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Empress of the Blues at WSS Library Page 12

\$1.50

Mountain messenger

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

Ronceverte secures funds to demo and rebuild Workman Bridge

By Stephen Baldwin
The Real WV, www.therealwv.com

The City of Ronceverte has been awarded nearly \$6 million in Congressionally Directed Spending by Sen. Shelley Moore Capito and Sen. Jim Justice. The funds are for the demolition and rebuilding of the Fred Workman Bridge, which spans from the downtown area to the Island Park by the Greenbrier River.



The Fred Workman Bridge in Ronceverte. (Photo RealWV)

“In 2021, the City was awarded a grant from Sen. Capito’s office that allowed for an engineering study on the bridge, which was utilized in the most recent application,” said Mayor Deena Pack. “We anticipate that we will be contacted soon to start moving forward on the project. Necessary steps will include selecting an engineering firm to oversee the project and work with the administering federal agency to disperse funds as required.”

Pack says the city will work with CSX to ensure the safe removal of the Fred Workman Bridge as it currently stands before next obtaining the necessary permissions to build a pedestrian bridge. While proposals to rehabilitate the current bridge and/or build a bridge capable of vehicular traffic were considered, the most cost-effective solution for which the city could obtain the funds was for demolition of the current structure and construction of a bridge that will allow pedestrian traffic to flow from downtown to the area around the Island Park, which contains river access, sports fields, a dog park, mini golf, picnic shelters, a playground, and a splash pad.

“The importance of creating a bridge to connect the Island Park and downtown Ronceverte cannot be overstated and will be invaluable to the City’s growth and success for years to come,” Pack noted.

She also thanked all those who worked together with the city to make the funding possible. “The City has received significant encouragement from Region 4 and Ruthana Beezley, Executive Director of Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation, as well as



Mayor Deena Pack of Ronceverte. (Photo RealWV)



Senator Shelley Moore Capito speaks at the West Virginia Annual Business Summit at The Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs in 2025. (Photo by Jenny Harnish for RealWV)

See “Workman Bridge” Page 2

Paula Janiga sworn into Lewisburg City Council

By Sarah Richardson

The Lewisburg City Council met Tuesday, Feb. 17, for its regular session, beginning with the swearing-in of a new councilmember. Paula Janiga was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Sarah Elkins, who resigned earlier this year after accepting a new job that created scheduling conflicts. Mayor Beverly White administered the oath of office. Janiga has previously served on other Lewisburg boards, including the Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC). Councilmember John Little noted that she is “prompt, thoughtful, and very smart,” and looks forward to working with her.

Council then turned to regular business, approving Ordinance 327, which updates city code provisions related to sidewalks. Members also approved Resolution 593, Water System Improvement Pay Request No. 46, which had been reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee earlier in the month.

Resolution 594, concerning the Corporation of Falling Springs, also known as the Town of



Mayor White swears in Paula Janiga to City Council. (Photo courtesy City of Lewisburg)

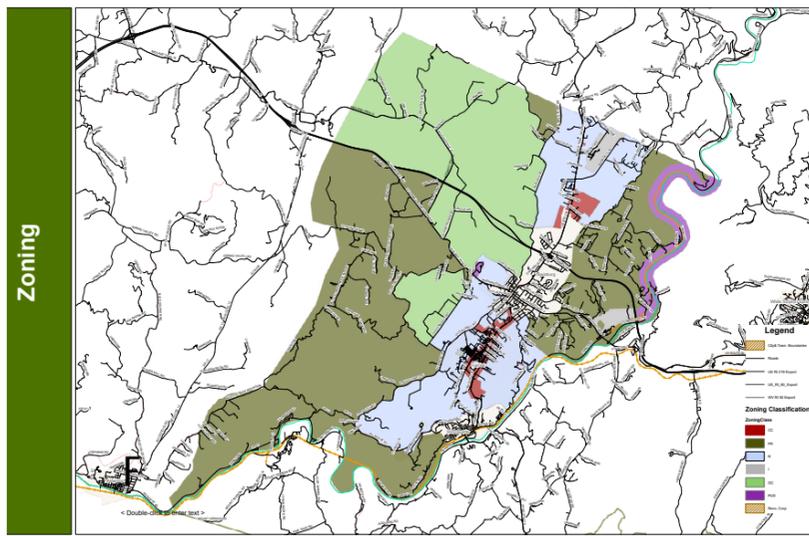
Renick Water System, was approved unanimously. During the September 2025 Finance Committee meeting, officials explained that the Health Department considers Renick’s water

See “Lewisburg City Council” Page 2

Greenbrier County Commission sets public hearing dates for zoning ordinance updates

By Dakota Baker

The Greenbrier County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday Feb. 10, and the commissioners set hearing dates to receive public input on the proposed updates to the county zoning ordinance. The dates set were Tuesday, Mar. 3, at 6 p.m., and Wednesday, Mar. 4, at 11 a.m. at the West Virginia State Fairgrounds in the Underwood Building. 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 proposed zoning map, which is also viewable online at www.greenbriercounty.net/latest-news or directly at tinyurl.com/bdzsfbcx.

the record if they are received prior to the close of the hearing on Mar. 4 by writing to: Kelly Banton, Greenbrier County Commission, 912 Court Street N, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

“The Greenbrier County Commission is in the process of reviewing the zoning ordinance drafted by the Greenbrier County Planning Commission,” they explained in a social media post. “The Greenbrier County Commission wants your input as we work with the public to provide comments to the planning commission. Your input is wanted and appreciated. This updated zoning ordinance only applies to zoned portions of the Lewisburg and Fort Spring Districts.”

The summary of proposal states, “The proposed update reorganizes, clarifies, and modernizes the ordinance text to better reflect current planning practices, applicable state law, and the needs of Green-

brier 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 proposal itself states, in part, “Less than ten percent of the land mass of Greenbrier County is subject to the zoning ordinance, which is little changed from its original adoption in 1978. Because many of the definitions and concepts in the existing ordinance are outdated the existing zoning ordinance will be replaced with a zoning ordinance that retains the same map district dimensions of the prior zoning ordinance, with the exception of overlay districts and floating districts. The existing land use conditions have been studied, analyzed, and discussed extensively by the County Commission, the Planning Commission, and interested citizens during the process for updating the comprehensive plan

See “Zoning Updates” Page 3

This Week in the House of Delegates

For the week ending Feb. 13, 2026

Members of the House of Delegates finished the week by voting to leverage a tax credit that would bring in private investment for small West Virginia businesses, and the bill is in line to be the first completed legislation of the session.

Delegates Passed Senate Bill 1, the West Virginia First Small Business Growth Act, Feb. 13 after having amended most of the provisions of its counterpart, House Bill 4003, into the measure the previous day. The bill would offer a limited tax credit against the West Virginia Insurance Premium Tax to financial institutions that invest in state-certified growth funds. Only businesses principally operating in West Virginia with fewer than 250 employees at the time of their application with at least 60% of their workforce in the state would be eligible to receive the funds, with the West Virginia Department of Commerce overseeing the program.

“As someone who grew up in a family that owned their own small business that paid for my education and



(WV Legislature Photography by Perry Bennett)

See “House of Delegates” Page 2

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Workman Bridge

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from local leaders who have written recommendation letters. The City of Ronceverte has also been very lucky that the wonderful team members in Senator Capito's office have been willing to meet with City officials multiple times over the last several years and have been instrumental in seeing the vision for the City of Ronceverte and working with the City to achieve those goals. "Sen. Capito shared her excitement for the project, saying, "This project has been a long time coming, and it will make an enormous difference for the people who call Ronceverte home. Reestablishing this connection will provide a safe route to Island Park, improve access across downtown, and offer a critical evacuation option for residents during flooding events. I'm proud that I could help in assisting in efforts to help move this project forward, and I look forward to seeing the impact it will have for years to come."

Stay tuned to RealWV for updates as the demolition and reconstruction project progresses.

Lewisburg City Council

Continued from Front Page

system separate from Lewisburg's, despite an existing operation and maintenance agreement between the two municipalities. Because it is classified as a separate system, Renick must meet certain testing and regulatory requirements that it lacks the capacity and funding to fulfill.

As a result, Lewisburg will assume full ownership and responsibility for the Renick system, including conducting required testing and meeting Health Department standards. According to the September 2025 Finance Committee minutes, "From a practical standpoint it changes nothing. We will continue to bill their customers and maintain the system as we have for the last several years, with the exception of adding a few testing locations in the Town of Renick."

City Manager Misty Hill emphasized that Lewisburg "will not be going into debt over this" acquisition. The Public Service Commission of West Virginia has already approved the joint application and asset purchase agreement.

Hill also presented her annual "Year in Review" report to council.

During the Finance Committee report, delivered by Councilmember Arron Seams, members approved a \$3,500 Arts and Humanities funding request from the Greenbrier Valley Home and Garden Tour to support advertising for the 2026 event. Council also approved a \$4,000 Video Lottery Grant request from Greenbrier East High School Project Graduation to cover food expenses for the event.

The next meeting of the Lewisburg City Council will be held Tuesday, Mar. 17, at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

Man sentenced for sexual assault

Michael Leon Baker, 50, was sentenced on Feb. 12 in Greenbrier County Circuit Court following his conviction on multiple counts of third-degree sexual assault.

The court ordered Baker to serve consecutive sentences of one to five years on each of five counts. The sentences for Counts 1, 3, and 5 will be served in prison. Upon completion of those prison terms, the sentences for Counts 7 and 9 will be served through monitored home confinement.

In addition, Baker will be subject to 50 years of extended supervision following the completion of his incarceration and home confinement.

The charges stem from incidents that occurred between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2006. According to the indictment, Baker engaged in sexual intercourse with a male child under the age of sixteen at the time of the offenses.

The case was investigated by Deputy Alex Workman of the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Department and prosecuted by Ryan Blake. Greenbrier County Prosecuting Attorney Nicole Campbell expressed her appreciation for those who worked on the case specifically Prosecutor Blake and Deputy Workman.

House of Delegates

Continued from Front Page

everything else I needed, this is a bill that I just take a lot of personal pride in," said Judiciary Committee Chairman J.B. Akers, R-Kanawha, the lead sponsor of House Bill 4003, in presenting the West Virginia First Small Business Growth Act on the floor before the vote. "This bill is focused on existing West Virginia businesses. This is a promise that we have made that we're going to start focusing as much of our attention as possible on existing West Virginia businesses, and this bill provides them with the capitalization they need to grow."

Akers said it would mirror a federal program already successfully operating in 18 other states, including Ohio, Kentucky and Pennsylvania.

"We've got private investors providing private capital to private companies," he said. "The government is not involved in this other than ... as a safeguard and guardrails."

House Majority Whip Marty Gearheart, R-Mercer, who also serves as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Revenue, spoke about the bill ahead of the vote as well.

"I don't mind telling you that high finance is not necessarily my specialty, and when I looked at this bill it made my eyes spin just a little bit because there's a lot of detail here and there, but the reality is the impetus of this bill is pretty simple," Gearheart said. "It makes a pool of capital available to West Virginia businesses that currently cannot access that kind of capital."

"Businesses that are successful that have the opportunity to grow and become even more successful and to expand what we do here now can have access to the

Monongahela National Forest announces seasonal hiring

The Monongahela National Forest is hiring seasonal employees for the upcoming recreation season and is encouraging local residents to apply.

"Seasonal employees are essential to keeping the Monongahela accessible and safe for our communities and visitors," said Cynthia Sandeno, forest supervisor. "From maintaining campgrounds and trailheads to improving signage and responding to visitor needs, seasonal employees help ensure families can enjoy safe weekend camping trips, hikers can confidently navigate our trails, and everyone has a positive experience on their public land."

The Monongahela is recruiting for a variety of roles, including:

- Recreation and visitor services
- Trail and facility maintenance
- Timber sale preparation

These positions are in addition to seasonal fire hire events, already underway. Bringing on seasonal employees will help improve trails, campgrounds and facilities for safer, reliable and enjoyable recreation experiences for all.

See "Seasonal Hiring" _____ Page 3

Public Notice: Hotel Occupancy Tax, Greenbrier County Arts & Recreation allocations

Applications are available as of Feb. 13 for the Greenbrier County Arts & Recreation Grant Allocations. Applications can be picked up at the County Commission office, Greenbrier County Courthouse, downloaded at www.greenbriercounty.net or by calling the Greenbrier County Commission office at 304-647-6689 ext. 689. The applications are due back at closing, 4 p.m., on Friday, Mar. 27, 2026.

Uses of Arts & Recreation Funds must be in compliance with WV State Code §7-18-14. Also, under the guidance and recommendations of the County Commission. Funds may not be used for salaries/wages.

WVDEP accepting applications for 2026 Make It Shine Spring Cleanup

Applications are now being accepted for the 2026 West Virginia Make It Shine Statewide Cleanup. This annual event is sponsored by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP) Program.

The cleanup will be held Apr. 6 through Apr. 19. The Make It Shine program will provide resources such as cleanup materials, waste hauling, and landfill fees to community groups volunteering to conduct litter cleanups in state streams or on public lands. Applications must be received by Friday, Mar. 6.

This event is completely dependent on volunteers. Apply online by visiting dep.wv.gov. Once a project is approved, REAP staff will coordinate delivery of cleanup supplies, waste hauling, and disposal. For more information, contact Chris Cartwright at christopher.j.cartwright@wv.gov or by phone at 304-389-8389.

During last year's cleanup, more than 3,800 volunteers from 143 groups removed 98 tons of litter from 99 acres of public land and 53 miles of streams. Volunteers also collected 692 tires and remediated 89 illegal dumps.

REAP, whose motto is "Keeping WV Clean and Green," was created in 2005 and strives to clean up West Virginia and rid the state of litter. The program empowers citizens to take ownership of their communities by providing technical, financial, and resource assistance in cleanup and recycling efforts.

Greenbrier County Schools announces Pre-K and Kindergarten registration dates

Greenbrier County Schools has scheduled registration events for families enrolling children in Pre-K or Kindergarten for the 2026-2027 school year.

The first registration event will take place on Tuesday, Mar. 24, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at New River Community & Technical College's Lewisburg Campus in the Ann & Kyle Fort Arts & Sciences Building. A second session will be held on Wednesday, Mar. 25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Western Greenbrier Middle School, 315 Timberwolf Drive, Crawley.

"We love meeting our new families, and these registration days are such a great way to get everyone started on the right foot. Our goal is to make the process simple, welcoming, and stress-free. We're excited to help our youngest learners take this first big step," said Nancy Hanna, Associate Superintendent.

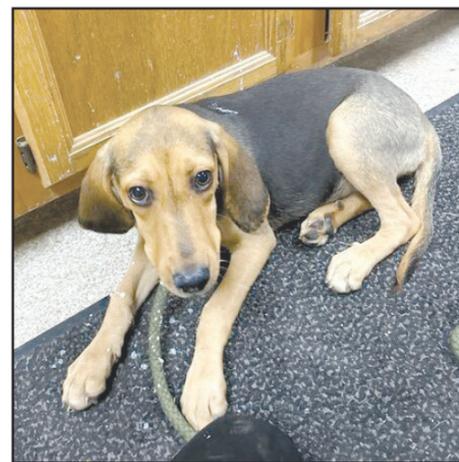
Eligibility:

- Kindergarten: children who will be five years old before July 1
- Pre K: children who will be four years old before July 1

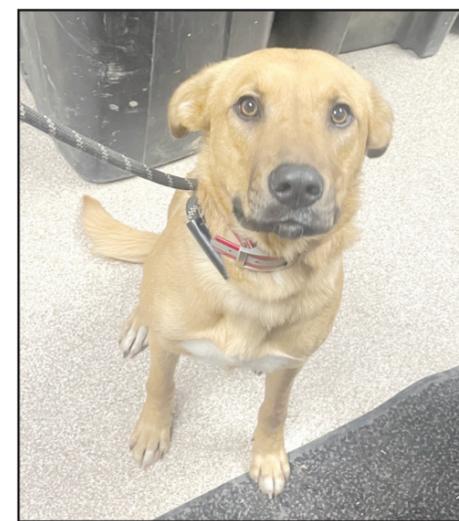
Students who are already enrolled in a GCS Pre K program will automatically be enrolled in kindergarten at their home school district. Parents of currently enrolled GCS Pre K students do not need to attend one of the registration events.

Parents and guardians should bring the child's birth certificate, immunization record, proof of residency, and custody papers, if applicable.

More information is available under the Enrollment section at greenbriercountyschools.org. Families may call 304-647-7105 for Pre-K questions or 304-647-6470 for kindergarten assistance.

PICK OF THE LITTER**GEMMA**

Gemma is an 11-month-old hound mix and weighs 21 pounds

**ABBY**

Abby is a one-year-old female mixed breed and weighs 51 pounds

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

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

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

Call 304-645-4775 for more information.

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

DON'T SHOP • ADOPT!

Briefly

Williamsburg Shooting Match delayed to February 21

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.

Marriages

Caitlin Elizabeth Foster and Parker Matthew Hendrick
Kristen Lashonda Kirk and Joshua Allan Horrocks
Kaitlyn Nicole Cochran and Thomas Lee Hurley III

Suits

New Cases from 2/11/26 to 2/18/26

New Civil Cases

Joseph Puccio v. Jeremy Oberley
U.S. Bank N.A., as Trustee for Residential Asset Securities Corporation v. Corey Sexton
Phillip Suprenant v. Solak Builders, Inc

New Divorces

Grace Erin Hunter-Cannon and Cameron Ray Hunter-Cannon
Trisha Lee Hanna and Derek Hanna
John Clark Anderson II and Chelsea Lynne Anderson

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.

Renick Town Council

will meet on Monday, Mar. 2, at 7 p.m. at Renick Town Hall. Agenda items include:

- Public Hearing Amended Asset Purchase of Water System to The Town of Lewisburg
- Community Comments
- Approval of Minutes and Financial Reports
- Old Business
- New Business
- Appointment of Council Member to fill vacant spot
- Other business

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 Dwayne 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.

Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Convictions

Jenna Hundley, White Sulphur Springs, possession of a controlled substance, fine \$200, NCP
Christopher Douglas Ambler, Rupert, domestic battery, jail 120 days - suspended and placed on 12 months unsupervised probation, NCP
James Matthew Walkup, Charmco, possession of controlled substance, fine \$100, NCP
Nicole Leigh Cary, Crawley, speeding, fine \$20, NCP
Ethan Rodriguez, Lewisburg, indecent exposure, NCP
Romney Ann Callison, simple assault, fine \$50, jail 21 days - suspended and placed on 9 months unsupervised probation, NCP
Sabrina Kay Hash, Ronceverte, battery, fine \$100, NCP
James Gore, Rainelle, obstructing, fine \$50, NCP
Deanna Marie Gladwell, Huntington, hunting without permission, fine \$30, GP

Seasonal Hiring

Continued from Page 2

“Seasonal jobs can be a first step into a natural resources career, a way to build experience, or simply a chance to spend the summer working outside,” added Sandeno. “These jobs directly support the recreation access and outdoor traditions that matter so much here in West Virginia. We encourage anyone interested to apply.”

How to Apply: Applicants can view open job announcements and submit applications through USA-JOBS.gov. Job announcements and descriptions will be available beginning Feb. 20, 2026. Application periods, qualifications, and start dates vary by position. Applicants are encouraged to review job announcements carefully for deadlines and required materials.

To learn more about Forest Service careers, benefits and upcoming hiring events, visit fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/careers.

For the Record

Deeds

Corwin L. Ballard and Louise J. Ballard to Kevin L. Anderson: 1.339 acres & 0.655 acres, Lewisburg District, Map 23B/23B Parcel 0029 0000 6001.

Barry R. Sams and Mary P. Sams to David R. Sams: 1 acre, Fort Spring District, Map 12 Parcel 53.

David L. Atkins to Paula R. Guffey: 11.86 acres, Lewisburg District, Map 24 Parcel 0004-0001.

Lawrence E. Taylor, Melissa J. Taylor, Angela Suttle, Jane Denver, Samantha Tucker to Melissa J. Taylor: 1.60 acres, Irish Corner District, Map 4 Parcel 24.

Michael J. Salisbury and Joyce S. Salisbury to Salisbury Family Living Trust (By trustees): 2.493 acres, Frankford District, Map 15 Parcel 0058 0001 6001.

Michael J. Salisbury and Joyce S. Salisbury (co-trustees) to Salisbury Family Living Trust: memorandum of trust.

Marsha M. McClung to J.D. Brackenrich: ½ interest, 6.87 acres, Irish Corner District, Map 10 Parcel 0014.

Joshua Duncan and Christy Duncan to R.B.S. Inc.: 10 acres, 9.9 acres, 148.81 acres, White Sulphur District, Map 14/15 Parcel 1/1.½.

Thalheim Inc. to Patrick R. Hanes and Elizabeth W. Hanes: 0.486 acres, Lewisburg District, Map 12 Parcel 30.

Stephen R. Spangler to Mark A. Spangler: 1.393 acres, Frankford District, Map 14 Parcel 0068 0001.

John F. Leaberry (trustee) to Charles L. Kettler Revocable Trust (by trustee): memorandum of trust.

Nancy L. Sartor (by AIF) to Shelburne Properties LLC: 1.21 acres, 0.341 acres, 9.56 acres, 0.54 acres, Rupert District, Map 5/56G Parcel 127/3.1/.25

Patricia R. Bryant and Teresa L. Reynolds (co-successor trustees) to The Pines LLC: 15.93 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 77 Parcel 7.

J. Wade Thomas and Evelyn Thomas to Gary S. White Jr: lots 17-18, Williamsburg Dist. Map 42S parcel 84.85.

Blue Goose Farm LLP to Landvoight Maple: 3.16 acres, Fort Spring District, Map 13 Parcel 114.

Sally A. Baker and Sharon A. Schaefer to Gordon Campbell and Tracy Morgan: 30 acres, Fort Spring District, Map 7 Parcel 0018 0000.

Bitter End Property LLC to Linda L. Raabe: 0.12 acres, Lewisburg District, Map 12 Parcel 118.

Sharon D. Ayers and Harvey Ayers to Russell C. Funderburk and Jennifer Highlander: 2.38 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 55L Parcel 0012 0000.

Joanna Barnett and Clarence J. Childers to Nicholas Clarke and Savannah Rajguru: 0.201 acres, White Sulphur District, Map 23E Parcel 57.

Johnnie Walker Jr. and Jotina R. Walker to Travis J. Walker and Aleshia D. Walker: 5.91 acres, Blue Sulphur District, Map 14 Parcel part of 44.3.

Patricia A. Vandyke to James D. Vandyke: 30 acres more or less, Irish Corner Dist. Map 16 Parcel 0040.

James D. Vandyke to James C. Vandyke and Lisa Vandyke: 30 acres more or less, Irish Corner District, Map 16 Parcel 0040.

Zoning Updates

Continued from Front Page

and drafting the proposed zoning ordinance. As part of the comprehensive planning process, current land use conditions were evaluated, and the needs of the community were identified and an action plan for achieving the community’s goals developed. During the comprehensive planning process, several issues were identified: Protecting natural resources, preserving community and historic resources, sustainable development, developing adequate recreational opportunities, promotion of cohesive and coordinated development, middle market housing availability and affordability and problems arising from ‘spot use’ and strip style development.”

The full 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 at www.greenbriercounty.net.

Next, the Commission reviewed old business items, which included the consideration of a request by the town of Renick for annexation of the Thacker and Lewis Properties, and a motion was made and approved for this request.

The next item was the consideration of change order for 911 tower maintenance and technical support to change the Motorola contract. An executive session was called at 10:20 a.m. to discuss this consideration with legal counsel. At 10:32 a.m. the regular session resumed, a motion was made to not approve the change order due to improper subject matter. Commissioner Holliday then made a motion to issue an RFP request to solicit bids to cover the subject matter of the change order. This motion was approved.

The commissioners then turned their attention to new business which consisted of financial matters for ongoing county projects. Region 4 Project Specialist Amanda Smarr joined the meeting via Zoom to discuss a payment resolution for the PSD 2 Phase 2 Waterline Extension Project. The total amount requested for the resolution was \$613,763.23.

Smarr clarified that the specific portion requested from the commission, to cover an invoice from the Thrasher Group, was \$75,075.30. The commissioners approved this payment. Following Smarr’s request, they then tabled the discussion on draw request #18 for the County GigReady Broadband Project.

Next, the commissioners considered Engineering Amendment #1, which proposed a \$75,000 increase to the project’s total cost, bringing the overall budget to \$1,400,500. Smarr explained that the additional funds were needed for extra work identified by the engineers as necessary for completing the project.

Smarr recommended that the commissioners wait to approve the amendment until all bids were received, which the commissioners agreed to, deciding to table the request until that time.

Lastly, the commissioners approved the Sheriff’s Department’s application for a Drunk Driving Prevention Grant for Feb. 23 through May 26. The grant, totaling \$5,000, will fund DUI checkpoints.

The next Greenbrier County Commission meeting will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 24.

WV Secretary of State Kris Warner says he will not release protected personal voter information to U.S. Dept. of Justice

WV Secretary of State Kris Warner recently announced that the WV Secretary of State’s Office will not volunteer the release of personally identifying information (PII) of every registered West Virginian to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

The DOJ’s request, reportedly sent to almost every state, seeks registered voters’ personal data including their Social Security number, driver’s license number, and other sensitive identifiers.

“West Virginians entrust me with their sensitive personal information. Turning it over to the federal government, which is contrary to State law, will simply not happen,” Warner said. “State law is clear: voter lists are available in a redacted format from my office, but I’ll not be turning over any West Virginian’s protected information.”

Warner emphasized that on Feb. 10 a Trump-appointed Federal Judge dismissed the DOJ’s lawsuit against the Michigan Secretary of State who also refused to turn over voters’ personal data. The Judge ruled that no federal law, including the Help America Vote Act, National Voter Registration Act, or Civil Rights Act of 1960, give the DOJ authority to demand and receive states’ unredacted voter registration files.

“My responsibility is first and foremost to the citizens of West Virginia,” Warner added. “We will comply with the law, which does not allow us to release protected data. We have offered to work cooperatively with the federal government to maintain the continuity of elections nationwide, but the DOJ doesn’t have authority to run a state’s elections. I support efforts to strengthen election integrity, but I will not break the law, give up our State’s rights, or compromise the privacy of our citizens.”

The Secretary of State’s Office reports that in the last nine years, more than 408,000 outdated, abandoned, out of state, or otherwise ineligible voter registration records have been cancelled. At the same time, more than 350,000 new voter registrations have been added to the rolls.

“The DOJ claims it wants to enforce voter list maintenance laws and receiving West Virginians’ personal information is the way to do it,” Warner said. “I dare say that the DOJ cannot do a better job than the 55 West Virginia county clerks who have accomplished the herculean task of refreshing more than half of the State’s voter rolls over the last 9 years, and continue to do so on a daily basis.”

Warner reaffirmed that ensuring transparency in elections does not require sacrificing the privacy rights of voters.

“West Virginians expect secure elections and the assurance that their personal information is protected,” Warner said. “That remains my commitment, and I have no interest in turning over the entire State’s unredacted voter list for some brownie points from the federal government. Indeed, we each have our roles in election integrity, but this request is far outside the federal government’s lane.”

Information on West Virginia elections can be found at GoVoteWV.com.

Mountain Messenger

The Weekend Newspaper for the Greenbrier Valley

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Strengthening Community and Promoting Diversity in the Greenbrier Valley

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Mountain Messenger

OBITUARIES

Kevin Roger Schulrud

Kevin Roger Schulrud, 63, of Union passed away Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026 surrounded by wife and daughters following a battle with cancer.

Kevin was born on July 3, 1962 at Great Lakes, IL to Roger Charles Schulrud and the late Phyllis Irene Boggs Law.

Kevin was a member of the Union Church of Christ and worked in maintenance and was a handyman.

Survivors include his wife Sarah Jane Jackson Schulrud of Union; daughters, Jennifer Marie Schulrud of Ashland, KY, Tara Nicol Bennett and husband Mark of Ashland, KY and Rona Kimberly Crookshanks and husband Billy of Lewisburg; grandchildren, Christopher Bennett, Nicholas Bennett, Madisyn Bennett, Emmalyn Bennett, Camren Crookshanks and Haylie Crookshanks; sister, Kimberly Schulrud-Grossmann and husband Doug of Coronado, CA; brother, Todd Schulrud of Sweet Springs; sister, Dawn Hoffmann and husband Steve of Wausau, WI; brother, John Schulrud of Wausau, WI; three nieces and one nephew.

There will be a private service for the family.

Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com

Ann Virginia Gieseke



Ann Virginia Gieseke passed away peacefully on Feb. 11, 2026, surrounded by her loving family.

Born on Sept. 12, 1946, in Salisbury, MD, Ann was the daughter of Geraldine and Levin Stanley Dashiell. She shared a lifelong and treasured bond with her twin sister, Charlotte Ethel Baldwin, a relationship that remained one of the greatest constants in her life.

Ann was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Jerry Gieseke. Together they built a life rooted in love, dedication, and family. Their greatest blessing was their daughter, Kristin Ann Allen.

Ann devoted more than 20 years of her life to serving as an educator in Fairfax County, VA. Teaching was more than a profession to her; it was her calling. She believed deeply in the power of education and invested herself fully in her students, encouraging them to reach higher and believe in their potential.

Beyond the classroom, Ann lived a life of service. She enjoyed volunteering at the hospital and was a devoted member of First United Methodist Church in South Charleston, WV. Her faith and commitment to helping others shaped the way she lived and the example she set for her family.

She is survived by her daughter, Kristin Ann Allen, and son-in-law, Shawn Allen; and her cherished granddaughter, Taylor Dashiell Allen, who brought her immense pride and joy.

She is also survived

by her twin sister, Charlotte Ethel Baldwin; her nephews, Chuck Baldwin (Kim), Matt Baldwin, Charlie, Simon, Gavin, and Spencer; her niece, Paisley; and Susan Baldwin, former spouse of Chuck Baldwin.

Ann will be remembered for her strength, her steady presence, her servant's heart, and her unwavering devotion to family. Her legacy lives on through the generations that follow her and through the countless students and lives she helped shape.

A private family memorial will be held in the Spring of 2026.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southwest Virginia, honoring her lifelong commitment to education, children, and care for families in need.

Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com

Douglas "Doug" D. Fisk



Douglas "Doug" D. Fisk, born in 1947 in Ronceverte, WV, passed away surrounded by the love of his family. Born to Ralph and Ann Erwin Fisk, Doug grew up with the values of kindness, hard work, and service - principles that guided him throughout his life.

A proud graduate of Greenbrier High School and Marshall University, Doug carried his deep love for his community into every role he filled. In his earlier years, he worked at Davis Stuart Children's Home, where he found purpose in meeting the needs of children and offering support during some of their most difficult moments. He later continued his commitment to service by working as a police officer, approaching the job with compassion and integrity. Doug concluded his professional life as Director of Lending at First National Bank in Ronceverte, where his warmth, fairness, and steady presence earned the trust of countless friends and neighbors.

After retirement, Doug cherished the simple joy of summer days spent on the Greenbrier River. Whether floating, fishing, or relaxing with friends and family, he found peace in the water and loved watching his children and his beloved grandson, Gavin, enjoy the same river he held dear.

Doug was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend. He leaves behind his loving wife, Janice Lambert Fisk; his children, Michael (wife Rachel and son Gavin), Mathew (wife Leslie), and Emily (husband Kenny); and his sister, Debbie Bush. He is preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Danny, whom he remembered with great affection.

Known among family and friends as the world's best bread maker, Doug poured love into everything he baked. His music was another gift - he enjoyed playing his guitar

and singing, often turning quiet evenings into cherished memories with the sound of his voice and strings. These cherished moments have inspired so many others to pursue their passion for music.

To know Doug was to know warmth, humor, humility, and a generous heart. His legacy lives on in the countless lives he touched, the moments he made brighter, and the family who loved him deeply.

He will be profoundly missed and forever remembered.

A graveside service for Doug will be held on Feb. 28, at 1 p.m. at the McLean Cemetery, Ronceverte, with Rev. Stephen Baldwin officiating.

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

Robert Everett Vass, Jr. 1948 – 2026



Robert Everett Vass, Jr., 77, of Lewisburg, WV, passed away on Friday, Feb. 13, 2026.

Born May 11, 1948, in Huntington, WV, Rob was the son of the late Robert E. "Bob" Vass, Sr. and the late Heath McIntosh Vass. He was a proud graduate of Huntington High School and attended Marshall University.

Rob lived for the people around him. He was happiest when his home was full of his children and grandchildren, and he carried that same warmth everywhere he went. Walking into a restaurant with him was an event with so many friendly stops that 20 minutes might pass before you ever sat down. He knew every back road and who lived in every house, and he loved to drive through Lewisburg or Huntington, recounting the memories each place held.

Rob and his wife Liba built a life full of those connections. That his closest friends at 77 were the same ones he'd had as a boy in Huntington says everything about his loyalty. That his two former wives, Libby Stephens and Mimi Vass, remained close friends until his passing says just as much.

While Huntington made him who he was, Greenbrier County, or God's Country as he called it, is where he built his life. He made his home in Lewisburg, where he became a respected figure in the community. He and Liba treasured their time at the Greenbrier Sporting Club, where they built a close circle of friends who became like family.

Rob believed a community is something you build, not just something you live in. In 1993, he developed the Greenbrier Pines community and later Jonah's Landing, helping create neighborhoods where families could put down roots. He served on the Foundation Board of the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, contributing to the

advancement of medical education in the state, and was a longtime member of Enslow Park Presbyterian Church in Huntington and later Ronceverte Presbyterian Church.

Rob made his career in insurance, but his real work was taking care of people. He started at Staats-MacIntosh, where he rose to owner and president, and built a specialty serving the physicians and medical practices of West Virginia. As the firm changed hands over the years, first to McDonough Caperton, then Acordia, and finally Wells Fargo, Rob remained a constant for his clients, ultimately retiring as Vice President.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Robin (Beth) Vass Lutz; and his beloved wife, Elizabeth "Liba" Ann Sadler Vass, who passed away in 2022.

Rob is survived by his children, Robert E. Vass III (Laura), Lisa Katherine Burke (Dr. Michael Burke), Trey C. Vass (Jaimie), and Rowdy Galigher Vass (Turner); his stepchildren, Sarah Pinson Ezanidis (Peter), Rebecca Pinson, and Alexander Vence (Dr. Lacey Vence); his siblings, Frank (Hank) McIntosh Vass and Molly Vass Lehman (Rob); his grandchildren, Aidan Burke, Lainey Burke, Van Vass, Emery Vass, and Robert E. Vass IV (River); his step-grandchildren, Thomas Vence and Eva Vence; and numerous dear friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the organizations Rob cared about deeply: West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine Foundation, HospiceCare of Greenbrier Valley, YMCA of Huntington, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Tri-State, or the Marshall Big Green Scholarship Foundation.

Service details to be announced.

Online guestbook can be signed, or condolences may be sent to the Vass family at www.morganfh.net. Arrangements entrusted to Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV.

Betty Smithson Highlander



Betty Smithson Highlander, 88, of Alderson, WV, passed away on Monday, Feb. 16, 2026 at Peyton Hospice House in Lewisburg, WV. Born Apr. 16, 1937, in Alderson, she was the daughter of the late James A. Smithson and Helen (Hedrick) Smithson.

Mrs. Highlander grew up as a lifelong member of Old Greenbrier Baptist Church in Alderson, where she was a familiar and cherished presence in the community. She graduated from Alderson High School in 1955 and later from Concord University, where she

earned a bachelor's degree in education. She worked as a teacher at Alderson Elementary School for the majority of her career before retiring. In her free time, she enjoyed crafting and earned ribbons for her handmade creations at local festivals, along with cooking and spending time with her family.

Survivors include her son, Jeffrey Highlander of Alderson; daughter-in-law, Maria Highlander of Williamson, GA; three granddaughters, Yldamarie Turner and her husband, Daniel, of Peachtree City, GA, Elizabeth Timmins and her husband, Andrew, of Williamson, GA, and Addison Highlander of Williamson, GA; and three great-grandchildren, Evelyn Turner and Elaine Turner of Peachtree City, GA, and Ripken Timmins of Williamson, GA.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her loving husband of 62 years, Lyle Coleman "Coco" Highlander, and her son, Thomas Highlander.

Funeral Services will be on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m. at Lobban Funeral Home Chapel in Alderson, WV with Pastor Derek Hall officiating. Burial will follow at the Alderson Cemetery in Alderson. Friends may call Wednesday, Feb. 18, from 1 to 2 p.m. at Lobban Funeral Home Chapel in Alderson, WV.

Family and friends will serve as pallbearers.

In the words of Betty Highlander, "Mind your mother, brush your teeth, and say your prayers."

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

Stuart Grant Martin



Stuart Grant Martin, 41, of Rupert passed away after a long illness at home on Sunday, Feb. 15, 2026. He was born on June 5, 1984, to William Harry Martin and the late Kimberly Sue Clark Martin at Ronceverte, WV. Stuart was a 2002 graduate of North Davidson High School, Welcome, NC.

He loved his video games and was an avid gamer. Stuart had a big heart and tried to help anyone he could. Even though his health was in decline, he always looked out for his neighbors and family. Stuart worked with his dad from the time he was five years old as stone mason. Stuart struggled with addiction for many years, causing him to have a fast decline in his health. His dad was very proud of him because he had overcome his addiction and picked up on the relationship they had struggled with.

In addition to his mother,

Stuart is preceded in death by grandparents Harry and Cora Martin and Ron and Mary Clark; uncle Buford Martin; and aunt Nancy Bragg.

Stuart is survived by his father, William Harry Martin (Debra); aunts Angie Walker, Willa Blevins, Shirley Mills, Betty Dodd; and uncles Bruce Martin and Steve Martin.

Stuart will be cremated and his remains will be scattered with his mom.

Smathers Funeral Chapel is honored to have been entrusted to care for Stuart and his family during their time of need.

Online condolences may be made at www.smathersfuneralchapelinc.com

Karen Frances (Welch) Stroup



Karen Frances (Welch) Stroup, age 76, of Kearneysville, WV passed away peacefully on Feb. 14, 2026 at home surrounded by family. Karen was born Nov. 15, 1949 to the late Edgar and Audrey Welch in Smoot, WV.

Karen is survived by her only child, Allison (Jonathan) Cadle-Adams and her cherished grandchildren, Avery, Asher, Cameron, Adalyn, Salina, and Sol. She is also survived by her nieces Robin Welch Mink and Melissa (Randy) Welch Phillips, her nephew Jeremy Scott (Jennifer) Welch, great-nieces Jenna (Nick) Mendenhall and Samantha (Tom) West and great-nephew Josh (Megan) Mink. Karen was grateful to have an extended family through her husband Paul. Surviving are his son Steve (Denyelle) Stroup, their children Taylor Stroup and Katie (Cody) Belt with son Memphis.

Karen is preceded in death by her husband, Paul Stroup, her former husband, Bruce Cadle, her brother and sister-in-law, Norman (Janice) Welch, an infant sister Glenda, infant grandson Anderson, and numerous beloved family members.

Throughout West Virginia, Karen was recognized as an outstanding educator. Karen received a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education at Concord University and received her Masters Degree from Marshall University. She served as Principal at 6 different schools throughout her career and taught classes at Concord University, West Virginia University and at Shepherd University. She seamlessly blended her academic excellence, empowering children and students to pursue their dreams, while always being present to offer wisdom and encouragement.

Karen was a devoted Christian and lived her life as a reflection of her faith. She attended church

Continued on Page 5

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Club & Church

General Andrew Lewis Chapter of DAR meets



Historian Ruth Sturgill (left) and Regent Deborah Phillips

Regent Deborah Phillips called a special meeting for Feb. 9 to plan for the upcoming 122nd state conference of the WV Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). It is to be held Mar. 12 through Mar. 15 at The Greenbrier Hotel. The chapters in DAR's Southern District will host the event. The General Andrew Lewis Chapter is one of three chapters participating.

Those members enjoying a Dutch-treat lunch prior to the meeting were: Doris Kasley, Brenda Spencer, Linda Spencer, Karen Lee McClung, Regent Deborah Phillips, former Regent Suzanne Cronquist, Suzanne Snyder, Ruth Sturgill, Gretchen Lovett, Carol Olson, Jodie Nidey and Judy Deegans.

Many decisions regarding our contributions to the convention were made, and those members present signed up for chores such as stuffing bags and attending to registration and auction tables. Linda and Brenda Spencer will head up decorating the tables. It was a productive meeting.

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

Karen Frances (Welch) Stroup obituary continued

regularly growing up in Greenbrier Co. She was a pianist and a Sunday school teacher. In her later years, she enjoyed singing in the choir and thoroughly enjoyed fellowship and friendship within her women's groups. Karen was a phenomenal cook and baker, a talented gardener, a lover of all animals and an avid shopper.

Karen's greatest joy was her family. She loved them deeply and wholeheartedly. She made loving and lasting friendships with many. Her legacy will be cherished by all who knew her.

The family would like to express our gratitude to Hospice of the Panhandle for the excellent care she received and to so many friends and family for their sincere love and support.

Services will be held on Saturday, Feb. 21, at 5:30 p.m., at Fellowship Bible Church, 160 Daniel Road, Shenandoah Junction, WV 25442, with Pastor Van Marsceau officiating and a meal with the family to follow.

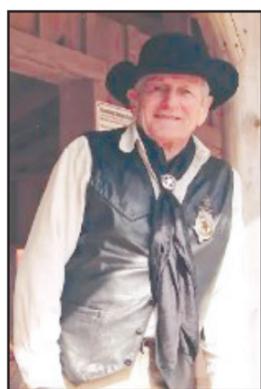
The family will receive friends 30 minutes prior to service at the Church.

Inurnment will take place in her hometown, at End of the Trail, Greenbrier County, WV, in the Spring of 2026.

Additional service details are to be announced.

Condolences may be expressed at www.eackles-spencerfuneralhome.com

Carroll Ray Nunnery



Carroll Ray Nunnery, 89, of Rupert, passed away peacefully at his home on Feb. 16, 2026.

Born on Nov. 6, 1936, in Victor, he was the son of Orlene Nunnery. In addition to his mother, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Kyle, and two grandchildren.

Ray proudly served his country in the United States Air Force, retiring after a dedicated career of service. Following his military service, he worked as a service manager at Goodyear Tire Shop, where he was known for his strong work ethic and steady leadership.

Ray had a lifelong passion for cars. Whether under the hood, talking engines and performance, or simply appreciating a well-kept vehicle, automobiles were more than a hobby - they were one of his great joys. His knowledge, enthusiasm, and pride in a job well done reflected the care and precision he brought to everything in life.

A man of deep faith and fellowship, Ray was a devoted member of Bascom United Methodist Church in Rupert. His faith was not only something he professed, but something he lived daily. He sought to reflect the light of Jesus in the way he treated others - with kindness, generosity, and a willing heart to help wherever there was need. Ray believed in serving others quietly and faithfully, allowing his actions to speak louder than words.

He was also an active member of The Single Action Shooting Club, where he enthusiastically participated in cowboy-action shooting under the name "The New River Kid." He enjoyed time on the golf course and valued the friendships and camaraderie found in the activities he loved.

He is survived by his loving wife, Wanda Kay Osborne Nunnery; two daughters, Joshawna Nunnery and Cassiopeia Davidson; three sons, Aaron Nunnery, Quentin Nunnery, and Pierce Nunnery; his sister, Sharon Knox; his brother, Bill Holley; ten grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He leaves behind a legacy of service, strength, faith, and devotion to family.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.wallaceand-wallacefh.com

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

Carl Sylvester Simmons, Sr.



Carl Sylvester Simmons, Sr., 90, of Rainelle passed away on Monday evening, Feb. 16, 2026 at Raleigh General Hospital, Beckley.

He was born on Dec. 23, 1935 at Fort Spring, WV; the son of the late Julian Sylvester Simmons and Myrtle Frances Hundley.

He is preceded in death by his first wife, Wanda

Ruth Jones Simmons; second wife, Reva Deloris Simmons, a daughter, Sherry Ann Simmons; a granddaughter, Emily Loudermilk; two brothers, Terry Simmons and Jimmy Simmons.

Carl was of the Apostolic faith. He had worked at the Meadow River Lumber Company, Rainelle Sewage Plant and was a coal miner. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and loved his dog, Gizmo.

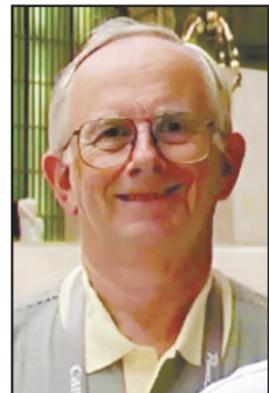
Survivors are 7 daughters, Sheila (Mike) Knight of Flatwoods, WV, Charlene (Steve) Loudermilk of Quinwood, Sandra (Steven) McCoy of Leslie, Darlene (Jackie) Hoover of Summerfield, OH, Tammy Hanna of Rainelle, Robin (Allen) Martin of Rupert and Diana (David) Currence of Rupert; 2 sons, Ricky Simmons of Rainelle and Carl S. Simmons, Jr. of Rainelle; sisters, Jean Simmons of Hines, Barbara Bell of Rainelle, Brenda Goins of Sam Black Church, Mary Simmons of Kentucky and Linda Sloan of Hines; brothers, Ronnie Simmons of Virginia and Garry Simmons of Hines; several grandchildren; great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; extended family.

Graveside service will be at 2 p.m., Friday, Feb. 20, at Wallace Memorial Cemetery, Clintonville with Pastor Brady Ellis and Mr. Jackie Hoover officiating.

Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.wallaceand-wallacefh.com

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

Robert (Bob) Mason Weikle



Robert (Bob) Mason Weikle, 88, of Crozet, VA passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025 at his home in Crozet, VA. His wife, Patricia was at his side. Bob was a devoted and loving husband, a caring and generous father, and a doting grandfather. He was a proud graduate of West Virginia University, an avid golfer, a high school basketball official, and a talented and skillful carpenter. He expressed his love and affection for others with his hands, by crafting furniture, wooden toys, chessboards, and many

other wonderful items.

Born May 19, 1937 in Organ Cave, WV, he was the oldest son of Mary and Mason Weikle. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Patricia Ann (nee Fleshman) Weikle; his son, Robert (Bobby) Mason Weikle, II and his wife, Dee Ann Burgess Weikle of Crozet, VA; his grandchildren, Elizabeth Morgan Weikle, Madison Taylor Weikle and Lt. Richard Almon Mason Weikle; his brothers William Henry Weikle of Organ Cave, WV, Douglas Weikle of Aurora, CO, and Phillip Eugene Weikle of Lewisburg, WV, and his sister, Sue Ellen Kemp of Roanoke, VA.

He attended the Greenbrier Military School upon graduating from Greenbrier High School, Ronceverte, WV, in 1955. After finishing his studies in mathematics at West Virginia University, he commissioned into the United States Army in 1961, serving in uniform for 21 years including a tour of duty in Vietnam where he would receive the Bronze Star. He retired from the Army with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1982 and continued his career as a program manager with Lockheed Aerospace until his retirement in 1995.

Bob treated everyone he knew and met with dignity and respect. He was generous and was always ready to do for others in need while not calling attention to himself. He leaves a legacy his children, family, and friends will treasure.

A memorial service to honor Bob, his life and his service with Military Honors will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Mar. 7, at Salem Presbyterian Church, Organ Cave, with Rev. Stephen Baldwin officiating.

Jackie Edward Dunbar, Sr.



Jackie Edward Dunbar, Sr., 73, passed away on Monday, Feb. 16, 2026, at his home in Union, WV. Born Feb. 28, 1952, in Union, WV, he was the son of Louise Dowdy Spangler and the late Melvin Roscoe Dunbar. Jackie was a U.S. Army Veteran. He was a hard worker throughout his life, having worked in the coal mines, doing construction, at the rock quar-

ry, and most recently, as a farmer. He was a jack of all trades, as he also painted houses and worked on cars. When he was younger, he enjoyed hunting, and later in life enjoyed telling hunting stories from his youth. Above all, he loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In addition to his father, Jackie was preceded in death by his wife, Joan Carol Burns Dunbar.

In addition to his mother, survivors include his children, Jackie Dunbar, Jr. and wife Sheila of Union, Judy Humphreys and husband Michael of Union, and Joseph Dunbar and wife Rhonda of Lindsie; eight grandchildren, Jade Hefner (Rob), Johnathan Dunbar (Miranda), Jacy Hefner (Colt), Hope Dunbar, Brett Nester (Cheyenne), Britt Teter (Logan), Little Joe Dunbar (Brandy), and Dakota Dunbar (Evalee); great grandchildren, Jayla Lindsey, Easton Thornton, Bentley Smearman, Branson Smearman, Jazmyne Lindsey, Ezekiel Thornton, Jaxston Lindsey, Addison Dunbar, Glacin Nester, Forest Nester, Xavier Dunbar, Mila Dunbar, Kendall Taylor, and Baby Teter on the way.

Also surviving are his siblings, Jimmy Dunbar (Linda) of Union, Chris Dunbar (Charlene) of Union, Leonard Dunbar (Debbie) of Ronceverte, Roy Dunbar (Darlene) of Union, Carl Dunbar (Paula) of Lindsie, Nancy Johnson (Dennis) of Union, Helen Trent of Union, Jesse Dunbar of Union, Betty Perrine (Bruce) of Sinks Grove, and Mike Dunbar (Joy) of Union; and many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 20, at Groves-Mann Funeral Home in Union, WV, with Pastor Chris Dunbar officiating. Burial will follow in the New Lebanon Cemetery in Pickaway, WV. Visitation will be held from 12 noon until time of services on Friday at the funeral home.

James Dunbar, Chris Dunbar, Roy Dunbar, Carl Dunbar, Mike Dunbar, and Leonard Dunbar will serve as pallbearers.

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

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Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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

Dear Recycle Lady,
I want to recycle a large number of manila file folders. Which bin do I put them in? Cardboard or office paper? Thanks.

Organizer

Dear Organizer,
Manila file folders are recycled with cardboard. Be sure to remove any metal fasteners or plastic labels. Most manila folders are made from an uncoated paper which is biodegradable and recyclable. They do not contain any plastic and usually don't have any glossy coating, which would make them non-recyclable. Be sure they are clean and dry and don't contain any contaminants such as grease, food, liquids, or an excessive amount of dirt and grime. These folders will be processed and turned into a slurry mixture that will be spread out to dry, then rolled into new sheets of paper, thus reducing the use of virgin materials and supporting a more sustainable cycle. There are several eco-friendly alternatives to the traditional manila folders. Some are made from bamboo, and others are made entirely from post-consumer waste. Regardless of your choice, you will be supporting brands committed to sustainability.

Dear Recycle Lady,
Are there any plastics that are compostable?

Composter

Dear Composter,
The only plastic that might be compostable is #7 plastic, but it is not suitable for homecomposting. Number seven plastics require a modern, high-rate composting facility for composting and there are very few of these facilities. As you know, the number in the recycle triangle symbol tells the type of chemicals that make up a particular plastic, and #7 plastics are made up of all the chemicals that don't fit in one of the other six categories. This makes composting difficult, and

impossible for home composting.
Dear Recycle Lady,
Do #1 and #2 plastics need to be put in separate bags for curbside pick-up?

Separator

Dear Separator,
No, #1 and #2 plastics do not need to be put in separate bags for curbside pick-up. They can be put in the same bag. If you decide to take them to the Recycling Center, #1 plastics go in the bin labeled #1 plastics, #2 plastics that are clear (can be easily seen through and are not colored) go in the bin labeled #2 clear plastics and #2 colored plastics go in the bin labeled #2 colored plastics. Greenbrier Recycling Center only recycles #1 and #2 plastic bottles and jugs, and they must be more than three inches high. Bottles smaller than this create problems with bailing as they fall out or get stuck in the machinery. To be a bottle or a jug, the top must be smaller than the bottom. The tops of some bottles appear to be the same size as the bottom, but when the top/lid is removed it can be seen that the top is smaller than the bottom.

Bad News: Ice in the Antarctic is melting, and this threatens the life of the Antarctic fur seals and the Weddell seals. These seals need ice for nesting, breeding, and finding food. Researchers have found that the seal population has greatly decreased since 1977. (This Week Junior)

Interesting Information:The whale shark has more than 3,000 tiny teeth, but it doesn't use them to chew. It just filters plankton!

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

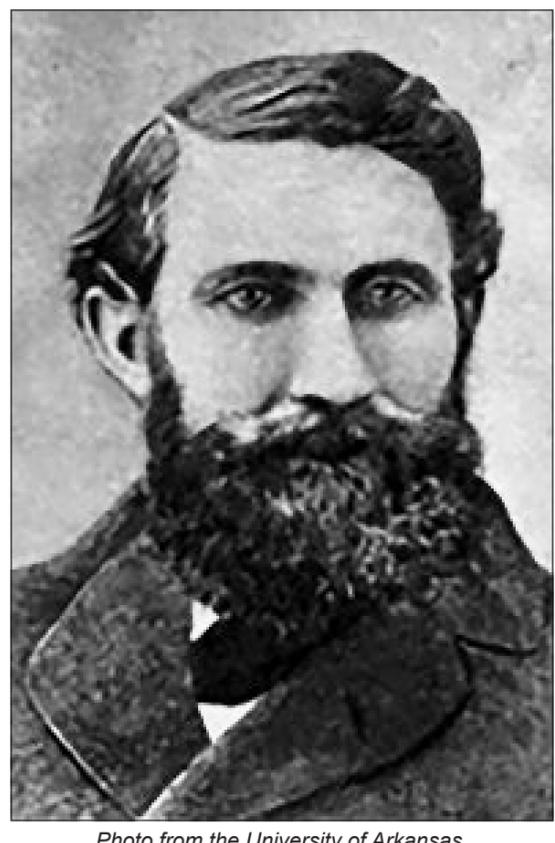


Photo from the University of Arkansas.

By William "Skip" Deegans

Had it not been for Col. George Mathews Edgar (shown) Lewisburg would most likely not look anything like it does today. During the Civil War, Col. Edgar's battalion of Confederate soldiers wintered in Lewisburg. Because most of the town's residents were supportive of the southern cause, the soldiers were treated kindly. Lewisburg's sympathies became well known to the Federal officers in Charleston who sent out a raiding party to "sack and burn Lewisburg." A courier roused Edgar at midnight to alert him of the approaching soldiers. Edgar mobilized his battalion and headed west to Handley's Hill to ambush the enemy. He spread his soldiers out to give the impression of a larger force than he really had. The Federal force ran into his trap, was "cut to pieces," and surrendered.

Edgar was born in Monroe County in 1837 and graduated fifth in his class at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI). Following graduation he taught at VMI and in Florida before enlisting in the Confederate Army. From Florida, he was sent to Monroe County to organize a battalion. He was severely wounded during the Battle of Lewisburg in 1862, cared for by relatives in the Withrow home (now the General Lewis Inn), and taken away as a prisoner of war. Following the war, Edgar continued to teach and became president of the Seminary West of the Suwannee River (now Florida State University), president of Arkansas Industrial University (now University of Arkansas), and president of Kentucky's Franklin Female College.

Edgar returned to Lewisburg in 1907 to give a lecture about Stonewall Jackson. During that visit, the Greenbrier Independent reported that in 1863 the ladies of Lewisburg presented Edgar with a sword for saving their town. Edgar died in Paris, Kentucky, in 1913.

Sources: Greenbrier Independent, VMI, Florida State University, University of Arkansas, The Battle of Lewisburg by Richard L. Armstrong.

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What consumers can do to support local farmers

A strong agricultural sector is vital to a healthy economy. Turbulence has affected local and national economies in recent years, and the global economy has endured its own ups and downs during that span.

Though there's no one-size-fits-all solution to economic struggles, consumers can make a difference by supporting local agricultural producers. A 2022 report from researchers at Maryville University indicated roughly 10 percent of workers across the United States were employed in the agricultural sector, which the report also noted contributes \$7 trillion annually to the national economy. Job creation and economic output are two major reasons to support local farmers, and consumers can do that in various ways.

- **Shop local.** The shop local movement can make a notable impact on local economies, and it affects more businesses than brick-and-mortar stores on Main Street. Locally owned restaurants and grocers often source their foods from local farmers, so patronizing such businesses supports those who set up shop on Main Street as well as the farmers who stock their shelves and pantries.

- **Purchase seasonal foods.** The organization Green America, which offers advice on how environmental sustainability produces stronger economies, notes that purchasing seasonal foods is a great way to support local farmers. Farmers grow seasonal foods throughout the year to take advantage of natural conditions. Consumers who alter their purchasing habits with the seasons by buying foods that are in-season are likely supporting local agricultural producers. Read product labels to determine where foods are coming from. Non-seasonal foods are likely imported from far away, which has a detrimental impact on the environment and local economies.

- **Buy directly from local farms.** Most consumers purchase their food from grocery stores near their homes, but it might be possible to purchase directly from local farmers. Farmers may utilize e-commerce tools to sell directly to local residents, and might even offer deliv-



ery services that are more convenient than driving to the nearest chain grocery store.

- **Act as an advocate for local producers.** Consumers have considerable power, and that power can be exercised in numerous ways. Supporting restaurants that source foods from local farmers is one way consumers can exercise their power. But consumers also can advocate for local farmers by supporting legislation and candidates that prioritize building and supporting a strong local agricultural sector. Consumers also can advocate for local farmers by sharing their experiences via social media, word-of-mouth recommendations or writing

positive reviews through aggregators like Google Reviews.

A thriving agricultural sector benefits local economies, and consumers can do much to support the farmers who operate in their towns.

WHY IS NATIONAL FFA WEEK IMPORTANT?

- The National FFA Organization is shaping the next generation of leaders who will change the world.

- National FFA Week serves as a dedicated period for FFA members to amplify the impact of the National FFA Organiza-

tion in developing future leaders and advancing agricultural education.

- Joining forces with supporters, National FFA Week encourages contributions that fuel programs across all levels, spanning national initiatives to local endeavors. These contributions fos-

ter grants, scholarships, and the provision of official blue jackets to members in need.

- FFA chapters unite with their communities during this week, leading diverse service projects that give back and create meaningful impacts.



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CAREER-READINESS - FFA members develop the necessary skills to continue their education in college or to enter the workforce immediately.

GLOBAL PURPOSE - FFA prepares members to be globally conscious citizens of their community, their state, their country, and the world.

AGRICULTURAL FOCUS - FFA provides opportunities to demonstrate literacy, advocacy, and technical skills in agriculture, food, and natural resources.

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Greenbrier East FFA members traveled to Indiana for the National FFA Convention & Expo, where Keilei Christian (pictured with award) received her American FFA Degree.

Record crowd attends 98th National FFA Convention & Expo, Celebrating Agricultural Education and Leadership

A record-setting 73,000-plus attendees came to Indianapolis this year from across the country to attend the 98th National FFA Convention & Expo. The event brought together tens of thousands of members, alumni and supporters of the National FFA Organization, a school-based national youth leadership development organization with more than 1,042,245 student members in 9,407 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

FFA transforms the lives of middle and high school students through a combination of hands-on agricultural education, work-based learning, and leadership and life skills development. The annual convention offers attendees the opportunity to explore careers, celebrate their achievements, participate in service projects, and more.

The Greenbrier East FFA Chapter made the journey to Indianapolis, IN for the Convention, stopping at the Ohio Heifer Center, the Indianapolis Zoo, ST Genetics, Three Hills Rodeo, and more. During the Convention, Keilei Christian received her American FFA Degree – the highest honor an FFA member can achieve.

“Each year, the National FFA Convention & Expo reminds us of the incredible power of young leaders united by purpose, and this year was truly one for the record books,” said Christine White, National FFA Chief Program Officer. “Welcoming more than 73,000 attendees to Indianapolis, we not only celebrated agricultural education but also witnessed members actively living our mission through service, learning and leadership. The energy, commitment and spirit we saw this week will ripple far beyond Indianapolis and last month’s event.”

More than 3,000 FFA members participated in 28 off-site service projects around central Indiana, serving at local nonprofits to give back to the host city of Indianapolis. Many more also participated in an on-site service project in the Expo Hall, braiding more than 70,000 feet of paracord to make 1,541 dog leashes for IndyHumane.

Also at the Expo Hall, members had the opportunity to meet more than 300 exhibitors representing a wide range of industries, learning about more than 350 careers in agriculture. FFA members also participated in off-site Career Success Tours, where they met community members and learned about their businesses. More

than 13,000 students and teachers participated in 141 workshops, comprising 39 teacher workshops and 102 student workshops.

Two major announcements were made during this year’s event. During the kickoff event, National FFA announced that the National FFA Convention & Expo will continue to be held in Indianapolis through at least 2040, making the conference the furthest-out booked convention in the city. Each year, the National FFA Convention & Expo brings an estimated \$40 million in economic impact to Indianapolis. Then, during the final session of the convention, the 2025-26 National FFA Officers were announced. This team of six will lead the organization for the next year:

- Trey Myers of Oklahoma was elected national president. He is a former member of the Perkins Tryon FFA Chapter.
- Lilly Nyland of Michigan was elected national secretary. She is a former member of the Careerline Tech Center FFA Chapter.
- Joey Nowotny of Delaware was elected eastern region vice president. He is a former member of the Laurel FFA Chapter.
- Jael Cruikshank of Oregon was elected western region vice president. She is a former member of the Bend

FFA Chapter.

- Wayne Williams of Tennessee was elected southern region vice president. He is a former member of the Woodbury FFA Chapter.

- Claire Woeppel of Nebraska was elected central region vice president. She is a former member of the Chambers FFA Chapter.

Additionally, 5,161 American FFA Degrees and 245 Honorary American FFA Degrees were awarded on stage in Lucas Oil Stadium.

The 99th National Convention & Expo will take place in Indianapolis from Oct. 21-24, 2026. Visit convention.ffa.org for more information.

The National FFA Organization is a school-based national youth leadership development organization of more than 1,042,245 student members as part of 9,207 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



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SPORTS

This Week in Wrestling, Week 10: Historic Firsts - Oak Hill Dual, Red Dragon Tournament, State Dual Wrestling Championships, and George Washington Tri-Dual

By Rob Frank

The opening shot:

Wow, what a week! Week ten of the 2025-2026 Greenbrier East Wrestling season is in the books, and what a week it was: Epic wins, history made, new wrestlers getting wins. Who could ask for more?

The Week in Review:

Oak Hill Dual: On Thursday, Feb. 5, the team traveled to Oak Hill for a dual meet against Oak Hill High School. Our young and growing team wrestled hard against an established Oak Hill program. On the women's side, one of the most anticipated matches of the evening did not occur due to illness. Oak Hill's Kircyln Coleman (ranked no. 1 in the women's 120 lbs. weight class) was scheduled to wrestle GEHS Maya Frank (ranked no. 5 in the women's 120 lbs. weight class). However, due to illness, Ms. Coleman was not able to wrestle. GEHS wishes her good health, and we look forward to seeing her in the newly established women's regional state qualifying tournament. We thank the Oak Hill program for inviting our entire team to wrestle at their facility.

Red Dragon Tournament: Old Man Winter once again took to the mat, but this time it ended in a draw. The Red Dragon Tournament, scheduled for Friday Feb. 6, was cancelled, but quickly rescheduled to Saturday,



Taylor Blast Double

Feb. 7. Take that Old Man Winter. The women braved the icy roads to travel to St. Albans for the tournament. As a team, the GEHS Spartan Women Wrestlers placed third - another huge victory considering GEHS only has wrestlers in half of the weight classes. Maya Frank and Elizabeth Blankenship each went undefeated and earned first place finishes. Freshman wrestler Ava Taylor took fourth, and had the takedown of the tournament, pinning her opponent after a blast double-leg takedown in the third period. The hard fought match demonstrated proficiency in all aspects of wrestling and shows how Ava has responded to the coaching. We thank St. Albans High School for hosting a great tournament and in being persistent in not allowing Old Man Winter to get the win.

A historic first! George Washington HS Women's Tri-Dual Tournament. After the Red Dragon Tournament, the ladies turned around and traveled to Charleston on Tuesday, Feb. 11 for a tri-dual against George Washington High School and Ohio's Galia Academy. This was a history making event. This was the first all-women dual tournament in the history of Greenbrier East High School. This class of wrestlers continues to make history.

Freshmen Sativa Dunbrack and Eva Taylor earned wins on the night. Following her pattern all season, Izzy Blankenship won by pin. GEHS newcomer Piper Baldwin, despite joining the team late in the season, stepped on the mat and wrestled extremely well; in one of her matches wrestling against the state's third ranked wrestler in her weight class.

After two quick pins earlier in the evening, Maya Frank wrestled in the much anticipated match of the night. Every wrestler and wrestling fan has watched the movie Vision Quest. The movie tells the story of the main character's sacrifice and discipline as he drops multiple weight classes to wrestle the best wrestler in the state. Maya did the same in reverse, going up a weight class (from 120 to 126) to wrestle George Washington's Presley Buckley, recognized as one of the best wrestlers not only in the 126 pound weight class, but in the state as a whole. There is a reason the match was saved till the end, as it was definitely the main event of the evening.

Behind by three points going into the second Period, Maya almost pinned Ms. Buckley, taking a 4 to 3 lead. Multiple "blood-time" stoppages occurred so blood could be cleaned off of the wrestlers and the mat. George Washington's Presley Buckley eventually got the win by an 8 to 4 decision. After the match, the sportsmanship and respect that each wrestler had for the other was evident as they discussed the upcoming State Tournament and compared notes on their off season training plans. This is the type of match that showcases

the best of what wrestling is. Congratulations to Maya and to Presley for showcasing the strength of women's wrestling.

We thank Galia Academy and host team George Washington High School for a great and historic dual tournament.

WV State Wrestling Dual Team Championship: The WV Fairgrounds were full of fans, media, and wrestlers for the WV State Wrestling Dual Team Championship. Congratulations to the 2026 WV Division II State Duals Team Champion Ripley High School. In Division II the following wrestlers earned Outstanding Wrestler awards: Alex Rodriguez, Moorefield; Wyatt Wolanski Oak Glen; Bobby Minor, Point Pleasant; Landon Burlison, Independence; Jackson Swangle, Keyser; Cole Smith, Williamstown; Hunter Hughart, Herber Hoover; and Kendrick Durst, Ripley.

Congratulations to the 2026 WV Division I State Duals Team Champions - University High School. In Division I the following wrestlers earned Outstanding Wrestler awards: Chayden Johnson, Riverside; Tamarion West, Woodrow Wilson; Mikey Logsdon, John Marshall; Nathan Murphy, Parkersburg South; C. J. Carrodus, Parkersburg; And Ethan Koloski, University.

Thanks to all those who attended and volunteered at the event. We also thank our guest speakers Nick Hylton and Noah Adams.

Wrestler of the Week, Week 10: Ava Taylor

One of the hallmarks of a successful student athlete is the ability to learn and grow during a season. The ability to receive and incorporate coaching is one of the most important traits a wrestler can have. Freshman wrestler Ava Taylor embodies the concept of coachability. When Ava first came into the GEHS wrestling room, she had never wrestled but committed to the steep learning curve all new wrestlers face. Ava walked into the Red Dragon Tournament with one win on the season and executed what may have been the takedown of the tournament - a very hard blast double-leg takedown, immediately followed by a pin. During the match she displayed the ability to take her opponent down, escape from the bottom, survive pinning combinations, and work pinning combinations of her own. She displayed these same techniques in the George Washington Tri-dual. She is becoming a complete wrestler.

After the Red Dragon Tournament, we asked Ava some questions.

1. *Why Wrestle?* I started wrestling to let some anger out and give me something to do in the off season. I hadn't really thought about wrestling until Izzy [Blankenship]

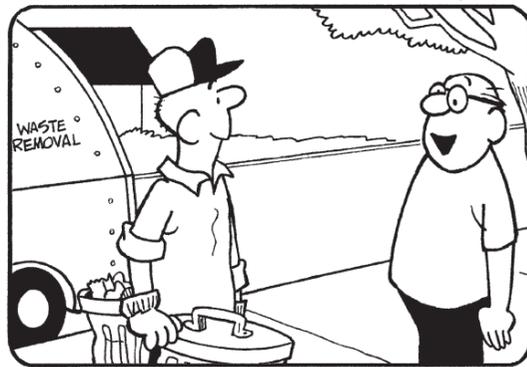
CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Wheel is larger. 2. Hat is larger. 3. Window is missing. 4. Button is missing. 5. Sleeve is longer. 6. Sidewalk is wider.

SCRAMBLERS

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

Fly **TEAVIA**
 Notebook **RIBEND**
 Walk **REDITS**
 Press **NAKED**
 "This is delicious - I must really be _____!"
TODAY'S WORD

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

Super Crossword

REPTILIAN EMPIRE

ACROSS

- 1 Soft drink giant
- 9 Pappy (old hit song)
- 12 "Botch- —"
- 15 Masticate
- 19 Oval wind instruments
- 20 Took too far
- 22 Put concrete on
- 23 Start of a riddle
- 25 Partially
- 26 Heir, often
- 27 Penta- plus one
- 28 Spitting beast
- 30 Everything
- 31 Unusual
- 34 "Our Gang" novelist Roth
- 37 Actress Peet of "Trust Me"
- 39 Riddle, part 2
- 44 Leonardo of "Titanic"
- 45 Curvy letter
- 46 Given a permanent post
- 47 Cereal grain
- 48 Computer menu option
- 50 Prefix with chemistry
- 53 Curiosity's planet
- 54 Riddle, part 3
- 60 Palatable
- 61 Computer menu option
- 62 Revise, as a manuscript
- 63 Yank's home
- 66 Try to be like
- 69 A couple of
- 71 Mice, e.g.
- 73 House divs.
- 74 Kinda
- 77 And higher, as in price
- 80 Perfect
- 81 Riddle, part 4
- 85 Dalai —
- 88 Contaminate
- 89 Big burden
- 90 Sports draw
- 91 Paper-folding craft
- 94 Part of BTW or OTC
- 96 "Allow me to assist"
- 99 End of the riddle
- 103 Allergy sufferer's device
- 104 White swan in "Swan Lake"
- 105 Audit org.
- 106 Spy's device
- 107 With
- 112-Across, "Hold on!"
- 109 Sneak attack
- 112 See
- 107-Across
- 115 Akron's state
- 117 Riddle's answer
- 123 Painter Vincent van —
- 124 Fastening feature of many a face mask
- 125 Ultimate consumers of products
- 126 With
- 83-Down, Italian veal dish
- 127 'Zine staffers
- 128 Antis' votes
- 129 Occupied, as an inn

DOWN

- 1 Female whales
- 2 Eight, in Peru
- 3 "Misery" actor James
- 4 Prado display
- 5 102, to Nero
- 6 Walk- (small roles)
- 7 Plastering strip
- 8 Arthur of tennis
- 9 Troy of "A Summer Place"
- 10 Gardner or DuVernay of film
- 11 Biden's party: Abbr.
- 12 Basketball coach Rupp
- 13 Re-sol linkup
- 14 Boiled, salted soybeans
- 15 1040 pro
- 16 Dance similar to the tango
- 17 Unsaintly soul
- 18 Marshy habitats
- 21 Holy artifact
- 24 Trade show
- 29 "So true!"
- 31 Fertilizable cells
- 32 Chip go-with
- 33 Actress Bo
- 35 "The risks outweigh the benefits"
- 36 Intense beam
- 38 Some reunion-goers
- 39 U.S. women's soccer star at the Atlanta Olympics
- 40 Living ink squirter
- 41 Assistant
- 42 Idaho's capital
- 43 Person doing penance
- 44 One searching for water with a divining rod
- 49 Tariff in brief
- 52 Daiquiri base
- 55 "Cool" cash amount
- 56 Very little, as of salt
- 57 Tantrum
- 58 Brian of electronica
- 59 Give as a bonus
- 63 Like wasted food
- 64 In a theatrical manner
- 65 Snoozing
- 67 Shoe tip
- 68 Like Nin's writings
- 70 "Mind Train" singer Yoko
- 72 Baseball great
- 75 Old Pan Am competitor
- 76 "Shy" singer DiFranco
- 78 ET's craft
- 79 Fail to keep one's cool
- 81 Return to base after a fly ball
- 82 — nous
- 83 See
- 126-Across
- 84 "Likewise"
- 85 African capital on the Gulf of Guinea
- 86 Wyoming tribe members
- 87 Small swine breeds
- 92 Several
- 93 Plant-eating sea mammal
- 95 Catches in a snare
- 97 "Planet Money" aier
- 98 Includes
- 100 People lugging things
- 101 Politician Mo, Mark or Tom
- 102 Ship's rigging
- 108 "If only — know!"
- 110 — of March
- 111 Taboo thing
- 112 Litigated
- 113 Poet Pound
- 114 "— la vie!"
- 116 "Well well!"
- 118 Charged atom
- 119 Animal park
- 120 Rx watchdog
- 121 Dude
- 122 Suffix of enzymes

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19								20		21				22				
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73					74			75	76		77	78	79		80			
						81				82		83	84					
85	86	87					88				89					90		
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99								100	101			102						
103								104						105				
106					107		108			109		110	111			112	113	114
115					116		117			118	119				120	121	122	
123							124					125						
126							127			128			129					

PLEASE SEE THE PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 7

SPORTS



The GEHS Women's Team heading to the George Washington Women's Tri-Dual Tournament.

started pestering me about it. I thought that it might be a good way to keep in shape for softball, and Izzy convinced me to give it a try.

2. *What has been the hardest thing about learning a new sport?* The thing that has been hardest for me to learn to do is keep my head up and really put weight on people and be aggressive. The positions and techniques you learn in wrestling are sometimes a bit different than what you would expect. The position of your head and your toes can sometimes

make all of the difference.

3. *What is the highlight of your season so far?* The highlight of my season so far was finally getting another win and placing 4th.

4. *How do you stay motivated in a tough sport?* I tell myself that all the practices are really going to help me in my matches and competing to keep myself motivated.

5. *Do you have any advice for other young women who may consider wrestling?* My advice to other girls interested in wrestling is to try your

best in practice and to show up to practice so you actually learn moves and know what you're doing going into a match.

6. *What are your goals as a person, student, and wrestler?* My goals overall in all aspects are to just better myself as a person, athlete, and student.

7. *What are you going to do after high school?* I think after high school I'm going to go to college and major in psychology and criminology. I'm really interested in criminal justice, and I think the psychology part makes it

a lot more interesting.

With Ava's attitude and hard work, there is little doubt she will be a success on and off the mat.

Coming up Next: Next week the men compete in the Coalfield Conference Invitational, and the women travel to Morgantown on Valentines Day to wrestle in the Cupid's Revenge Tournament. Both the men's and women's teams begin the process of preparing for the state qualifying regional tournaments. Next week's article will give results of the Cupid's Revenge Tournament and the Coalfield Conference Invitational.

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

LEGAL

NOTICE THE CORPORATION OF FALLING SPRING a.k.a. TOWN OF RENICK

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to W.Va. Code § 8-12-17, that the Corporation of Falling Spring a.k.a. the Town of Renick, a municipal corporation, will hold a public hearing before the final vote on a proposed resolution to sell its water distribution system to the City of Lewisburg pursuant to a proposed Amended Asset Purchase Agreement by and between the City of Lewisburg, West Virginia, and the Corporation of Falling Spring, West Virginia, a.k.a. the Town of Renick. The final vote on adoption of said proposed resolution shall be held in the Renick Town Hall on March 2, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. Interested parties may appear and be heard at such time with respect to the passage of the proposed resolution. Copies of the proposed resolution and the proposed Amended Asset Purchase Agreement are available at the Renick Town Hall or Lewisburg City Hall.

LEGAL

Public Hearing
Lewisburg Board of Zoning Appeals
Thursday March 26, 2026
5:00 p.m.
Paul R. Cooley Council Chambers
942 Washington Street West
Lewisburg, West Virginia

The City of Lewisburg Board of Zoning Appeal will hold its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in Paul R. Cooley Council Chambers to hear the following application.

1. Call to Order
2. Public Hearing, Variance request, Zoning Code 1363.17 for Greenbrier Honda/Nissan, 1686 Jefferson Street North, Parcel 10-15-225 and parcel 10-15122. Request to create a new parcel for Fencing, Landscaping and Screening of inventory
3. Approval of the Minutes
4. Comments from the Public
5. Comments from the Planning and Zoning Officer
6. Comments from the Commission
7. Adjournment

The next Lewisburg Board of Zoning Appeal Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

LEGAL

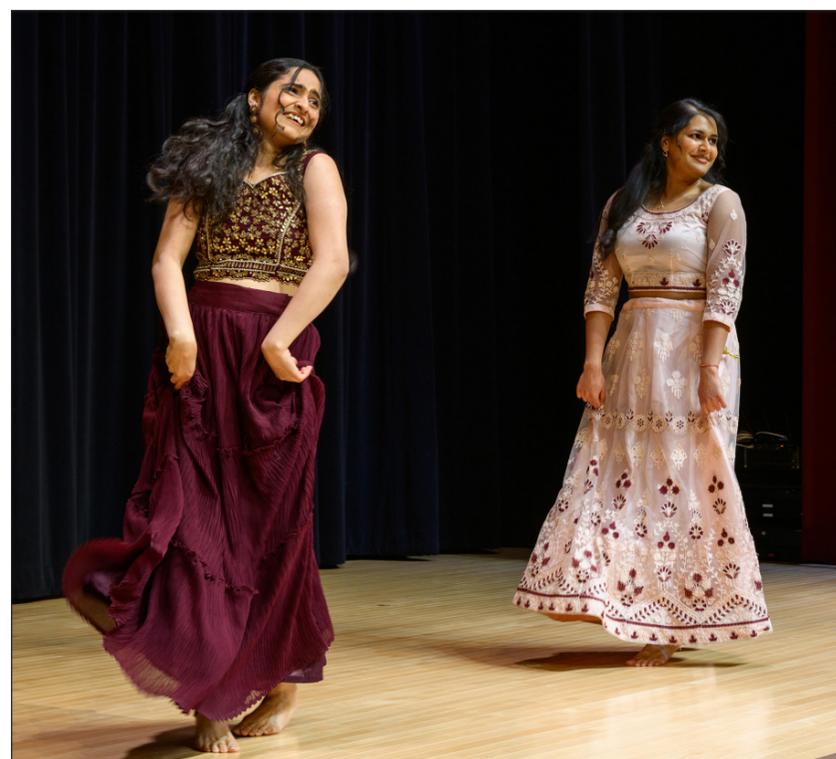
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF GREENBRIER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA IN RE: Name Change from Jasmine Raye Blankenship to Jasmine Raye Parkinson

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: *D. DeSeba*
Deputy Circuit Clerk

ENTERTAINMENT



The WVSOM International Festival will be held on Feb. 21 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. as a fundraiser for the WVSOM student chapter of DOCARE.

WVSOM International Festival will bring global culture to Lewisburg February 21

Members of the public are invited to sample international foods, view cultural displays and hear live music representing global traditions during an event on the campus of the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM). The International Festival, hosted by the WVSOM student chapter of DOCARE International, will take place from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 21, in the Conference Center in the WVSOM Student Center. The cost to attend is \$15. The event is intended to help the chapter pay for its spring medical service trip to Iquitos, Peru, where students will work alongside local partners to help provide medical care.

DOCARE International is a medical outreach organization dedicated to providing health care and education in under-resourced communities around the world. The organization offers global experiences to students, resident physicians and volunteers, giving them a firsthand understanding of how social and cultural circumstances influence

health.

The International Festival is the WVSOM chapter's largest annual fundraiser. Hannah Povroznik, a Class of 2028 student who serves as chapter president, said the festival supports a trip that will allow students to learn to provide care in challenging circumstances.

"This vibrant event invites the campus and local community to come together in support of a mission that reaches beyond borders," Povroznik said. "By attending the International Festival, guests are not only enjoying a night of culture and entertainment, they are helping to empower future physicians and extending compassionate care to communities that need it most.

The festival also will feature silent and live auctions, with items including seven international vacations and a Siesta Key, FL, vacation.

Funds raised will pay for medical supplies and medications such as antiparasitics for the Peru trip, which will take place on Mar. 7-14.

Experience Greenbrier Valley to celebrate 25 years

Experience Greenbrier Valley (formerly the Greenbrier Valley Convention and Visitor's Bureau) is celebrating 25 years of operations, and they will be marking the occasion with a Greater Greenbrier Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours event on Thursday, Feb. 26, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Visitor's Center in Lewisburg.

Join President and CEO Kara Dense, the Experience Greenbrier Valley Board of Directors, and staff as they kick off a year of celebration. There will be drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and conversation. Be among the first to see the 2026 Greenbrier Valley Experience Guide featuring original artwork by Jeanne Brenneman. Bring your coworkers and your business cards, we can't wait to see you there!

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 Underwood Building at the WV State Fairgrounds located at 947 Maplewood Ave., 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.

ENTERTAINMENT

The Empress of the Blues comes to White Sulphur Springs: Bessie Smith takes center stage at the library



Doris Fields performs as the legendary Bessie Smith.

The White Sulphur Springs Public Library will come alive with the sound of the blues on Thursday, Feb. 26, at 6 p.m., when legendary performer Bessie Smith (1892–1937) - or at least the next best thing - steps into the spotlight. Known worldwide as “The Empress of

the Blues,” Smith will be brought to life by acclaimed singer, actress, and historical reenactor Doris Fields, whose powerful voice and commanding stage presence have earned her a devoted following.

Bessie Smith was one of the most electrifying entertainers of the early 20th century. As the highest paid Black performer of the 1920s and 30s, she captivated audiences with her unmistakable vocal fire, her soulful phrasing, and her fearless command of the stage. She sang, danced, acted, and even performed comedy - touring the “Chitlin’ Circuit” and leaving a legacy that continues to influence musicians across genres.

Her modern-day interpreter, Doris Fields - better known as Lady D, West Virginia’s First Lady of Soul - has been performing since the age of three. A singer, songwriter, actress, director, and promoter, she has spent more than two decades touring her celebrated one woman show, The Lady and the Empress, which honors Bessie Smith’s life and music with both artistry and heart.

This performance is part of the West Virginia Humanities Council’s History Alive! program, which brings historical figures to life through carefully researched character portrayals. These presentations invite audiences not just to learn about history, but to interact with it - asking questions, exploring perspectives, and gaining insight into the people who shaped our world. The program is available to nonprofit organizations including libraries, museums, and

historical societies.

Light refreshments will be served following the performance. For questions, contact the White Sulphur Springs Public Library at 304 536 1171. The library is located at 344 W Main Street, White Sulphur Springs.

This program is made possible in part by the West Virginia Humanities Council and the Seneca Trail Charitable Foundation, Inc.

WV Dance Company brings an evening of concert dance to GVT

Greenbrier Valley Theatre (GVT) will host the West Virginia Dance Company for a performance on Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m. Founded in 1977, WV Dance Company has been serving public venues, schools, colleges and universities with entertaining and thought-provoking performances and workshops through the language of dance. Recognized for both artistic achievement and excellence in arts education, WVDC has toured throughout West Virginia, as well as 14 other states, reaching tens of thousands of people each year. WV Dance Company’s current concert program for public venues has an evening that has something that people of all ages can enjoy together.

The evening starts with a new work of choreography “Purple Emergence” by Toneta Akers-Toler to a new composition by Holden Akers-Toler based on the traditions of Blues and Caribbean music genres.

“I have a long history and love for GVT”, says Toneta Akers-Toler. “Many years ago, I created a movement story for the GVT production of The Glass Menagerie in 2001. Many of our folks have a connection to Lewisburg and the theatre. We love coming back to GVT.”

Next will be world renowned dance artist Gerri Houlihan’s duet, “In Your Dreams”, which will be performed by Dane Toney and Emily Dodrill Akers. The first act will end with a group work by Houlihan performed by the main company to the delightful music of J. S. Bach. These works by Gerri Houlihan were created in Miami on her dance company and have been set on many dance companies and university programs. This group work “Beyond Angels” can only be described as uplifting and enjoyable.

After intermission three more works will finish out an evening with highlights of joy, history, irony, intrigue and entertaining moments to offer some unique adventures for the entire audience. Dane Toney’s “Triptych” will explore Wisdom, Boredom, and Balance to music of J. S. Bach, Mark Davis and Michel Legrand. Donald Laney, past co-artistic director of WVDC will follow with a new solo that is always a highlight of WVDC’s touring season. The evening closes with Donald Laney’s “Bull Moose Special” that is performed to an original story and music composition by Adam Booth. This ending work with the powerful choreography that depicts the story has been a work that audience members everywhere have inquired for ways to experience again and again.

All the dance artists will send the audience home with their feet moving and their minds dancing! Dancers Emily Dodrill Akers, Toneta Akers-Toler, Kristen Fisher, Carsyn Harris, Bailey Heffernan, Donald Laney, Chloe Mansheim, Owen Tidd and Dane Toney will magically capture the many different styles of dance during the evening. Troy Snyder, lighting design artist, will add his talents to bring the evening to an experience for all to remember. Costumes and props will add to the kaleidoscopic visions of a multifaceted evening.

For tickets, visit <https://gvttheatre.org/>

Tractor Supply announces a flock of animal-friendly festivities launching this month

Two legs or four, fur or feathers, there’s something for everyone during Tractor Supply’s February events, including Chick Days, Animal Days and local Farm Bash celebration on Saturday, Feb. 21

Tractor Supply Company, the largest rural lifestyle retailer in the United States, announced today a dynamic lineup of animal-focused events launching in February. From everyone’s favorite Chick Days to the debut of Animal Days, pet parents and animal owners can enjoy savings, supplies, adoptions and in-store activities like never before.

“Pets and animals are a big part of Life Out Here, and we are eager to celebrate the role they play, whether on the farm or ranch, or in our homes,” said Nicole Logan, Senior Vice President, General Merchandise Manager at Tractor Supply. “Through Animal Days and Chick Days, Tractor Supply provides pet and animal owners with access to all the products and resources they need, along with valuable discounts, special savings and exciting giveaways. We’re thrilled to kick off these events with a Farm Bash celebration on Saturday, Feb. 21, that brings our local communities together in honor of the animals we love and care for every day.”

Tractor Supply’s Chick Days Chick Has Officially Hatched

To kick off Tractor Supply’s annual Chick Days event, the retailer invited social media followers to name its Chick Days mascot. After narrowing thousands of submissions down to 10, the public selected a clear winner: Introducing Coop!

Coop is helping to spread the word that Chick Days have hatched. For all customers looking to get started with chicks or for those looking to grow their flock, Tractor Supply’s live chicks, ducks and more poultry breeds are now in stores. Customers can purchase birds in store through Sept. 13, and online all year round, while enjoying new breeds and products and exciting offers from sponsors including Purina, Cluck & Co, Nutrena, DuMOR, ImPECKables, Flock Party and Nature’s Best Organics.

During Chick Days and beyond, Tractor Supply has all the products, supplies, food, treats and toys to keep all poultry breeds happy and healthy long after they arrive home. And with experienced and insightful chick experts on staff, Tractor Supply is the go-to Poultry Place 365 days a year.

For more information on Chick Days, visit tractorsupply.com/ChickDays.

Tractor Supply Introduces Animal Days

To celebrate our passion for pets and animals of all kinds, Tractor Supply is introducing Animal Days - a nine-day savings celebration. From Feb. 21 through Mar. 1, customers can enjoy exclusive deals on pet and animal products, treats, toys, health and wellness care and supplies. Animal Days features special offers, including save 10% on feed and forage when you buy dry dog or dry cat food, from both popular national brands and trusted exclusive brands.

Whether their stomping grounds are the backyard or the barnyard, Tractor Supply has an extensive assortment of pet and animal products in store and online.

Starting Saturday, Feb. 21, customers can visit tractorsupply.com/tsc/cms/digital-flyer to see additional Animal Days offers.

Party with Leashed Pets and Animals During Farm Bash

On Saturday, Feb. 21, Tractor Supply stores nationwide are hosting a Farm Bash to celebrate the start of Animal Days. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. local time, customers and their leashed animals can stop by to enjoy dog and horse treat tastings from 4health and Purina, special items like limited-edition bandanas, surprise giveaways and doorbuster deals, including \$1 jumbo tennis balls from Retriever. Local stores may have additional activities and vendors, while 500 select Tractor Supply stores are partnering with Petfinder to host a special dog adoption event.

PepsiCo, Inc., a proud supporter of Tractor Supply’s Animal Days, is also joining in the Farm Bash festivities with \$120,000 in donations to local animal shelters across the country.

Visit your local Tractor Supply store to check out the

full Farm Bash lineup. To find a Tractor Supply store near you, visit [TractorSupply.com/StoreLocator](https://tractorsupply.com/StoreLocator).

About Tractor Supply Company:

For more than 85 years, Tractor Supply Company has been passionate about serving the needs of recreational farmers, ranchers, homeowners, gardeners, pet enthusiasts and all those who enjoy living Life Out Here. Tractor Supply is the largest rural lifestyle retailer in the U.S., ranking 296 on the Fortune 500. The Company’s more than 52,000 Team Members are known for delivering legendary service and helping customers pursue their passions, whether that means being closer to the land, taking care of animals or living a hands-on, DIY lifestyle. In store and online, Tractor Supply provides what customers need - anytime, anywhere, any way they choose at the low prices they deserve.

As part of the Company’s commitment to caring for animals of all kinds, Tractor Supply is proud to include Petsense by Tractor Supply, a pet specialty retailer, and Allivet, a leading online pet pharmacy, in its family of brands. Together, Tractor Supply is able to provide comprehensive solutions for pet care, livestock wellness and rural living, ensuring customers and their animals thrive. From its stores to the customer’s doorstep, Tractor Supply is here to serve and support Life Out Here.

As of Dec. 27, 2025, the Company operated 2,395 Tractor Supply stores in 49 states and 207 Petsense by Tractor Supply stores in 23 states. For more information, visit [www.tractorsupply.com](https://tractorsupply.com) and www.Petsense.com.

Hidden Rivers to be shown at Lewis Theatre



Hidden Rivers will be shown at the Lewis Theatre on Feb. 21.

Join the Greenbrier River Watershed Association and Appalachian Headwaters for a free screening of the nature documentary, Hidden Rivers, on Feb. 21 at the Lewis Theatre. Grab a date, a friend, or a family member and join us to learn about Appalachia’s unique river ecosystems.

Admission is free, but donations will be accepted to benefit the work of Greenbrier River Watershed Association.

Ten years in the making, Hidden Rivers is Freshwaters Illustrated’s newest feature film that explores the rivers and streams of the Southern Appalachian region, North America’s most biologically rich waters. The film follows the work of conservation biologists and explorers throughout the region, and reveals both the beauty and vulnerability of these ecosystems.

Doors open with a brief introduction by GRWA president, Jenna Breeckner, from 5:30 to 6 p.m. The film will run from 6 to 7 p.m. A film discussion with appetizer style food is set for afterwards from 7 to 7:30 p.m.

Contact mcollins@appheadwaters.org or greenbrierwatershed@gmail.com with questions.

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