so desire.

You are hereby notified that this matter may be rescheduled without further notice of publication.

A copy of said Petition can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk’s office at 912 Court Street North, Lewisburg, West Virginia 24901. Entered by the Clerk of the Court on this 5th day of February, 2026.

Jamie L. Baker

Greenbrier County Circuit Clerk

By: [Signature] Deputy Circuit Clerk

LEGAL

WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION NOTICE OF FILING

Application of Constellation NewEnergy - Gas Division, LLC for Approval to Offer, Render, Furnish or Supply Natural Gas Supply Services to the public in West Virginia in case No. 25-0905-G-EFPP.

Constellation NewEnergy - Gas Division, LLC has filed an application with the West Virginia Public Service Commission (“PSC”) for participation in an Enhanced Firm Pooling Program to provide natural gas supply services as a supplier or aggregator of natural gas services. Constellation NewEnergy - Gas division, LLC, proposes to sell natural gas and related services to all counties in West Virginia.

The PSC may consider this application without a hearing. Protests directed to the technical or financial fitness of Constellation NewEnergy - Gas division, LLC may be filed within 15 days of the date of this notice with the Executive Secretary of the PSC, 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, WV 25301. Please include the Case No. listed above on the protest.

Additionally, please send copies of any protest to Constellation NewEnergy - Gas Division, LLC attorney at the address listed below.

Austin D. Rogers
Babst Calland Clements & Zomnir, P.C
300 Summers Street, Suite 1000
Charleston, West Virginia 25301
(681) 205-8888
(681) 205-8814 facsimile
arogers@babstcalland.com

LEGAL

In accordance with W.Va. Code §8A-7-5, notice is hereby given that the Greenbrier County Commission will meet to conduct public hearings regarding the recommendation to adopt an updated zoning ordinance. Two public hearings will be held: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. and Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. in the Courtroom of the Greenbrier County Commission, located in the Courthouse Annex at 219 Court Street N, Lewisburg, WV

Under consideration at the public hearings will be the proposed updated Greenbrier County Zoning Ordinance as recommended by the Greenbrier County Planning Commission. Summary of proposal: The proposed update reorganizes, clarifies, and modernizes the ordinance text to better reflect current planning practices, applicable state law, and the needs of Greenbrier County; retains the existing zoning districts and existing zoning map; replaces the text of the ordinance to revise definitions, uses, procedures and performance standards.

The study and report on zoning, including the zoning map and proposed replacement zoning ordinance, are available for review in the County Commission office located in the Courthouse, in county public libraries, and are also available for viewing and download on the county website: www.greenbriercounty.net. Any member of the public may attend and be heard on the matter at the public hearings. Written comments will be accepted and made a part of the record if they are received prior to the close of the hearing on March 4, 2026 by:

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

LEGAL

Tariff Form No. 8
(RULE 23)

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGE IN RATES WITH PROPOSED EFFECTIVE RATE

NOTICE is hereby given that Mountaineer Gas Company (Mountaineer), a public utility, has filed with the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA, a tariff containing increased rates, tolls and charges for furnishing natural gas service to approximately 218,000 customers in Barbour, Berkeley, Boone, Braxton, Brooke, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Marion, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mineral, Mingo, Monongalia, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Ohio, Pendleton, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Wayne, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood, and Wyoming Counties in West Virginia.

The proposed increased rates and charges will become effective Thursday, March 5, 2026, unless otherwise ordered by the Public Service Commission, and will produce, on a total Company basis, \$26,793,000 annually in additional revenues, or an overall average increase in revenues of approximately 8.44%. The \$26,793,000 consists of an increase in base rates of \$43,764,000 and a decrease in the Company’s Infrastructure Replacement and Expansion Program (“IREP”) of \$16,971,000. The average monthly bill for the various classes of customers will be changed as follows:

	(\$) INCREASE	(%) INCREASE
Residential	\$ 9.63	% 10.57
Commercial	\$ 14.23	% 4.09
Large Commercial	\$ 1,058.29	% 1.31
Industrial	\$ 378.26	% 1.69
Resale	\$ 125.36	% 1.31
Other	\$ -	% -

This increase incorporates the rate impact of the cumulative investment under the IREP that was placed into service as of September 30, 2025. As a result, the Company proposes to reduce the IREP component of its rates relating to that investment when the new base rates go into effect.

Resale customers of Mountaineer Gas Company include Canaan Valley Gas Company, Cardinal Natural Gas Company, Hope Gas, Inc., Megan Oil and Gas Company, Inc., and City of Philippi.

The increases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. Individual customers may receive increases that are greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change (increases or decreases) by the Public Service Commission in its review of this filing. Any increase in rates and charges will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Public Service Commission. (If a hearing is scheduled, notice will be given of the time and place of hearing.)

Anyone desiring to intervene and act as a party in the case should file on or before May 5, 2026, a Petition to Intervene complying with the Commission rules on intervention in the Rules of Practice and Procedure, 150 C.S.R. 1, unless otherwise modified by Commission order. The Commission may establish a final deadline for intervention. Failure to timely protest or intervene can affect your rights to protest any rate increases or to participate in future proceedings. Anyone desiring to protest should file a written protest as soon as possible, although protests will be accepted by the Commission through the pendency of this proceeding. All protests or requests to intervene should briefly state the reason for the protest or intervention. Requests to intervene must comply with the Commission’s rules on intervention. All interventions may be mailed and addressed to Karen Buckley, Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, P.O. Box 812, Charleston West Virginia 25323 or may be hand-delivered. Protests may be filed online through the Commission website (www.psc.state.wv.us) using the “Submit a Comment” link or may be mailed to the Executive Secretary at the same address as above.

A complete copy of the Company’s tariff proposals and a representative of the Company to provide information concerning this tariff are available to all customers, prospective customers or their agents at the following office of the Company:

501 56th Street SE, Charleston, WV 25304

A copy of this tariff is also available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Secretary of the Public Service Commission at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia 25301.

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 March 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 2022890005	S389-REC/AL-26 00	STBG-2026(112)D	PAVEMENT MARKINGS D-9 RECALL STRIPING 2026 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 contractors’ licence 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.

LEGAL

SWITCHGEAR AND PANELBOARD REPLACEMENT

Sealed Bids for the Greenbrier East High School Switchgear and Panelboard Replacement will be received by the Owner, the Greenbrier County Board of Education, at its offices, 653 Church St, Lewisburg, WV 24901 until 1:00 PM local prevailing time on March 10th, 2026, at which time and place all accepted bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. After opening, the bids will be compared as to quality, thoroughness, and cost by the Greenbrier County Board of Education. In general, project will consist of a Partial Replacement of Switchgear and Panelboards at Greenbrier East High School.

Electronic Copies of the Bidding Documents will be available from the board office and at the mandatory pre-bid meeting. All Bidding Document requests for information, substitution requests and correspondence shall be submitted in writing and directed to the county’s representative, Kasandra McClung, by email only at kasandra.mcclung@k12.wv.us.

Addenda will be issued by the board of education to registered bidding document holders only, who will automatically receive all addenda in electronic format (PDF). Additional reproduced paper copies of the initially issued Bidding Documents and any subsequent addenda are also available from the board of education upon request by registered bidding document holders only.

A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at the project site, Greenbrier East High School, 273 Spartan Lane, Lewisburg, WV at 11:00 AM local prevailing time on February 24th, 2026, for the purpose of familiarizing Bidders with bidding requirements and to consider questions regarding the Bidding Documents. All potential Bidder are required to attend.

Bidders will receive Bidding Documents at the pre-bid meeting.

A Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and issued by a surety company approved by and in favor of the Owner, the Greenbrier County Board of Education, in the amount equal to five percent (5%) of the Bid, shall be submitted with each Bid, to guarantee the Bidder’s entrance into a Contract, if given the award.

No accepted Bid shall be waive or returned because the Bidder failed to, or cannot comply with, all requirements as set forth in Bidding Documents. Further, the successful bidder will be required to furnish and pay for a satisfactory 100% Performance and Labor and Material Payment Bond in the amount of the contract price. Bids may not be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days without the consent of the Owner.

All Bidders and sub-bidder(s) as Contractor and Subcontractor(s) are required to utilize “local labor” pursuant to Chapter 21-Article 1C, the “West Virginia Jobs Act.”

Pursuant to Chapter 21-Article 11 of the “West Virginia Contractor Licensing Act” of 1991, all Contractors doing business in West Virginia must be licensed to perform work in the State; the Contractor’s WV License number must be affixed to all submitted construction bids and fully executed and binding construction contracts or agreements.

To the extent permitted by state law, the Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to make selections from the bids that are solely in its own best interest.

SPORTS



Ava Workman (holding trophy) is pictured with her teammates and Sen. Jim Justice.

Workman hits 1,000th career point in huge night as Lady Spartans defeat Morgantown

by Lucas Adcock

Last week was one for the record books. Junior guard Ava Workman delivered a standout performance in the Spartans’ hard-fought victory over Morgantown, pouring in 30 points and crossing the 1,000-point career milestone in front of cheering fans.

Workman, a cornerstone of the Spartans’ offense, set the tone early with a flurry of baskets, connecting from inside and out. Her scoring surge electrified the crowd and gave her team the momentum it needed in a tight matchup. As the ball left her hands for the milestone bucket, the gym erupted in applause - a testament to her

years of dedication and consistency on the court.

“It feels great!” Workman said after the game. “Finally beating Morgantown for once... I think that was really awesome. I think it took a lot of growth, just from freshman year and working all the way up until junior year. It was very special to us. I mean, it was our home tournament, so we had to win it.”

Head Coach Jim Justice praised Workman’s work ethic and leadership, noting that her scoring prowess this season has been vital in key games. “It was unbelievable,” he said. “Just a junior, and she’s on her way to play college basketball somewhere. But a lot of

these kids did so bloomin’ good.”

The Spartans’ defense also stepped up, helping secure the win over a tough Morgantown squad. The final buzzer signaled not just a triumph on the scoreboard, but a celebration of a memorable night for one of the area’s most dynamic players. Workman’s milestone places her among the elite scorers in the region, and with several games still to play this season, there’s plenty of excitement ahead for fans of Spartan basketball.

The Lady Spartans now sit atop their perch in AAA with a 16-0 record, after winning this one in overtime 57-55.

SCHOOL

Frankford Elementary students place in Elks Club State Hoop Shoot



Congratulations to the following three students from Frankford Elementary: Jaxon Flack, Kinsley Wellman, and Trenton Schoolcraft. They competed in the Elks Club State Hoop Shoot competition on Feb. 7 in Parkersburg. Jaxon placed second in the boys 8-9 division, Kinsley placed third in the girls 10-11 division, and Trenton placed second in the boys 12-13 division. The Frankford faculty and staff are very proud of all three of them!

WV Board of Ed. removes Pocahontas County’s State of Emergency status

The West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE) voted to end the state of emergency at Pocahontas County High School during its February meeting in Charleston. The board issued the heightened status after a series of findings and areas of non-compliance during a special circumstance review.

The WVBE declared the Pocahontas County State of Emergency in February 2025, following findings related to high school counseling, leadership, school environment, and special education. Support from the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) Office of Accountability and Office of Special Education, as well as county and school leaders addressing the identified areas, resulted in significant improvements. The Board’s vote concludes oversight by the WVDE, allowing the county to resume full oversight of all programs and operations.

Logan County Schools Intervention

The WVBE issued a full intervention of Logan County Schools in October 2022 after a special circumstance review revealed multiple findings across several focus areas. Last year, Dr. Sonya White was appointed as county superintendent, and she presented the required six-month update at this month’s meeting. During her tenure of approximately 100 days, the central office has been re-organized, school administrators continue to establish leadership teams to best support student needs and achievement, and local board communications and relations remain an important focus.

As a result of ongoing work and progress, the WVBE voted to return policy-making authority to the Logan County Board of Education. Other areas of county operations will remain under state board control.

Wayne County Schools

The WVBE approved the closure and consolidation of several schools in Wayne County. Dunlow Elementary School and Genoa Elementary School will close at the end of the current school year and merge into Crum PreK-8, East Lynn Elementary School, and Wayne Elementary School.

The agenda, a stream link to the meeting, and available reports can be found on the WVBE event page of the WVDE website.

The next WVBE meeting is at 9 a.m., Wednesday, Mar. 11, in Building 6, Suite 600, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston, West Virginia.

Local student named to St. Lawrence University’s Dean’s List

Beverly Kucera from Lewisburg has been named to St. Lawrence University’s Dean’s List for achieving academic excellence during the Fall 2025 semester. Kucera is a member of the Class of 2029. Kucera attended Chatham Hall.

To be eligible for the Dean’s List, a student must have completed at least four courses and have an academic average of 3.6 based on a 4.0 scale for the semester.

About St. Lawrence University:

Founded in 1856, St. Lawrence University is a private, nonsectarian institution of the liberal arts and

sciences located in Canton, New York. The educational opportunities at St. Lawrence inspire students and prepare them to be critical and creative thinkers, to find a compass for their lives and careers, and to pursue knowledge and understanding for the benefit of themselves, humanity and the planet. Through its focus on active engagement with ideas in and beyond the classroom, a St. Lawrence education leads students to make connections that transform lives and communities, from the local to the global. Visit www.stlawu.edu.

La Salle University students named to fall 2025 Dean’s List

La Salle University congratulates Claire Wills, of Lewisburg as one of the more than 700 traditional undergraduate students named to the fall 2025 Dean’s List in recognition of academic excellence. Wills is an Sophomore Undergrad majoring in Nutrition: Five-Year (B.S./M.S.). Students who complete at least 12 credits and earn a semester grade point average of 3.5 or higher are placed on the Dean’s List.

La Salle University is a comprehensive Lasallian Catholic university located in Philadelphia. It is

rooted in the tradition of the Brothers of the Christian Schools teaching order founded by St. John Baptist de La Salle, the Patron Saint of Teachers. Chartered in 1863 by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, La Salle prepares students to become known for more through a practical liberal arts and experiential education. By offering a quality, affordable experience; rigorous academics; transferable skills; and exposure to domestic and international partnerships in a safe and caring environment, La Salle is propelling learners into leaders. Learn more at lasalle.edu.



38378 Midland Trail E.,
Caldwell, WV 24925
304-520-0182
Mon.-Fri. 8 AM -6 PM

NOW OPEN!

RMC Lewisburg Behavioral Health & MAT Program

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

Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program

A new chapter in hope, healing, and behavioral health services for the Greenbrier Valley and beyond.

ENTERTAINMENT



Brave participants will take a dip in the Greenbrier River on Saturday, Mar. 7 to help fight food insecurity in the Greenbrier Valley.

Second annual Penguin Plunge set for March 7

Brave souls are invited to take a dip in the Greenbrier River on Saturday, Mar. 7, to help fight food insecurity in the Greenbrier Valley and beyond. The second annual Penguin Plunge, scheduled at Island Park in Ronceverte, West Virginia, aims to raise essential funds for the Saturday of Service (SOS) ministry, a recognized 501c3 nonprofit organization in West Virginia.

The event kicks off with participant check-in at 12:30 p.m. with the plunge to begin at 1 p.m. Spectators are encouraged to cheer on plungers and Radio Greenbrier (103.1 FM The Bear) will be on site with live coverage.

The Penguin Plunge supports the Saturday of Service ministry, which provides free, monthly meals to anyone who needs or wants a meal in the Greenbrier Valley and beyond. In its’ sixth year, Saturday of Service reaches out to seniors, those with disabilities, those with limited incomes, families with children, those who are lonely, those who can’t cook homemade meals, and to those who just need to see a smiling face or hear a friendly

greeting. This ministry not only provides food for the physical being, but also food for the spiritual being.

The Penguin Plunge is a powerful way for the community to come together. By braving the cold, the plungers are taking a direct stand against hunger. Participants collect monetary pledges to support their plunge and all funds raised will directly support the ability to serve those who experience food insecurity in the community and beyond.

Prizes will be awarded to the plunger traveling the furthest distance, the oldest and youngest plunger, the plunger with the best costume, and the plunger with the most money raised. A warming tent will be provided for participants to change clothing as well as hot chocolate for those plunging.

Plungers can register online by scanning the QR code on the official Penguin Plunge flyer, located on the Saturday of Service Facebook page, and print the participant packet. If preferred, plungers can register

in person at Arbuckle Insurance Agency, 800 Jefferson Street South in Lewisburg, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Partnerships are available to businesses who want to show their support for this important event. This is a fantastic way to support the Penguin Plunge without getting wet. To become a Penguin Plunge partner, visit the Saturday of Service Facebook page to view the event flyer or contact 304-646-6929 for more information.

Based at Edgewood Presbyterian Church, Saturday of Service acts as a Matthew 25 mission, by being active disciples and making a difference in our community and the world. Jesus wants us to serve others with love and kindness, without expecting anything in return. Yet in return, we get everything.

Help us make a splash on food insecurity in the Greenbrier Valley and beyond by “embracing the cold and being bold!”

Inaugural West Virginia Outdoor Economy Summit to unite leaders around \$2.1B growth opportunity

West Virginia’s outdoors are more than a scenic backdrop. They’re a strategic economic asset. That message will take center stage Feb. 17-18, 2026, when leaders from across the state and region convene for the inaugural West Virginia Outdoor Economy Summit at the Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center.

Presented by the Charleston Convention and Visitors Bureau, the two-day event is hosted by The WVU Brad & Alys Smith Outdoor Economic Development Collaborative and the Nature Conservancy, marking the first statewide, cross-sector gathering focused exclusively on advancing West Virginia’s outdoor economy - a sector generating an estimated \$2.1 billion annually.

On Feb. 19, the momentum carries with West Virginia Outdoor Recreation Day at the state capitol, where representatives of the outdoor economy will engage with legislators.

“This Summit is about recognizing that our outdoor recreation assets are valuable, rare, and difficult to replicate, and that makes them a powerful economic development strategy,” said Dr. Danny Twilley, Assistant Vice President of Economic and Community Development for the Brad and Alys Smith Outdoor Economic Development Collaborative.

“If we invest intentionally, the outdoor economy can help address one of West Virginia’s greatest challenges: population loss and brain drain, while enhancing the quality of life for our citizens.”

A Strategic Conversation for the State’s Future

Over two days, participants from tourism, conservation, outdoor recreation, entrepreneurship, workforce development, nonprofits, and government will engage in working sessions designed to move beyond discussion and toward coordinated action. On Feb. 19, summit leaders will take those conversations to the State Capitol, sharing insights with lawmakers on how outdoor recreation

supports talent attraction, business growth, and long-term community vitality.

According to Twilley, other states and Appalachian regions have already demonstrated what’s possible when quality of life becomes a core economic strategy. “Places like Idaho, Colorado, Utah, eastern Tennessee, and western North Carolina invested in their outdoor assets first. People moved there because they wanted to live there, and businesses followed. West Virginia has the same opportunity, and in many ways, the same or better natural advantages.”

West Virginia boasts some of the nation’s highest concentrations of world-class whitewater, rock climbing, hunting and fishing, off-highway vehicle trails, and rapidly expanding trail systems. Asset mapping shows the state has both the scale and diversity to compete nationally - provided investments focus on quality, accessibility, and community integration.

- Who Should Attend**
- The summit is designed for anyone committed to West Virginia’s future and the role its outdoors play in shaping it, including:
- Outdoor Industry Leaders - Outfitters, guides, and recreation-based businesses
 - Community Builders & Nonprofits - Expanding access and participation statewide
 - Policy & Government Leaders - Shaping infrastructure, land use, and investment
 - Agency Support Partners - Keeping the outdoor economy moving forward
- Students & Young Professionals - Building careers in the outdoor sector**
- “If you care about West Virginia - its people, its communities, and its landscapes - you belong at this summit,” said Twilley. “This is about creating a shared narrative and a collective voice. We are not isolated organizations. We are an industry, and that matters when we advocate for smart, long-term



The inaugural West Virginia Outdoor Economy Summit will be held at the Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center on Feb. 17 and 18. (Photo Jay Young, IronArchMedia.com)

investment.”

Tourism as the Front Door to Residency

Summit discussions will also explore the proven link between tourism growth and population growth. Research shows that tourism often precedes population increases by five to seven years, as visitors begin asking, “Can I live here?” Can I start a business here? Can I retire here? Can I buy a second home?

“Tourism is West Virginia’s red carpet,” Twilley said. “When people have a great experience here, it opens the door to deeper commitments - relocating, investing, and putting down roots.”

A First Step Toward a Shared Vision

Organizers emphasize that the summit is not about promoting a single solution, but positioning the outdoor economy as a critical piece of a broader economic development strategy alongside education, infrastructure, workforce development, and energy.

“This is about stewardship, health,

conservation, recreation, and economic development working together,” Twilley said. “Our outdoors are our secret sauce. If we lean into them and do it well, West Virginia’s best days are ahead.”

About Dr. Danny Twilley:

Twilley serves as Assistant Vice President of Economic, Community, and Asset Development for the Brad and Alys Smith Outdoor Economic Development Collaborative at West Virginia University. He leads statewide initiatives focused on talent attraction and retention, outdoor community and asset development, workforce development, and research to strengthen West Virginia’s outdoor economy. A former professor at Ohio University, Twilley brings decades of experience in recreation, ecotourism, and community development, and remains an avid whitewater kayaker, climber, mountain biker, and skier.

For registration details and updates, visit the official West Virginia Outdoor Economy Summit website at <https://www.wvoutdooreconomy.com/>.

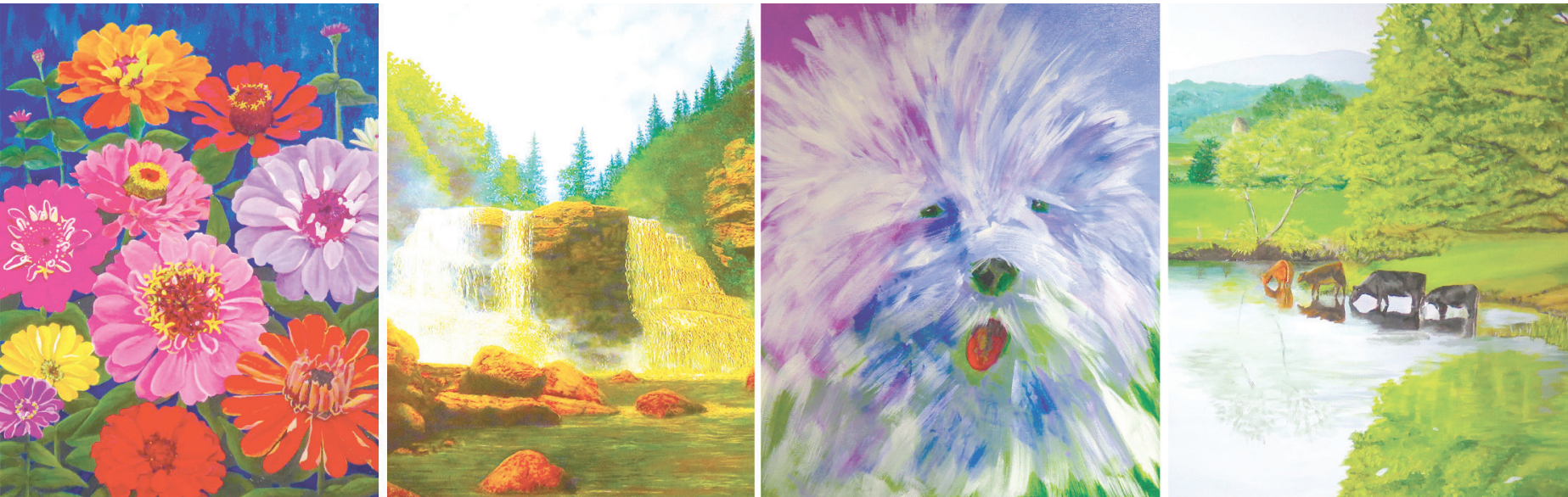


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ENTERTAINMENT



Various works of art displayed in the Greenbrier Artists exhibit

Greenbrier Artists featured in Carnegie Hall's Old Stone Room

Carnegie Hall's January/February Artwalk Exhibits are underway with three galleries featuring the works of regional artists. The Old Stone Room Gallery features the Greenbrier Artists.

The Greenbrier Artists is a collective that has been a creative force in the Greenbrier Valley for more than 50 years. Formed in 1974 by a small group of painters who simply wanted to gather, share ideas, and grow together, the group has evolved into a vibrant community of artists who meet every Thursday in the Kellar Art Studio at Carnegie Hall to paint, learn, and support one another.

Their long tradition of collaboration has produced decades of exhibitions, including their first group show in 1984 and a special 50th anniversary celebration in 2024.

Featuring a wide range of styles and mediums, the Greenbrier Artists continue to embody the spirit of creativity and camaraderie that has defined them since their founding. The Old Stone Room exhibit offers visitors a chance to experience the depth, history, and ongoing vitality of one of the region's most enduring artistic communities.

Greenbrier Artists Members included in the exhibit are Jeanne Brenneman, Phyllis Crickenberger, Brenja Doane, Kim Jones, Judie Lewis, Marietta Lyall, Peggy McKenzie, Shari O'Day, Schyler Olt, MJ Oref, Shelby Oreolt, Lynn Quillen, Lillian Posselt, Becky Romine, Judith Shellnut, Patricia Stine, Anne Tamea, and John Telisko.

The Old Stone Room is located on the ground floor of Carnegie Hall. The exhibit runs through the end of December.

The exhibits are free and open to the public, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, please visit carnegiehallwv.org, call 304-645-7917, or stop by

the Hall at 611 Church Street, Lewisburg.

Carnegie Hall programs are presented with financial assistance through a grant from the

West Virginia Department of Tourism and the National Endowment for the Arts, with approval from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts.

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February 20, March 6, 13, 20 & 27

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Schoolhouse Hotel

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Adults \$18
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