

Mountain messenger

Vol. XLIII, No. 28

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

July 11, 2026

Ronceverte City Council keeps projects moving forward

The Ronceverte City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, July 6 at City Hall. Agenda items included Water/Wastewater projects, updates to the City’s Personnel Handbook, and revising the RPD Use of Force Policy.

The Council kept the wastewater and water update projects moving forward with unanimous approval of motions to extend a grant, as well as approval of required bid documents submitted by E.L. Robinson Engineering regarding the water system update.

The Council voted to approve an adjustment to the City Personnel Handbook. The adjustment addresses accounting practices for those employees who work ten hour shifts.

The revision of the RPD Use of Force Policy was tabled until the Council’s August meeting.

Local group joins National John Lewis Day of action - ‘Good Trouble Lives On’

On Saturday, July 18, Greenbrier Valley Indivisible and the Greenbrier County Democratic Women’s Club are hosting a community rally from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Green Space in downtown Lewisburg. Community members in Greenbrier County and surrounding communities will join Americans nationwide at hundreds of peaceful, nonviolent action-inspired events to honor the legacy of Congressman John Lewis and protest the growing attacks on our voting rights.

Speakers will include Sean Hornbuckle, the Minority Leader of the West Virginia House of Delegates, and

See “Good Trouble Lives On”__ Page 3

Greenbrier County Community Educational Outreach Service Achievement Day

The Greenbrier County Community Educational Outreach Service held their Annual Achievement Day on May 19 at the grounds of The State Fair of West Virginia. Carol Sue Miller led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Mary Dameron presented the devotions for the meeting. There was also a moment of silence for club members who recently passed away; Janet Johnson, Virginia Hanna, and Colleen Walton.

Josh Peplowski, WVU Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent, presented a program on “Beautify with Bulbs.” Members learned about the different kinds of plant bulbs, when to best plant their bulbs, how to care for their bulbs and flowers, and had their gardening and insect questions answered.

Greenbrier County submitted 16,500 volunteer hours to the state CEOS program. Volunteering is one aspect of the CEOS program. Members perform many acts of service to their community to raise funds for local organizations, supporting local food banks, and helping their neighbors whenever possible.

The following clubs were recognized for their volunteer hours: Tri-City CEOS (1,000 hours); Tranquil Trail CEOS (1,000 hours); Fort Springs CEOS (1,500 hours); Rupert CEOS (2,000 hours); Renick Northern Lights CEOS (2,500 hours); Williamsburg CEOS (2,500 hours); and Organ Cave CEOS (5,000 hours).

Three CEOS members were recognized for being 50-year members. Members with 50 years of membership

See “Achievement Day”__ Page 2

The 4th of July in Alderson



Crowds gathered in Alderson to celebrate America’s 250th birthday

What exactly is coming to Rupert? A closer look at the newly announced rare earth element extraction project

By Zachery Miller

Last week, when state officials announced that Greenbrier Smokeless Coal had been selected as the anchor site for AmFlash, a critical mineral recovery initiative led by Flash Metals USA and AmForge, the focus was on economic development and America’s growing demand for rare earth elements and other critical minerals. The Rupert project aims to create nearly 250 local jobs while positioning West Virginia at the center of a domestic supply chain supporting defense systems, advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence infrastructure, and clean energy technologies.

The announcement has generated considerable public interest along with plenty of questions. For many Greenbrier County residents, the questions aren’t about the business venture or even the long-term economic benefit for the state. They want to know exactly what this facility will do and how it will do it.

According to AmForge, the company will deploy Flash Metals’ Flash Joule Heating technology to recover rare earth elements and critical minerals from coal tailings and other mineral-bearing feedstocks at Greenbrier Smokeless Coal’s Rupert operation. The companies also plan to evaluate complementary separation and refining technologies at the site, including Ucore Rare Metals Inc.’s RapidSX solvent extraction technology, to improve mineral recovery.

In simple terms, the facility will recover valuable minerals already contained in coal tailings and coal slurry, extracting critical resources from material that has long been viewed as an undesirable by-product of coal mining. In many ways, the raw material for an emerging rare earth industry has already been ex-

tracted from the hills of West Virginia. It already sits in waste piles, waiting to be processed.

Flash Metals USA has been developing Flash Joule Heating technology to recover metals, critical minerals, and rare earth elements from a variety of feedstocks, including mining waste, industrial by-products, and recycled electronics like printed circuit boards. Company CEO Steve Ragiel, who attended the Rupert announcement, is a chemical engineer with 30 years of experience in the recycling industry. If successful, the technology could offer a new, practical use for West Virginia’s vast stores of coal waste.

The Flash Joule Heating process began as research at Rice University under Dr. James Tour and has since been advanced by Flash Metals for practical industrial applications. The process involves rapidly heating and cooling source materials using a high-voltage electrical pulse to separate the targeted minerals. According to project developers, this technology can process a ton of material using approximately \$30 worth of electricity.

The Rupert facility will adapt this process to recover rare earth elements specifically from coal tailings and coal slurry sourced from permitted disposal sites. Coal tailings are the rock, shale, and fine coal particles left over after coal is processed. Coal slurry, often called coal sludge, is a mixture of crushed coal, waste rock, and water that has traditionally been stored in large impoundments or valley fills. Millions of tons of these materials remain at mine sites across West Virginia, providing an abundant potential feedstock for the facility.

Rare earth elements are a group of 17 metallic elements essential to modern technology. They are found in everything from smart phones and electric vehicles to MRI machines, wind turbines, and advanced defense

See “Rare Earth Extraction”__ Page 2

National Forensic Interviewers Week kicked off July 6

Why the Forensic Interview is the Foundation of Child Abuse Investigations

Monday kicked off National Forensic Interviewers Week - a week-long recognition for the forensic interviewers at Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) for the work they’re doing with children daily when there is a disclosure or suspicion of abuse. This Forensic Interviewer Week, we honor all the compassionate professionals who provide children with a safe space to share their stories.

Last year, West Virginia’s 21 CACs served 4,734 children. Of those, 4,603 forensic interviews were conducted with 66% of children disclosing abuse. Locally, the Child and Youth Advocacy Center (CYAC) conducted 152 forensic interviews.

Forensic interviews are the foundation for the Multidisciplinary Team; including child abuse investigation, prosecution, child protection, and implementation of appropriate ser-

vices, and may also be the beginning of the road toward healing for many children and families. The way a child is treated during the initial forensic interview may significantly impact the child’s understanding of, and ability to respond to, the intervention process and/or criminal justice system.

Every CAC adheres to research-based forensic interview guidelines. They must monitor these guidelines over time to ensure they reflect current practice and best standards. At a minimum, any professional in the role of forensic interviewer must have initial and ongoing forensic interviewer training that is approved by the National Children’s Alliance.

Forensic interviews are coordinated to avoid duplicative interviews and are conducted in a manner that is legally sound and of a

neutral, fact-finding nature. This aims to prevent the added trauma to a child of re-telling their story to multiple agencies. When a child is unable or unwilling to provide information regarding any concern about abuse, other interventions to assess the children’s safety and experience are required.

“At the Child and Youth Advocacy Center (CYAC) a forensic interview is often one of the very first steps after an allegation of abuse. Our highly trained professionals provide a safe, neutral, and trauma-informed space where children can share their experiences in their own words, at their own pace. We are so proud of our team and all forensic interviewers serving children in their time of need.” - Francesca Zarcone, Executive Director and Forensic Interviewer (CYAC)

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Travels with Mary Draper Ingles



Reenactor Karen Vuranch as Mary Draper Ingles

Mary Draper Ingles (1732-1815), frontier settler and survivor will be portrayed by veteran actress and historical reenactor Karen Vuranch of Fayetteville, at 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 16 at White Sulphur Springs Public Library.

Mary Draper Ingles was one of the pioneers who settled the western frontier of Virginia. In 1755, she was captured by Shawnee Indians who brought her, along with her children, to a Shawnee village near what is now Cincinnati. She escaped and walked more than 500 miles to get home, traveling through the New River Gorge in November and December. Vuranch’s Mary Draper Ingles presents a unique perspective on frontier culture and tells how it was to be a white settler on the outer fringes of the ‘civilized’ world.

Storyteller, actress, and writer Karen Vuranch weaves together a love of history, a passion for stories and a sense of community. Ms. Vuranch is known nationally for her work and has toured extensively through West Virginia and the United States. She brings history to life through her unique performance style, which combines storytelling and drama to create an engaging presentation.

Light refreshments will follow this performance. If you have any questions please call the library at 304-536-1171. The library is located at 344 W Main Street in White Sulphur Springs, the Seneca Trail Charitable Foundation inc.

Ferris wheels are nice. School clothing vouchers matter more to WV Moms!

Families across West Virginia are reeling in the midst of the affordability and care crises that are gripping the country. Instead of helping hardworking, struggling families, Governor Morrissey has delayed the release of the School Clothing Vouchers that families are counting on to help them pay for clothing and essential school supplies for their children, even though the legislature appropriated the funding.

MomsRising’s West Virginia Director, Amy Jo Hutchison, has her finger on the pulse and has been talking to moms around the state about the impact of the Governor’s decision. If you would like to talk to Amy Jo, please let me know and I’d be happy to set up an interview. Thank you!

PR Solutions DC
1625 K St NW, Washington, DC, 20006
United States
For all inquiries, please contact us at: lisa@momsrising.org

Achievement Day

Continued from Front Page

not only receive a pin and certificate in recognition of their achievement, but also become Honorary Members who are not required to pay state dues. This year’s new 50-year members were Cassandra Perkins (Williamsburg CEOS), Janet Johnson (Organ Cave CEOS), and Mary Ellen Raines (Tri-City CEOS).

Patty Gray (Progressive CEOS) was awarded a certificate for submitting the winning entry in the Greenbrier County CEOS Short Story Contest. Patty’s story, “Mrs. Cashew’s Revenge” also won first place in the WV-CEOS Short Story Contest.

CEOS Clubs have four main committees that shape club activities and service throughout the year.

The Family Issues Committees studied their family heritage by sharing their family genealogy, recipes, and stories. They donated school supplies and made childcare kits to help youth. They ensured their club members had their yearly wellness exams. They supported Greenbrier County 4-H Camp, the Children’s Home Society, WV Helping Hands, and local nursing homes. They incorporated WVCEOS Health Motivator activities into their meetings.

The Greenbrier County CEOS Family Issues Committee recognized Tri-City CEOS (tied for 3rd), Fort Spring CEOS (tied for 3rd), Williamsburg CEOS (2nd Place), and Organ Cave CEOS (1st Place) for their efforts.

The Continuing Education Committee focused on stories, history, and learning. They learned about Appalachian heritage, and shared skills that they learned from others. They learned about the history of the Mail Pouch Barns and WV State Parks. The Greenbrier County CEOS Continuing Education Committee recognized Renick Northern Lights CEOS (3rd), and Rupert CEOS (2nd).

Rare Earth Extraction

Continued from Front Page

systems. Despite the name, rare earth elements are relatively common in the Earth’s crust. The challenge has always been finding economical ways to extract and separate them.

By tapping into West Virginia’s extensive coal tailings, AmFlash intends to establish a critical mineral recovery network that supports Project Vault, the U.S. strategic critical mineral reserve. That broader national effort is what makes the Rupert project especially significant.

For decades, much of the world’s rare earth processing has taken place overseas, leaving the United States heavily dependent on foreign supply chains for materials considered vital to manufacturing and national security. In recent years, both government agencies and private industry have accelerated efforts to establish domestic sources of these critical minerals.

According to AmForge and state officials, Greenbrier County will play a central role in that effort, with the Rupert facility serving as the hub for processing coal tailings sourced from across West Virginia and potentially beyond. That concept has sparked understandable curiosity.

Some residents see the project as an opportunity to create value from mining waste while supporting new manufacturing jobs. Others are asking what the process means for local water quality, what happens to the material left behind after the minerals are removed, and whether Greenbrier County will become the final destination for coal waste shipped in from outside the region.

Those are reasonable questions, and at this stage, many of them do not yet have clear answers.

The companies involved have described the project in broad terms, emphasizing a patented extraction process and its potential economic and national security benefits. However, specifics about the site’s operations, environmental protections, and how remaining waste materials will be managed have yet to be released.

For now, the Rupert project represents both opportunity and uncertainty. It promises new jobs, a productive use for decades of accumulated coal waste, and a key role in strengthening America’s domestic critical mineral supply chain. Whether it can deliver on those promises while protecting the region’s natural resources will become clearer as the project moves forward.

THANK YOU FOR READING
THE MOUNTAIN MESSENGER

PICK OF THE LITTER



BUCK

Buck is a 14 month-old male Terrier.



DELPHÉ

Delphe is a 3 year-old Pyrenees, great/coonhound mix.

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.

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Mountain Messenger

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Briefly

Carnegie Hall Annual Meeting Notice

Carnegie Hall will hold its Annual Membership Meeting Monday, July 27, 2026, at 6 p.m., in the Hamilton Auditorium. Individuals or families who contributed at least \$50 to the Hall during the last fiscal year of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, are considered members of the Hall and are invited to attend. The agenda includes the year-end report for FY 2025-26 and the election of new board members. Light refreshments will be served. Please email ceo@carnegiehallwv.org if you plan to attend.

Correction

As part of America 250: A Celebration of Revolutionary Era Greenbrier Valley, the Greenbrier Historical Society invites the public to journey back to a pivotal moment in our nation’s history during a ceremonial reenactment of the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence in our area. The reading will take place on Saturday, July 25 at 12 noon in front of the Greenbrier County Courthouse.

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.

Building Commission

will meet Tuesday, July 14, at 5 p.m. in Paul R. Cooley Council Chambers, 942 Washington Street West, Lewisburg. On the agenda:

- Public Works Quote approval purchase of Dump Truck with bond funds
- Approval of Electrician for garage door openers
- Approval of purchase of utility trailer with bond funds
- Communications from members
- Approval of Minutes - June 9, 2026

Lewisburg Finance Committee

will meet in regular session Tuesday, July 14, at 7 p.m. in Paul R. Cooley Council Chambers. The following topics are scheduled for discussion:

- Arts and Humanities Funding Request - Lewisburg Literary Festival
- Resolution 601 Coal Severance Fund Budget Revision Number One Fiscal Year 2027
- City Hall HVAC Renovation Bid approval
- Greenbrier County Library HVAC Bid approval
- Hollowell Park Playground Equipment Upgrade Quote Approval
- Public Works Quote approval purchase of Dump Truck with bond funds
- Public Works Quote approval of electrical work for garage doors with bond funds
- Public Works Quote approval of utility equipment trailer
- Police Department - SWAT Training
- Wage Increase Jonathan Cook
- Wage Increase Bobby Davis
- Proposed Pay Scale Update
- Proposed COLA Increases
- Year-end lunch- training event quote approval
- Water system update
- Communication from Council members
- Communication from City manager
- Approval of Minutes - May 12, 2026

Suits

New Cases from 7/1/26 to 7/8/26

New Civil Cases

Kimberly D Ransom v. West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine

Daniel Via v. West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine

Ally Bank v. Donald Hedrick

Hannah Marketing Group Inc. d/b/a Guest Research Inc v. Greenbrier Hotel Corporation

New Divorces

Susan Leslie Rosshirt and William David Turner III

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Hannah Marketing Group Inc. d/b/a Guest Research Inc v. Greenbrier Hotel Corporation

New Divorces

Susan Leslie Rosshirt and William David Turner III

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For the Record Deeds

Linda C. Wyant to Helen S. Trump: 7 acres, Irish Corner District, Map 5 Parcel 64

Ahkol WV LLC to Ahkol WV LLC: lot 6 section 4, Lewisburg District, Map 28 Parcel 0040

Patrick Roberts and Patricia Roberts to Shannon M. Brown: 1.97 acres, Falling Spring District, Map 3 Parcel 17

Donna N. Hanson Estate (by executors) to Issac K. Hurst and Rebecca Hurst De La Calle: lot 102 & 107 Merryhill Properties, Lewisburg District, Fort Spring District, Map 41

Eva J. Agee and Henry L. Agee (by AIF) to Dyllan C. Lewis: 23.67 acres, Falling Spring District, Map 71 Parcel 74

Christine A. Peters to Michael Weaver and Lori Weaver: 3 parcels, 44.26 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 85 Parcel 0006

Christine A. Peters to Michael Weaver and Lori Weaver: 3 parcels, 44.26 acres, Meadow Bluff District, Map 85 Parcel 0006

Betsey G. Satterfield to Mary P. Satterfield Smith and Elizabeth S. Totten: lot 32 Phase II, Greenbrier Pines SD, Lewisburg District, Map 26 Parcel 0099

Grace C. Najdek and Edward D. Knight (executor) to Thomas C. Najdek Testamentary Trust: 0.215 acres, RSVY OG RT 60, White Sulphur District, Map 25F Parcel 0039

Vickie D. Pickering (Charlton) to Girlonza N. Scott and Katherine J. Scott: 29,995 square feet, Irish Corner District, Map 19 Parcel 76.2

Lynne R. Bostic and David C. Bostic to Ashley B. Eisenberg and Allison A. Bostic: 29.835 acres, 119.78 acres, Falling Spring District, Map 33/33 Parcel 0017/0008

Lynne R. Smith Bostic and David C. Bostic to Ashley B. Eisenberg and Allison Bostic: 2.05 acres, R/W, Frankford District, Map 18 Parcel 0015/0007

Lynne R. Smith Bostic and David C. Bostic to Ashley B. Eisenberg and Allison Bostic: 34.489 acres more or less, Williamsburg Dist, Map 46 Parcel 0060

Timothy R. Gathers (revocable trust by successor trustee) to Cynthia L. Petrie (revocable trust by trustee): 8,750 square feet and 17,500 square feet, Fort Spring District, Map 06 Parcel 13, 15

Ronald L. Riffle and Brandy L. Riffle to Erik Taylor and Ashley H. Morgan: 2 tracts, Rupert District, Map 05 Parcel 159

Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Convictions

Kateland Cierra Harper, White Sulphur Springs, underage consumption, fine \$50, NCP

George Wellington Carter, Jr., White Sulphur Springs, 1) operation of vehicle without registration, fine \$50; 2) operation of vehicle without insurance, fine \$2100; 3) DUI - 1st, fine \$100; 4) domestic battery, jail 6 months - suspended 18 months unsupervised probation, NCP

Kayla Ann Anderson, Ronceverte, joyriding, jail 90 days - suspended 1 year unsupervised probation, NCP

Danny R. Bragg, Rainelle, reckless driving, fine \$25, NCP

Allison K. Deisinger, Cincinnati, OH, speeding, fine \$46, NCP

Andrew Scott Cozort, Lindside, possession of meth, fine \$200, GP

Wayne W. Wikle, Narrows, VA, 1) destruction of property, fine \$50, jail 30 days - suspended 12 months unsupervised probation; 2) obstructing law enforcement, fine \$50, jail 30 days - suspended 12 months unsupervised probation, NCP

James Starrett, White Sulphur Springs, possession of controlled substance, fine \$100, GP



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OPINION

Commentary

Save Our Bacon Act needs to be excluded from federal farm bill

As a family-run operation tucked into the hills of White Sulphur Springs, Middle Mountain Farmstead believes agriculture succeeds when decisions remain close to the people who steward the land. Our farm was built on generations of hard work, personal responsibility, and a commitment to raising food with integrity. Every growing season reminds us that farming requires resilience, innovation, and local knowledge. Those values have allowed responsible family farms like ours to endure changing markets, unpredictable weather, and rising farm input costs without asking the federal government to dictate every aspect of agriculture.

This is why it’s essential that the Save Our Bacon Act needs to be excluded in the next federal Farm Bill. The Save Our Bacon Act would prevent states from setting commonsense standards on certain livestock products sold in their marketplaces. It would also overturn state laws that protect livestock from disease and infestation including the serious threat from screwworm.

The Farm Bill should focus on strengthening American agriculture, supporting farmers, expanding market opportunities, and ensuring a stable food supply. It should not become a vehicle for more federal government involvement in decisions better handled by individual states and communities.

West Virginians understand that communities across America often have different agricultural traditions, economic realities, and preferences. The Save Our Bacon Act ignores those differences. States are fully capable of addressing issues within their own borders without creating another layer of federal oversight. America’s food system is strongest when farmers are free to innovate, compete, and respond to customer demand instead of navigating additional mandates from Washington.

Middle Mountain Farmstead was founded on the belief that honest farming means caring for the land, honoring our neighbors, and leaving something better for the next generation. This is achieved through stewardship and local decision-making, not unnecessary federal overreach.

Congress should keep the Farm Bill focused on its core mission: supporting American farmers. The Save Our Bacon Act does not belong in the bill or anywhere else. As a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Senator Jim Justice will have a key role in determining what’s included in the Farm Bill. I urge him and Senator Shelley Moore Capito to reject the Save Our Bacon Act in large legislative packages like the Farm Bill.

‘Good Trouble Lives On’

Continued from Front Page

Robin Crawford, Greenbrier Branch President of the NAACP.

The local action in Lewisburg is part of Good Trouble Lives On - a nationwide day of peaceful, nonviolent action rooted in the legacy of the civil rights movement and inspired by John Lewis’ call to make “good trouble, necessary trouble.”

This year’s action is different from last year’s. It will be anchored through voter engagement, civic education, and faith-based organizing. The rally will bring together grassroots organizations, legal advocates, faith leaders, and community members.

We invite the press to attend, capture, and share the voices of those taking peaceful action in defense of our democracy. Information about registering to vote and how to make your voice heard during these challenging times will be available.

To learn more about the national campaign, visit www.goodtroubleliveson.org.



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OBITUARIES

Daniel Lee Bryant



Daniel Lee Bryant, known to many simply as Daniel, passed away on July 2, 2026, in Blue Sulphur Springs after a long illness. He was born on July 21, 1949, in Blue Sulphur Springs to the late Jake Vernie Bryant and Cora E. (Littlepage) Bryant. Daniel lived a life marked by hard work, devotion to family, and a deep appreciation for the simple joys that made each day meaningful.

Daniel was a hardworking man throughout his life. He spent many years farming for the Wilson Brother's Farm in Lewisburg and also worked for various logging companies. He took pride in honest labor and was known for his steady hands, dependable nature, and willingness to help wherever he was needed. Whether he was tending to the land, caring for cattle, or working on something mechanical, Daniel approached every task with patience and determination.

Outside of work, Daniel found happiness in the things that reflected his love for country living and family traditions. He enjoyed playing the guitar and banjo, and music brought him comfort and joy throughout his life. He also loved farming and raising cattle, and he took great satisfaction in working with his hands. He had a natural talent for fixing and tinkering with anything mechanical, and he could often be found giving attention to a project that needed his care. Daniel also enjoyed watching westerns, especially Gunsmoke, which remained one of his favorite pastimes.

Most of all, Daniel treasured the time he spent with his family and friends. He was a devoted companion, father, grandfather, and relative whose presence brought warmth and strength to those around him. He is survived by his loving companion of 22 years, Cynthia K. Jones; his sons, Kelly Bryant and his companion Heather Sears of Covington, Virginia, and Dustin Bryant of Blue Sulphur Springs; his daughters, Carolyn Bryant of Lewisburg and Greta Bryant and her companion Billy Finn of Rupert; and his grandchildren, Johnathan Bryant and his wife Susan of Flat Mountain, Joise Scott and her husband Nathan of Alderson, JR Bryant and his wife Shelbi of Williamsburg, Greyson Bryant and Hayden Bryant, both of Rupert, Nikki Rodriguez of Florida, and Mackenzie Gore of Princeton, WV; his 13 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, and cousins who will cherish his memory.

Daniel will be remembered for his strong work ethic, his love of the land, and the quiet kindness he showed to those who knew him best. His life was one of dedication, resilience, and love for family. Though he will be deeply missed, his memo-

ry will live on in the hearts of all who were blessed to know him.

Graveside services and burial will be on Friday, July 3, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bryant Family Cemetery in Blue Sulphur Springs, WV, with Pastor George Bryant officiating. Family and friends will serve as pallbearers.

Online condolences and memories may be shared with the Bryant family at www.lobbanfh.com

Billy Ray Falls



Billy Ray Falls was born on May 23, 1948, in Lewisburg, WV, the seventh of 11 children born to Dora Roach Falls and Harry Frank Falls. He departed this life at 7:43 p.m. on Wednesday, July 1, 2026.

Following the loss of his mother during childbirth, Billy spent much of his childhood at Davis Stuart with several of his siblings. Those early years helped shape the kind, hard-working, and resilient man he would become.

After proudly serving his country in the Vietnam War, Billy worked at a variety of jobs before concluding his career at Davis Stuart School as the Farm Manager. Throughout the years, he formed lasting friendships with many local farmers and members of the community who respected him for his hard work, generosity and good nature.

Billy was preceded in death by his twin infants, Ray and Renee Falls, daughters Amber June Falls and Tamra Falls Boswell and the love of his life Betsy Windon Falls; his sisters Jean Wicks, Lynn Geiger, Mary Norris and Kathleen Hyltonh; is brother Earl Dosier; sister-in-law's Tottie Falls, Dolores Falls, Cristie Dawson; brother-in-law's Les Norris, Tom Geiger, Jesse Hylton and Larry Windon.

Those left to cherish his memory include, the lights of his life - his beloved granddaughters, Madison Amber, Taylor Bray, and Miley Renee Boswell all of Ronceverte, WV. Nothing brought a bigger smile to Billy's face than spending time with his girls, and he loved each of them with his whole heart. He is also survived by his son-in-law Joey Boswell of Ronceverte; brothers Tom Falls of Lewisburg, Alfred Falls of Fayetteville, and Ray Falls of White Sulphur Springs; sisters Dorothy Hylton (Dorsey) of Union and Ginger Blackburn of Lewisburg; sister-in-law Judy Arzaga (Ralph) of Roanoke, VA, and many cherished nieces, nephews, extended family, members, and friends.

Billy treasured his friendships around his life. Among those especially dear to him were Arthur Bartenslager, Joe and Mary Boswell. He deeply appreciated the companionship they shared, along with the many meals, conversation, and laughter that filled their time together.

The family would also

like to express their heartfelt gratitude to the staff of The Seasons and to Hospice for the compassionate care, they provided Billy. A special thank you is extended to Mary Catherine Boswell and his many nurses and CNA's, whose kindness and dedication meant so much to him and his family.

Those serving as pallbearers are: Joey Boswell, Kaiden Bowyer, Arthur Bartenslager, Zach Bartenslager, Chris Hylton and Wes Hylton.

Funeral services for Billy Ray Falls will be held on Wednesday, July 8 at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg. Visitation will begin at 4 p.m.; with this funeral service beginning at 5:30 officiated by Kevin Altizer. Interment will follow in Morgan Cemetery in Ronceverte.

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

Catherine Sue "Cathy" Alder



Catherine Sue "Cathy" Alder, 69, of Ronceverte, WV, passed away Tuesday, June 30, 2026 at Peyton Hospice House, surrounded by her family.

Born Apr. 25, 1957 at York, PA, she was a daughter of the late Robert Amberman and Dorothy June Gemmill Bacon. She was also preceded in death by her step-father Terry Bacon.

Cathy graduated from Red Lion Senior High School in Pennsylvania; was formerly employed by Greenbrier Valley Hospital in the dietary department; was a retired secretary with Greenbrier Veterinary Hospital and was a cashier for Walmart in Lewisburg.

She leaves to mourn her passing her husband of 50 years, Billy Dale Alder; two sons, Michael (Chrissy) Alder of Ronceverte and Brian (Angel) Alder of Frankford; her beloved grandchildren, Cody, Lacey, Courtney (Zach), Hunter, and Mikhail (Summer); also surviving are her siblings, Randal Amberman (Chris) of New Mexico, Karen Gross (Ken) of Felton, PA, Lori Topper of York, PA, Cheri Reed (John) of Brogue, PA and Eric Bacon (Sally) of Brogue, PA. Cathy also leaves behind many extended family members and friends who dearly loved her.

Cathy had a knack for cooking and often spent many hours in the kitchen cooking meals for her family. She loved the outdoors and loved watching wildlife in her back yard. Most of all she enjoyed spending time with family, especially her grandchildren. She thoroughly loved her granddaughter, Lacey and their time spent together.

Per her wishes Cathy will be cremated and a family gathering to honor her life will be held at a later date.

Wallace & Wallace Fu-

neral Home in Lewisburg is in charge of arrangements. Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallace-FH.com

Alice Cloe Hintersteiner
August 1, 1968 - May 26, 2026



Alice Cloe Hintersteiner, passed away peacefully on May 26, 2026, at Henrico Doctors' Hospital in Henrico, VA. She was 57 years old.

Born on Aug. 1, 1968, in Ronceverte, WV, Alice was known for her loving and compassionate nature. She opened her heart and home to many, embodying a spirit of generosity and care that touched all who had the honor of knowing her. As a mother to many, she demonstrated wisdom and kindness that guided and nurtured those around her.

Alice delighted in crafting and found great joy in spending time with her grandchildren, sharing moments filled with laughter and love. She especially treasured trips to Roaring Creek, where she found inspiration for her writing and peace within nature's embrace. These interests were reflective of her thoughtful and creative spirit, enriching the lives of her family and friends.

She is survived by her devoted sons, Kenna Hintersteiner (Dee Dee) and Bryson Hintersteiner, and her beloved grandchildren Kamryn Simms, Chevelle, Jasper, and Mary Hintersteiner. The presence of her family was a constant source of joy and meaning throughout her life.

Alice was preceded in death by her parents, William Kenna "Duke" Johnson and Mary Burns Johnson, and her sister, Audrey Louise Johnson. Though their absence is deeply felt, their memories live on in the hearts of those who loved Alice.

Her passing leaves a void in the lives of many, yet the warmth of her spirit, her generosity, and her unwavering love will forever remain a guiding light. Alice Cloe Hintersteiner's legacy is one of grace, compassion, and devotion, and she will be remembered with profound respect and enduring affection.

It was Alice's wish to be cremated. Visitation will be held on Friday, July 10 from 5 to 6 p.m. with Memorial Service following at 6 p.m.

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

Marville "Bear" Sanford



With heavy hearts and profound sadness, we announce the passing of our beloved Marville Preston "Bear" Sanford, 56, of Rupert, who left this world suddenly and far too soon on July 6, 2026.

Bear was born on Feb. 25, 1970, in Georgetown, Washington, DC, to Oscar Eugene Sanford (1997) and Carol Lee Wooldridge Sanford (2020). In 1980, his family moved to Greenbrier County, where he spent most of his life and built the life he loved.

Bear was the very definition of a devoted husband, father, son, brother, uncle, and friend. His family was the center of his world, and he never missed an opportunity to show them how deeply he loved them. Left to cherish his memory are his beloved wife, Joy Taylor Sanford, and his daughter, Taylor Elizabeth Sanford, both of Rupert, whom he loved with all his heart. His pride in and devotion to his "two girls" was immeasurable. He is also survived by his sister, Deanna Deaton (John Paul); his brothers, James Douglas Gwinn (Debbie) and Trevor Sanford (Allison); his cherished nephew, Preston Sanford (Sam), whom he loved as if he were his own son; his nieces Amanda, Bethany, Jessie, Taylor, Hailley, Emily, Lilly, Tiffany, Erin, Brooklyn, Kylee, Alexis, and MacKenzie; his nephews Tyler, Mason, Hudson, Mikey, Brandon, Levi, Teddy, and Jayden; his mother-in-law Sue and father-in-law and friend Bobby Spaulding (passed in 2025), Brothers-in-law Terry, Joe, and James and Sisters-in-law Cindy (Jerry), Lisa, Christina and Kim; his aunt and uncle, Danny and Patsy Sanford; and his two beloved dogs, Angel (passed in 2025) and Peanut.

Bear also shared a lifelong friendship with Mike Goddard, whose companionship he treasured throughout the years. Their bond was one he always held close to his heart.

Bear had a gift for showing his love through cooking. Whether it was a holiday meal or a simple night at home watching bad movies, he turned every gathering into a gourmet feast. He was also an exceptional writer and a hopeless romantic. For their 25th wedding anniversary in May, he wrote a beautiful story for Joy - a reflection of the love they shared and a gift his family will forever treasure.

In his younger years, Bear was a standout football player at Greenbrier West High School. As a senior, he proudly represented Greenbrier West

in the North-South All-Star Classic. His love for Greenbrier West football never faded, and the team's recent playoff run to Wheeling brought him tremendous joy. He was also a devoted fan of WVU football and had been eagerly looking forward to attending the season opener in September with his brother and nephew.

Sports were one of Bear's greatest passions. He faithfully cheered for the Washington Capitals and Washington Commanders, but his favorite team was Manchester United. His favorite person he never had the chance to meet was Jack Nicholson, whose work and personality he admired for many years.

Bear truly embodied the spirit of the Christmas season, finding immense joy in transforming his home into a festive holiday wonderland for everyone to enjoy. His philosophy was simple: you can never have too many Santas. By anyone's count, he certainly had plenty.

In accordance with Bear's wishes, he will be cremated, and no formal funeral service will be held. His family will announce a celebration of his life at a later date for all who wish to gather, share memories, and honor the remarkable man he was.

Though Bear's time with us ended far too soon, the love he gave so freely, the laughter he inspired, the traditions he created, and the countless lives he touched will live on forever. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered every day.

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.

Jack Sanford Roark, Jr.



With full hearts and deep love, we - his daughters, Tanja and Christina - share the passing of our father, Mr. Jack S. Roark, Jr. Dad left us on June 30, 2026, at the age of 85, in Lewisburg, WV, where he lived for more than 35 years.

He worked proudly as an Air Traffic Controller at the Greenbrier Valley Airport until retiring at age 72, a career he shared with dedication and commitment. He spent those years alongside his beloved late wife, Marty Morrow Roark, with whom he shared 48 years of marriage.

Born in Salisbury, NC, Dad was the son of Jack Roark, Sr. and Marion Leona Shelton. He graduated from Boyden High School, Class of 1959, and soon enlisted in the

See "Obituaries" __Page 5



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Stonewood CEOS June meeting

The Stonewood CEOS club met at the Congregational Missionary Church fellowship hall. The meeting was called to order by President Ladonna Tucker and members welcomed. A candle was lit in memory of the deceased members. Devotions entitled “Mornings with Jesus” were read by Terri Jo Boyers. Members present were Ladonna Tucker, Deloris Wilson, Estella Farnsworth, Lesita Snider, Eva Summers, Terri Jo Boyers, April Stout and Willa Jean Green.

Members recited the American and WV flag salutes. Treasurer’s report given by Ladonna in the absence of treasurer Pam Cowdrey; it was accepted to be filed for audit. Minutes of last meeting were read and accepted as read. Terri Jo had the lesson today entitled Happy, Healthy Hobbies. Some examples of hobbies of our members include Reading, word search, and crossword puzzles which aid in improving our cognitive health. Walking, swimming, and yoga for example can improve our stamina and physical health. Terri also brought an assortment of fresh fruits for a healthy snack and led members in leg raises to strengthen calf muscles.

Committee reports: Family; April will be collecting duffle bags, small suitcases, and backpacks to be donated to the Genesis Center for children who are discharged to use for their clothes and other belongings. A member of the church that works at the center will deliver them; they will be greatly appreciated.

Continuing education chair Eva reminded members of the short story, poems, and photo entrance deadlines of Aug. 1. Deloris gave a book report entitled A Mother’s Gift by Charlotte Hubbard; if you’re looking for a good read, please check it out. We are putting finishing touches on our throw to be donated to the Stonewood VFD

for a raffle at the annual Firefighter’s festival in August. We are very proud of how it turned out. You could be the lucky winner, you never know.

Show and share today was brought by Eva; a handmade Betsy Rabbit doll, it was very pretty and meticulously made; Deloris brought a mid-century metal meat/cheese slicer and Terri brought samples of different types of adult bibs that she made which were very pretty, we plan to make several different styles to be donated to local nursing homes. Willa Jean, health motivator reminded us to be cognizant of ticks and mosquitoes this summer; they can cause serious illnesses. Standing water in bird baths, flowerpots and gutters are examples that are attractive to mosquitoes. Wear long pants and long sleeves whenever possible and treat yourself with insect repellant to prevent getting ticks and mosquito bites. Always check your pets for ticks when they have been outside.

New business: A motion was made by April Stout and seconded by Terri Jo Boyers to retain the present club officers for another year. We will make plans to invite a visiting club later this year. Reminders: County picnic July 6 at 6 p.m.; bring cleaning items for donation; be sure to bring your Blue yearbook to next meeting.

We collected 21 boxes of Hamburger Helper and 24 packages of Ramen Noodles for donation to the Mustard Seed today; next month donation will be cans of Manwich.

Next meeting will be on July 20. Be careful being out in the heat, stay hydrated, don’t exert yourself, and don’t get overheated. We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

CVH 496.5
Books read 17

Yoga expert visits Richlands Ruritan Club

The Richlands Ruritan club met on June 10 and welcomed its scholarship recipient, Emily McClure, a 2026 graduate of East Greenbrier High School. Emily is planning to attend West Virginia University to study Marketing. Miss McClure was accompanied by her brother, Evan McClure. Evan is recent graduate of West Virginia University and was the recipient of the club’s scholarship four years ago.

The guest speaker for the evening meeting was Teresa McCroskey a local physical trainer. Ms. McCroskey gave a presentation on the benefits of Chair Yoga. This exercise program was first developed in India over a thousand years ago. It has three key components; Poses or postures, Breathing and Relaxation. The benefits of this regime include improved strength and cardio function. Ms. McCroskey led the club members in several exercises to demonstrate the benefits of this form of physical exercise.

In the business session of the meeting the club approved a donation to the Greenbrier Youth Camp.

The Richlands Ruritans club meets on the second Wednesday of each month for a dinner meeting at the Calvary Methodist Church on Midland Trail East in Rich-



Emily and Evan McClure at June meeting of Richlands Ruritan Club

lands. The Ruritan Civic organization is a national network of clubs working together for a stronger America. The Ruritans’ focus is to support community services in small towns and rural communities across America. The Ruritans, founded in 1928 in Holland, Virginia, are celebrating their 98th year of service to local communities. The Richlands Ruritans Club provides scholarships to local college students and 4-H campers.

For further information or questions please contact James Tate, 540-798-6044 or jptateifa@aol.com

Obituaries

Continued from Page 4

Jack Sanford Roark
obituary continued

United States Air Force as an air traffic controller. He married our mother, Mary Francis Terrell of Spencer, NC, and together they welcomed us - his daughters, Tanja Roark Hemric and Christina Roark Koon - who survived him and carry his love forward.

Dad is also survived by his sister, Patricia Roark Payne; nephew Christopher Payne; nieces Tammy Payne Wright and Angie Payne Pennington; and great-nephews Alden and Baron Wright of Salisbury, NC. His grandchildren and great-grandchildren brought him endless joy: Dana, Branden and Ashley Hemric; Kristopher Riley Blakely; Cody, Avah and Mary Boles; Kyndal Wincey; Kala Copp; Kyle and Karter Koon; Alyssa, Amelia, Ashlyn, and Jack Copp; Genevieve, Weston, and Easton Wincey.

Dad loved fishing in the Greenbrier River and walking along the coastlines of the Carolinas. He held his pilot’s license and found peace flying small planes over the West Virginia mountains. He was a loving father who instilled Christian values, kindness, generosity, and love in all of us. We will forever remember him as our guiding light.

A graveside service will be held on July 17, 2026 at 1 p.m. at the Rowan Memorial Park in Salisbury, NC. The Summersett Funeral Home will be assisting the Roark family in Salisbury.

Robert Lee Erskine



Robert Lee Erskine, 80, of Ronceverte passed away Tuesday, July 7, 2026.

Robert was born June 8, 1946 at Ronceverte to the late Roscoe Madison and Mary Kathryn Morgan Erskine.

Robert attended the Pentecostal Holiness Church at Second Creek and had worked in the lumber industry.

Other than his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia Kay Weikle Erskine; brother, Jesse Darrell Erskine and sisters-in-law, Susan Erskine and Carol Erskine.

Surviving include sisters, Bessie Reed and husband Benjamin and Rebecca Kirk and husband Stephen; brother, Tony Erskine. Several nieces and nephews.

Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. on Monday, July 13, 2026 at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg with Pastor Michael Erskine, Pastor Keith Rasnick and Pastor Keith Delatte officiating. Burial will follow in the Honaker Cemetery on Coffman Hill.

Visitation will be from 12 noon until time of the service at 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com

James “Jim” Monroe VanMetre IV



James “Jim” Monroe VanMetre, IV, of Lewisburg, WV passed away peacefully, surrounded by family at Charleston Memorial Hospital, on July 7, 2026.

Born in 1944 in Palo Alto, CA, Jim grew up on the VanMetre family farm in Martinsburg, WV, later moving to Lewisburg. He was a 1962 graduate of Greenbrier Military School and a Vietnam War veteran.

Jim was a bridge inspector for the WV Department of Highways. He was a member of the Greenbrier Military School Alumni Association, United Service Organizations, the Greenbrier Valley Chapter of The Senior Circle, NRA, National Society of the Sons of American Revolution, and the Harley Davidson Owners Group. He participated competitively in Cowboy Action Shooting winning many trophies and held membership in the Single Action Shooting Society. Jim was a lifelong member of the Lewisburg Volunteer Fire Department, an avid outdoorsman, and motorcycle enthusiast.

Jim was predeceased by

his first wife, the mother of his daughters, Linda Holt VanMetre, by his parents James M. and Wilda B. VanMetre, his in-laws Forest and Betty Holt, his sisters Sandra V. Judy and Dorothy “Dottie” VanMetre, and brother-in-law Robert J. Tate.

Jim is survived by loving family members including his wife Cathy Ingram VanMetre, daughters Judy (Timothy) Poore of Midlothian, VA and Karen (John) Arbuckle of Lewisburg; cherished grandchildren Dr. Jaelynn Parks, Victoria Parks, and Samuel Poore; sister Julie VanMetre Tate of Ashland, VA and brother-in-law Jerry (Alice) Judy; his niece, Lisa J. (Lee) Metchick and nephews David Judy, Jeb (Jennifer) Tate, Lee Tate; grandniece Jamie Tate and grandnephew Aiden Metchick. He is also survived by two stepdaughters Ashley Mandeville and Amy Burdette and their husbands/families.

Funeral Service will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 12, 2026 at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home with Rev. Ron Miller officiating. Burial with Military Honors conducted by American Legion Post #26 will follow in Rosewood Cemetery, Lewisburg.

Visitation will be Saturday, July 11, 2026 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Wallace & Wallace Funeral Home in Lewisburg. Please send online condolences by visiting www.WallaceandWallaceFH.com

Church Bulletin

Summer 2026 Vacation Bible

School - Lewisburg Baptist Church

Lewisburg Baptist Church is inviting all children ages 4 through finished 5th grade to attend our Summer 2026 Vacation Bible School on Monday, July 27 - Thursday, July 30 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (lunch is provided). The theme this year is “The Great Jungle Journey - An Epic Cruise through Genesis to Revelation.” Children will explore Biblical questions as they set off on an epic adventure on a fun jungle cruise through the Bible. Please see Lewisburg Baptist Church on Facebook to learn more and to register. Please call us with any questions (304-645-3797).

First Baptist Church of Rainelle

Food Pantry. 2026 Saturday

distribution schedule

July 25, Aug. 22, Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 21, & Dec. 19.

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

Celebrating Recovery program at

Mt. Hermon UMC

Please join us for our Celebrating Recovery program at Mt. Hermon United Methodist Church in Renick. If you are dealing with any type of addiction issues, we invite you to join us each Tuesday afternoon at 5:30 p.m. Childcare is available and a meal is served prior to each meeting. For more information call 304-667-2532. We are located at 27404 Seneca Trail North, Renick, WV.

Celebrate Recovery at

River of Life Church of God

There is a welcome space for anyone seeking healing from life’s hurts, habits, and hang-ups. This faith-based recovery group focuses on spiritual growth through biblical principles, helping individuals find strength and purpose through their relationship with God. Participants benefit from a supportive community where they can share openly, build accountability and develop meaningful connections. The program encourages personal reflection, forgiveness and lasting change rooted in faith. Many find that combining recovery with spiritual guidance brings deeper healing than traditional methods alone. Whether you are struggling personally or supporting someone who is, Celebrate Recovery provides hope, encouragement and a path forward. If you wish to attend a meeting, just show-up on Mondays at 6 pm at the River of Life Church of God, 503 Highland Trail. For more information contact Pastor Anthony Carter at 304-661-0670.

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

Reunions

Suttle Reunion

You are invited to the Suttle Reunion at the Williamsburg Community Building in Williamsburg, WV, on July 19, 2026. Lunch will be served at 1 PM. Doors will open at 11 AM. Paper products, water, and sweet tea will be provided. Please bring one or two covered dishes, serving utensils, your preferred drink if you would like something other than water or tea, family photos, documents, and any information you wish to share. Thank you for contributing to a wonderful Suttle gathering! Please invite and remind all family members and friends. Questions, call Missy Boothe at 304-667-2080. Door prizes will be awarded randomly based on sign-in sheet. Sign in!

Descendants of James M. Hodges and Jeremiah O’Brien Reunion

• DATE CHANGE •

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2026 - FIRST CHURCH OF GOD FELLOWSHIP HALL, 222 NORTH AVENUE, RONCEVERTE, WV
GATHER NOON - DINNER 1 PM

Bring pictures, family tree information, past reunion information, and other memorabilia to share. Also bring addresses for family members that have moved of who you may want to add to our mailing list. The descendants are dying and we, the reunion committee, need you and your families to help in continuing this RICH tradition. Please bring anyone and COME enjoy the FINE food and GOOD fellowship. Come and catch up on the family news and reminisce about the good old days/times. Please share this announcement with family members and relatives who may not be on our current mailing list. If your address has changed, we need your new address for our mailing list. Please call Nancy Hodges at {Home} 304-647-3451 or {Cell} 304-520-1754 for the changes in your address. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

This Week in West Virginia History

The following events happened on these dates in West Virginia history. To read more, go to e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia at www.wvencyclopedia.org.

July 12, 2003: The Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences in downtown Charleston opened to the public. It combines a modern performing arts center with a visual arts museum and an interactive science center.

July 13, 1861: The Battle of Corricks Ford took place in Tucker County. Confederate Gen. Robert S. Garnett was killed. He was the first Confederate general killed in the Civil War.

July 14, 1861: Union troops under Gen. Jacob Cox drove Confederate militia and cavalry out of town during the Battle of Barboursville. Union forces remained in control of Barboursville for the remainder of the war.

July 14, 1900: Gangster William George “Big Bill” Lias was born in either Wheeling or Greece. From the 1920s until his death in 1970, he was recognized as the leading organized crime figure in Wheeling.



July 15, 1886: Congressman Cleveland Monroe “Cleve” Bailey was born on a farm in Pleasants County. He represented West Virginia’s third congressional district for eight terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, 1945-47 and 1949-63.

July 15, 1915: The West Virginia Folklore Society was founded in Morgantown by John Harrington Cox, Robert Allen Armstrong and Walter Barnes.

July 15, 1988: Interstate 64 was completed when the final section between Sam Black Church and the West Virginia Turnpike was opened to traffic.

July 16, 1791: Adam Stephen, a physician and Revolutionary War general often credited as the founder of Martinsburg, died at his home in that city.

July 16, 1869: Philanthropist Michael Late Benedum was born in Bridgeport. He made a fortune in the oil and gas business but is best remembered for establishing the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

July 16, 1877: The first nationwide labor strike in U.S. history began in Martinsburg, after the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad cut worker’s wages. Federal troops soon put down the violence in Martinsburg, but the strike continued across the country for another 52 days.

July 17, 1775: Two months after the Revolutionary War started, Hugh Stephenson’s 98-man rifle company left Shepherdstown, marched 600 miles in 24 days and arrived in Cambridge to help defend Massachusetts.

July 17, 1861: The Battle of Scary Creek took place in Putnam County. It was one of the earliest battles of the war and one of the first Confederate victories.

July 17, 1914: Singer Eleanor Steber was born in Wheeling. She made her debut with the Metropolitan Opera in 1940.

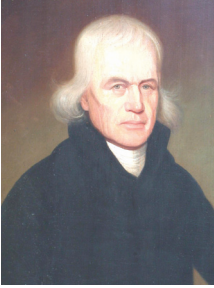


July 17, 1921: Marcenia “Toni” Stone was born in Bluefield. She was the first woman to play professional baseball for a previously all-male team. In 1953, she joined the Indianapolis Clowns of the old Negro American League, replacing the team’s second

baseman, Hank Aaron, who had just joined the National League’s Milwaukee Braves.

July 17, 1922: The Cliftonville Mine Battle took place east of Wellsburg, Brooke County. The gun battle between striking miners and sheriff’s forces left at least nine people dead.

July 18, 1776: Methodist bishop Francis Asbury first set foot in present West Virginia outside of Berkeley Springs. He worked extensively in what is now the Eastern Panhandle, preaching and lecturing almost every day, before continuing farther into western Virginia.



July 18, 1865: Samuel Cabell was murdered at his Institute plantation by either pro-Union or pro-Confederate sympathizers, depending on the source. His widow and mother of his children, Mary Barnes Cabell, who he had previously enslaved, inherited all his property, including the land on which today’s West Virginia State University was founded in 1892.

July 18, 1893: Spencer State Hospital opened. With its connected brick buildings, a quarter-mile in length, the hospital was sometimes referred to as the longest continuous brick building in America. It remained in operation until June 1989.

e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia is a project of the West Virginia Humanities Council. For more information contact the West Virginia Humanities Council, 1310 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston, WV 25301; (304) 346-8500; or visit e-WV at www.wvencyclopedia.org.

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LEWISBURG Apostolic Lighthouse 304-645-6752 Church Of Christ 304-645-1606 Edgewood Presbyterian 304-645-6563 Greenbrier Valley Family Life 304-645-5383 John Wesley United Methodist 304-647-3123 Lewisburg Baptist Church 304-645-3797 Lewisburg United Methodist Church 304-645-2727 Mount Tabor Baptist Church 304-645-3333	FAIRLEA Fairlea Associate Reformed Presbyterian 304-645-1988 Fairlea Baptist Church 304-645-3533 Graystone Baptist Church 304-645-4220 Greenbrier Valley Church Of The Nazarene 304-647-5685 The New Covenant Sanctuary Church Of God 304-645-6328	WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS Alvon Living Word 304-536-4595 Bethesda Temple of Praise 304-536-3037 Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter Day Saints 304-536-3739 Eakle Chapel United Methodist Church 304-536-3320 Emmanuel United Methodist Church 304-536-1291 First Baptist Church Of White Sulphur Springs 304-536-2067 First Church Of God 304-536-3700 First Presbyterian Church 304-536-2414 Grace Baptist Church 304-536-2162 Greenbrier Valley Baptist Church 304-536-8151 May Chapel United Methodist Church 304-536-4595 New Vision Baptist Church 304-536-3483 Pentecostal Holiness Church 304-536-2555 St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church 304-536-1813	AREA CHURCHES All Saints Episcopal Church 304-772-4634 Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church 304-645-0883 Beaver Creek Baptist Church 304-392-6737 Bethel Pentecostal Church 304-645-5365 Bruffey United Methodist Church 304-772-4137 Caldwell Pentecostal Holiness Church 681-318-3025 Calvary United Methodist Church 304-645-6679 Catholic Church Of Mary Immaculate 304-536-1813 Clifton Presbyterian Church 304-519-2512		

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Brick House Antiques Farmhouse Estate Sale! Thursday, July 9th to Saturday, July 11th, 10 am to 4 pm. Sunday, July 12th, 1 to 4 pm. Horse saddles and tack, men's and women's clothing, belts and buckles, turquoise and coral jewelry. Nice country furnishings and quilts, and much more! So, saddle up and come see us at the sale. Directions and pictures posted on estatesales.net. 608 Anderson Rd, Lewisburg, north of Elks Country Club. Vicki Wilson, 304-661-1772.

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\$1,050 MONTHLY

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Dear Recycle Lady,

Can you tell me the proper way to dispose of antifreeze? I have searched the local recycling industries and the internet but have not found information on antifreeze disposal. We are cleaning out an old garage and the antifreeze appears old, so we want to dispose of it properly.

Need Safe Disposal

Dear Need Safe Disposal,

Unfortunately, I am unable to give you an answer to your very important question. Antifreeze is a hazardous waste that requires special handling.

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Immune; 2. Acrid
3. Adopt; 4. Forest

Today's Word

REMOTE

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

BACKLOGS	STAMPER	GETS	
ADRIANNE	ORVILLE	ALEE	
WHATWOULD	BEAGOOD	EMMA	
LOST	FIBERS	PHILIPS	
SCHEMES	DESI	MEAN	ROI
NAMEFOR	ACREDIT	CARD	
SAD	NUTS	SPEED	REGGAE
ICEAX	OTS	NIA	NIELS
THATCAN	ONLYBE	USED	
PELHAM	PAYEE	MIR	UPTO
ABIOTIC	PRELL	SASSOON	
TENS	GAS	ISLET	TOOTLE
TOPURCHASE	COFFEES		
ATARI	PIE	TRU	AANDE
MENUDO	SAHIB	ROWR	TOT
MADEIN	ASPECIFIC	WAY	
OMS	EASE	LOTR	OFSORTS
BACARDI	CONMAN	DOIN	
EKED	AMERICANES	SPRESSO	
LEND	TOTESUP	STEALING	
TRES	EVADERS	TYPESETS	

Yet, currently there is no place locally that accepts antifreeze. The best thing to do at this point is to call the WV Department of Environmental Protection in Charleston at 304-558-5938 and ask to speak to someone about household hazardous waste. Perhaps they can give you an answer. Perhaps we all should all call the WVDEP and as well as our county and state representatives asking them to investigate a solution for safe disposal of antifreeze and other hazardous wastes.

Dear Recycle Lady,

What are plant-based cleaners?

Cleaner-Upper

Dear Cleaner-Upper,

Good question. Plant-based cleaners are cleaners made with environmentally friendly ingredients such as vinegar, lemon juice, and baking soda; all of which have excellent antibacterial, degreasing, and stain removing properties. Vinegar is a natural disinfectant and deodorizer, lemon juice has antibacterial properties and a fresh scent, and baking soda is effective for scrubbing and neutralizing orders. Used properly, they can be just as effective as chemical cleaners, however, they work more slowly so let them sit a while before removing them. There are also several commercial cleaners available that are plant-based. Look for the EPA Safer Choice label or USDA BioPreferred certified. A significant part of these products must be plant-based. Tide PurClean ingredients are 75% plant-based and Clorox Ecoclean is made with 99% plant-based cleaning ingredients. Seventh Generation has many plant-based cleaning products, as does Mr. Clean. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also approves natural cleaners with ingredients like thymol (from the oil of thyme), including Seventh Generation Disinfecting Wipes and Cleaners.

Dear Recycle Lady,

Years ago, when the recycling center was in Fairlea, a woman showed me that when people just toss

their recyclables a short distance into the recycling bins, the items pile up in the center of the bin and don't go out into its corners. She showed me how to throw my items into the back area of the bin and into its corners so that the recycling bin fills up properly. I read your column every week. Keep up the good work.

Dutiful Recycler

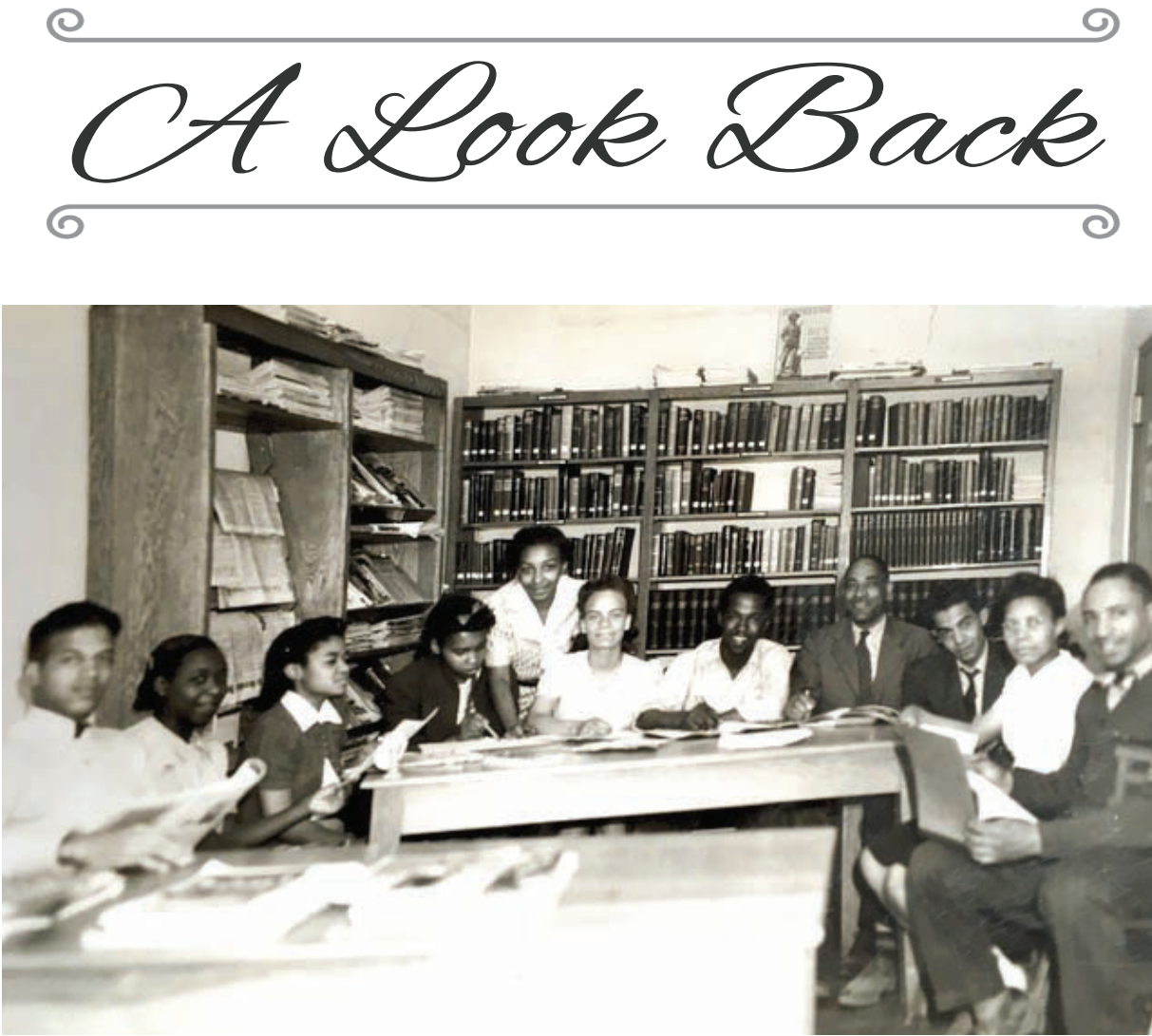
Dear Dutiful Recycler,

You are absolutely correct; this is excellent advice. The Center's recycle bins have limited space, so it is important to use all areas of the bins, not just the front. Throwing items into the back area and into the corners of the bins provides extra space for incoming recyclables. The Recycle Center staff check the bins 365 days a year in order to prevent the overflow of recyclables in the bins and to be available to answer questions. Thanks for writing and calling this information to the attention of our readers.

Good News: The eastern migratory monarch butterfly population grew by an encouraging 64% this year, according to WWF-Mexico's annual census. Scientists measure the butterflies by the amount of forest they cover during hibernation.

Bad News: Scientists estimate that roughly 20,000–30,000 metric tons of plastic enter the ocean every day. That's about 2,000 garbage trucks worth of plastic. This pollution impacts marine life, habitats, and food chains around the world. We can help are reducing the use of plastics, properly depositing of plastics and reusing everything you can. making reductions in single-use plastics and increased reuse some of the most important actions we can take.

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



By William "Skip" Deegans

This week's photograph was most likely taken in Lewisburg's Bolling High School library in the early 1940s. The young man on the far right appears to have a letter sweater with a "B" on it. Recently, the Greenbrier Historic Society was gifted a large collection of photographs that are believed to have been made in the early 1940s by J. M. Carroll, a professional photographer. None of the photographs are labeled, and very little is known about the photographer.

Greenbrier Valley Fitness (SOUTH)

8486 Seneca Trail S.
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The Bolling School was the only high school for Greenbrier County African Americans until the county schools were integrated in 1963. Originally known as the Lewisburg Colored School, in 1907 the County Superintendent of Schools, Mr. C. L. Tabscott, said he had visited one hundred and fifty schools and found the school to be one of the best in the county. He said "he was not surprised as they had one of the best qualified teachers to be found." In 1933, the school was renamed Bolling Junior High and Elementary School for Edward A. Bolling, Greenbrier County native and the school's principal. The school was again renamed in 1935 as Bolling High School and was one of only four high schools in West Virginia for African Americans. The school burned in 1936, was rebuilt, and is now the Greenbrier Community School.

Photography courtesy of the Greenbrier Historical Society.

Sources: Greenbrier Independent, Mountain Messenger, Clío.

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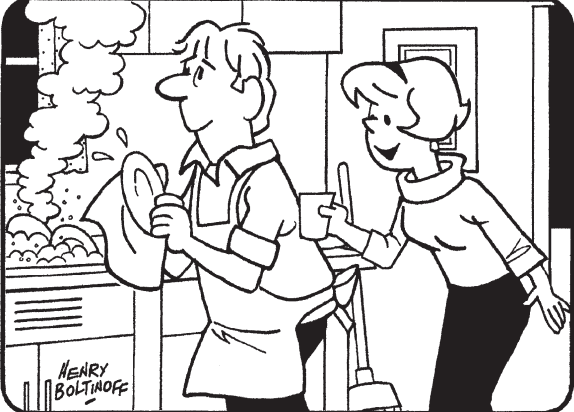
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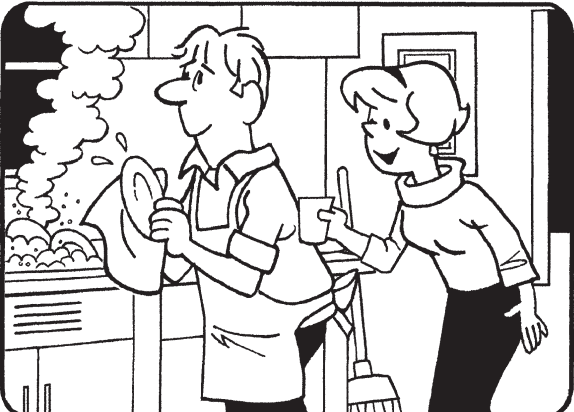
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HOCUS -FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Cabinet is wider. 2. Apron is different. 2. Hair is different. 4. Arm is moved. 5. Curtain is missing. 6. Broom is different.

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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!

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"It must be an exciting game—you just took a bite out of the _____!"

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 gag!

Exempt
UNMIME _ _ _ _ _

Bitter
CARDI _ _ _ _ _

Accept
TOPAD _ _ _ _ _

Grove
SOFTER _ _ _ _ _

TODAY'S WORD
_ _ _ _ _

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Super Crossword

CHARGING JOE

ACROSS

1 Reserves of stock

9 Person applying a mail stick-on

16 Understands

20 Actress Palicki of "Friday Night Lights"

21 Popcorn personage Redenbacher

22 Out of the wind, nautically

23 Start of a riddle

25 Watson of "Little Women"

26 Was bested

27 Rug threads

28 Emo of zany comedy

30 Crafty plans

34 Arnaz of "I Love Lucy"

35 Have in mind

36 King, in Paris

37 Riddle, part 2

41 Unhappy

44 Almonds, e.g.

45 See 63-Across

46 Jamaican music genre

47 Alpine climber's tool

49 Extra NFL periods

51 Actress Long of "Missing"

53 Nobelist Bohr

54 Riddle, part 3

60 "The Taking of — 123" (2009 film)

61 Check casher, e.g.

62 Pre-2001 space station

63 With 45-Across, informed on the latest

67 Lacking living organisms

69 Shampoo brand

71 Vidal — (shampoo brand)

73 Some till bills

74 Helium, e.g.

76 Dot in the ocean

78 Fife sound

79 Riddle, part 4

82 Pong producer

86 Tart's cousin

87 Capote, to his pals

88 "The First 48" network

89 Ricky Martin's old boy band

91 "Sir," in colonial India

95 "Hey there, tiger!"

97 Wee child

98 End of the riddle

102 Yoga chants

103 Loosen up

104 Tolkien trilogy initials

105 To some degree

109 Popular rum brand

111 Swindling guy

113 Really ruin

114 Scraped (out)

115 Riddle's answer

120 Give for a while

121 Determines the sum of

122 Thief's activity

123 Uno + dos

124 Some tax cheats

125 Lays out for proofing

6 "Warzone" singer Yoko

7 Wildebeest

8 Narcissist's love

9 People crying loudly

10 Maple fluid

11 Greed for wealth

12 Russian-built fighter jets

13 Arafat's gp., once

14 Formed a secret union?

15 Ginger's trait

16 Scottish Celt

17 Suburb of Phoenix

18 Pertaining to time

19 Ocean coasts

24 "White Flag" singer of 2003

29 Have in mind

31 Tailless feline breed

32 Aussie bird

33 New Jersey's — Hall University

35 Smaller than large

38 Lens aperture setting

39 Russo of "The Intern"

40 Hi-tech movie effects

41 Hold to one's decision

42 Novelist Chinua

43 Buy and sell

48 Eldest of the Musketeers

50 Suddenly lose patience

52 Warts and all

55 Pal, in Peru

56 Song line

57 Kin of "Oy!"

58 Beautiful, in Bologna

59 Poetic Muse

63 Old Glory's land, informally

64 Really strong

65 City in Spain or Ohio

66 A short round of tennis

68 Al who drew the Yokums

70 For fear that

72 To the extent that

75 Bern's land, to the French

77 Australia Zoo owner Irwin

79 Not as messy

80 Harvest

81 "The Flight Attendant" star Kaley

82 Bandoleer, informally

83 Drink infusing device

84 Cutoff cry from a film director

85 Long to undo

90 Out with one's sweetie

92 Hint-providing columnist

93 "My thoughts exactly"

94 Alternatives to GIFs or JPEGs

96 Hulk Hogan's 1980s org.

99 Isaac of sci-fi

100 Actress Drescher

101 Sings in the Alps, perhaps

106 Perez of film

107 Quaint reply of denial

108 Canoodles, in Cambridge

110 Determines the sum of

111 Street rep

112 Hawk's home

116 Plato's "H"

117 Hog's home

118 Vivacity

119 "Little" actress Issa

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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109			110						111					112			113				
114							115		116						117	118	119				
120							121							122							
123							124							125							

PLEASE SEE THE PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 8

SPORTS

Sign your team up for Business on the Links

Take a mid-week break from the office and join the Chamber for Business on the Links! Our 5th annual golf tournament will be held at The Lewisburg Elks Country Club on Wednesday, Aug. 19. Check-in opens at 11:30 a.m., lunch is provided, tee off at 1

p.m.

- \$400 for a team of four
- \$500 for a team and hole sponsorship (logo sign displayed on the course)

- \$200 hole sponsorship
- \$1000 title sponsor

Register your team or sponsor a hole. Contact Erin by email or phone for more information or to secure your spot!

ENTERTAINMENT

Things to do in the Greenbrier Valley

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8-SUNDAY, JULY 12

The Greenbrier Ghost at Greenbrier Valley Theatre

Thursday & Friday 7:30 p.m.
Saturday 2:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sunday 2:30 p.m.

Don’t miss this fascinating Appalachian legend based on the true story of a murder conviction from a ghost. This original work combines folklore, courtroom drama,

NOW HIRING: EDITOR

Mountain Media, LLC is seeking an editor to lead two weekly newspapers and one regional magazine. This position is for someone who lives in Greenbrier County, understands local people and places, and wants meaningful work that keeps them connected to the community.

We are looking for someone with strong writing ability, good judgment, curiosity, dependability, and the desire to learn the craft of community journalism. This is a hands-on position with planning, writing, editing, and preparing content. The work includes covering meetings and events, editing submissions, preparing community announcements, working with freelancers and contributors, and helping make sure each publication is accurate, useful, and engaging.

A strong candidate may have experience in writing, teaching, communications, office administration, public service, nonprofit work, local government, marketing, publishing, business, or simply demonstrated ability to write well and stay organized. Prior newsroom experience is helpful.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE WILL HAVE:

- Strong writing, editing, and proofreading ability.
- Curiosity about local people, places, issues, and events.
- Good judgment, fairness, and attention to accuracy.
- Strong organizational skills and the ability to manage deadlines.
- Comfort speaking with people, asking questions, and gathering information.
- Basic computer skills, including proficiency with Microsoft Word and Outlook.
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- Dependability and the ability to work independently.

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and regional music.

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1038 Washington Street E, Lewisburg

FRIDAY, JULY 10

Carpenter Ants at Greenbrier Valley Brewing Co.

6 p.m.

Together for 40 years, this band describes their music as “chicken-fried gospel soul.” Grab a cold brew, food for purchase by The Hangar, and kick off your weekend with great harmonies and the solid groove of this popular band.

\$5 cover charge
62 Industrial Park Road, Maxwelton.gvbc.beer
Bat & Moth Night
at the White Sulphur Springs Fish Hatchery
9 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Appalachian Headwaters, White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery & WV DNR invite you to a share and learn nighttime activity. Check out bat detectors and spot cool moths at the height of the moth season. Free and open to all ages with no experience necessary. 1429 Main Street, White Sulphur Springs.

fws.gov/fish-hatchery/white-sulphur-springs

SATURDAY, JULY 11

Watercolor Class with Jeanne Brenneman at 365ART
10 a.m.-12 noon or 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Join local artist Jeanne Brenneman for a hands-on watercolor class. \$13. To reserve a spot, contact Jeanne at bjbrenneman@gmail.com

1347 Jefferson Street, Lewisburg
365artsupply.square.site

Alderson Train Depot 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The historic Train Depot will be open for tours and visitors every Saturday from May 2-October 3.

1 Railroad Avenue, Alderson

Traditional Old-Time Music Jam at Greenbrier Valley Brewing Company

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6370

1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Come out and listen to some great fiddle tunes or bring your acoustical string instrument and join in.

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gvbc.beer

Art Opening at Alderson Artisans Gallery

2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Stop by the Alderson Artisans Gallery to view a showing of handwoven heritage baskets created by Ashleigh Smithson of Appalachian Basketcase. Light refreshments will be served. The show will be on display from July 11-Aug. 21.

100 Railroad Avenue, Alderson

aldersongallery.com

Bronco Junction at Greenbrier Valley Brewing Co.

6 p.m.

Grab a cold brew, dinner from The Hangar and listen to the bluegrass sounds of Bronco Junction.

\$5 cover

862 Industrial Park Road, Lewisburg

FARMERS MARKETS

• Renick Community Market

Mondays 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

217 Huff Street, Renick

• Alderson Farmers Market

Tuesdays 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

1447 E Riverview Avenue, Alderson

• Montwell Community Market

Wednesdays 3 p.m.-6 p.m., Saturdays 8 a.m.-12 noon

970 Jefferson Street N, Lewisburg

montwellcommons.org/lfm

• White Sulphur Springs Farmers Market

Thursdays 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Veterans Memorial Park,

downtown White Sulphur Springs

• The Farmers Market of Lewisburg

Saturdays 8 a.m. - 12 noon

Robert C. Byrd Clinic parking lot

1464 Jefferson Street N, Lewisburg

Facebook: The Farmers Market of Lewisburg

“ART IN THE VALLEY” AT THE GREENBRIER VALLEY VISITORS CENTER

Monday-Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday 12 noon -5 p.m. Stop by the Greenbrier Valley Visitors Center to view a collection of paintings by local artist Butch Ferguson and wood working by Romie Hughart. Both shows, with art for sale, will be on display throughout the month of July. The Center is also hosting a wedding gown worn by a local bride. The complete show, Greenbrier Brides: A Romantic Step Back in Time, will run at North House Museum through July 19.

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Tips to steer clear of traffic on your next summer road trip

Travelers take to the roads in droves come the summertime. When vacation season hits full swing, vacationers have long had a tendency to get behind the wheel and take to the open road, and that tradition seems to be especially appealing to modern travelers.

LEGAL			
GREENBRIER COUNTY BUILDING COMMISSION ANNUAL STATEMENT OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES			
Balance July 1, 2025		\$14,523.55	
Revenues: Interest		4.86	
Expenditures:			
WV Daily News - publishing 2022-2023 annual report	-80.48		
Mountain Messenger - publishing 2022-2023 annual report	-27.51	-107.99	
Balance June 30, 2026		\$14,420.42	
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POSITION OPEN: SECRETARY/CASE MANAGER LEWISBURG OFFICE

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The responsibilities include answering and redirecting phone calls, opening, closing, and maintaining case files; updating attorney's calendars; sending hearing reminder letters to clients; and various other secretarial duties.

QUALIFICATIONS: GED/HS Diploma Preferred: Experience in a law firm/legal setting; secretarial experience; Experience with document managements systems; MS Office experience; Knowledge of the criminal justice system.

HOURS: Normal work hours Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.: includes a one-hour unpaid lunch break per day.

SALARY: Competitive Benefits include life insurance, health insurance, retirement plan, paid time off, and paid federal/state holidays.

HOW TO APPLY: Applicants may send resume and professional references to the managing Public Defender, Martha J. Fleshman: martha@defendwv.org.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled or interviews are Scheduled and/or completed.

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The 2026 Trends Report from Hilton indicated that 71 percent of travelers surveyed indicated their intentions to drive on their next vacation. Road trips are favored for a variety of reasons, including a sense of spontaneity that is not available when vacationers are traveling on airline's schedules.

With so many vacationers expecting to hit the open road this summer, it can benefit all drivers to embrace strategies designed to help motorists steer clear of traffic.

- Choose alternative routes when mapping trips on GPS. Modern drivers rely on mapping applications to get them to and fro on long road trips, and some of those apps may allow drivers to choose alternative routes that are less busy. Many mapping apps default to the fastest route, but Apple Maps and Google Maps also offer options to avoid highways and tolls. Those alternative routes tend to be less heavily trafficked than the primary routes. Drivers also can look for specialized navigation apps like Calimoto. Calimoto is popular among motorcyclists who use it to find the most scenic and winding routes as opposed to the fastest. Such roads tend to be less crowded, which can be ideal for vacationers who aren't in a hurry but hoping to avoid traffic.

- Wake up early. While it might not be for everyone, those who can rise early can beat many of their fellow travelers to the road. Peak congestion periods vary by region, but it's generally best to avoid departing during times of day associated with morning and evening rush hour. That's between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. and between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Roads tend to be considerably less congested between 4 a.m. and 6 a.m., but it's important that drivers who intend to hit the road at this time get sufficient sleep the night before departing and avoid driving drowsy.

Conserving fuel as prices rise

Fuel is a necessity for millions of drivers on the country's roadways. According to a recent report from Experian Automotive, approximately 1.4 percent of the 292.3 million cars and trucks on the road in the United States in 2024 were electric. Even though the number of EVs is rising, there are still plenty of people behind the wheels of gas-powered vehicles that require routine fill-ups.

As of late March 2026, Canadian gas prices surged to an average of roughly \$1.68-\$1.86 per liter (there are roughly 3.785 liters in a gallon). The national average gas price in the United States at the same time was \$3.98 per gallon. When gas prices rise due to various factors, drivers are increasingly interested in ways to conserve fuel and stretch their dollars further. Here are some ways to mitigate rising gas prices.

- Reduce your speed. Driving at moderate speeds increases efficient consumption of fuel. Some vehicles may feature an "ECO" mode that optimizes fuel consumption by restricting engine power, among other changes, or notifies the driver when they are driving in a manner that is using fuel wisely. Driving above 50 miles per hour reduces fuel economy considerably.
- Practice smooth driving. Drivers should avoid aggressive starts (gunning it) and hard braking, which



With so many vacationers expecting to hit the open road this summer, it can benefit all drivers to embrace strategies designed to help motorists steer clear of traffic.

- Depart a day early. If possible, drivers can plan to leave for vacation a day early. For example, leaving on a Thursday as opposed to a Friday can help drivers avoid weekend road trippers and others who are starting their own lengthier trips on Friday. It also can help to return home a day early or leave as little driving as possible for the final leg of the trip, particularly if it's on a Sunday. Roads tend to be packed with returning vacationers and weekenders on summer Sundays, making those days a particularly busy time to travel.

- Dust off the map. When confronting a traffic jam, many travelers will utilize the same mapping apps to find alternative routes. That means the traffic may just be shifting from one busy road to another road that may soon become just as crowded. Drivers are urged to bring along a traditional map to find local roads that mapping apps are unlikely to recommend.

Roadways tend to be busy in summer. But there's much vacationers can do to avoid being stuck in heavy traffic.

can eat into fuel efficiency. Letting off the accelerator early and coasting to red lights or stop signs helps.

- Rely on cruise control. Cruise control helps maintain a steady speed, which can save fuel on highway travel.

- Keep tires inflated. Properly inflating tires to the manufacturer's recommended PSI can improve fuel economy by roughly 0.6 percent to 3 percent for most drivers, offers the U.S. Department of Energy. Driving on tires that are 20 percent under-inflated can reduce fuel economy by as much as 10 percent. Removing unnecessary heavy items from the vehicle also can help to reduce drag.

- Limit idling and combine trips. Turn off the vehicle when stopped for more than a few minutes. When running errands, combine short trips to keep the engine warm, which is more efficient.
- Skip the premium fuel. Unless a vehicle owner's manual specifically recommends filling up with premium fuel, drivers will not see an increase in performance by choosing this more expensive option, offers Progressive Insurance. A person will just be paying more for premium, which is always more expensive than standard 87-octane fuel.

Drivers can use various strategies to conserve fuel when gas becomes more expensive.

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