

Welcome to Pioneer Days!



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MARLINTON, POCAHONTAS COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA 24954

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Taylor named Pocahontas County Belle

Suzanne Stewart
 Staff Writer

One of the many traditions of the West Virginia State Folk Festival is recognizing County Belles. Each county selects a Belle – a woman from the community who embodies the spirit of their area and that of a pioneer woman – who will represent the county at the annual festival held in Glenville.

The 2022 Pocahontas County Belle is Ruth Taylor, of Hillsboro, a lady who has a deep love for her county and the traditions for which it is known.

Ruth is a native of Hillsboro and traces her lineage back to the foundation of Pocahontas County in 1821.

"I've traced my mother's family – eight different lines of them – back to the beginning of the county," she said. "Information about Dad's family was a little harder. He was from up in the Thornwood/Cass area. I haven't done very well with tracing

some of his ancestry. [He was a] Wymer and my mother was a Harper. I'm descended from the Baxters, Barlows, Harpers and Lightners."

Ruth and her husband, Bob, owned and operated Taylor's Grocery and Service Station in Hillsboro for years, but she also held jobs in tourism, pioneering many programs that have benefited the county.

"I got involved when Reon Lambert was doing a tourism/hospitality class," she said. "He lacked one person of having ten to be able to hold the class, and he came to the store and convinced me to go to the class. Then they asked me to conduct the next one. Then, some of the state people had me come in and work all over the state, sharing hospitality information."

"That's when we decided to do the hotel/motel tax," she continued. "I took on the county commission to get it

see Belle pg 10



Ruth Taylor – 2022 Pocahontas County Belle



Marlinton Mayor's Corner

By Sam Felton

Welcome to Marlinton – where the Town is older than the County and the County is older than the State.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Marlinton and Pocahontas County. Each is unique in every way.

Welcome to the 2022 Pioneer Days Festival, now in its 56th year. While in Marlinton, take time to learn about other areas and attractions in Pocahontas County - the Green Bank Telescope, Cass and Durbin Scenic Railroads, Cranberry Glades, Droop Mountain Battlefield and Beartown, just to name a few.

Celebrating 200 years, the county is home to three traffic lights, five state parks and is known as the birthplace of eight rivers. No doubt, after you experience the area's climate and tradition of friendly hospitality, you will want to return again and again. Do some shopping, visit a restaurant or take a walk or a bike ride on the Greenbrier River Trail. Each will provide an opportunity to take in the sights and sounds of small-town life.

One thing is sure – Pioneer Days is always a good time – a good time for family reunions, class reunions and reunions with old friends.

Locally, Pioneer Days assures us of "at least one welcomed traffic jam per year." I encourage each of you to take a deep breath and enjoy your time with us.

You are always welcome to our Town, our Festival and our County.

If you need more information, visit the friendly staff at the Pocahontas County Convention and Visitors Bureau on the corner of Eighth Street and Third Avenue.

Story Session with Mike Bing

Suzanne Stewart
 Staff Writer

The Pocahontas County Opera House Story Sessions series returned Sunday with the first of five videos of its second season.

Opening the season was mandolin player and Allegheny Echoes co-founder Mike Bing.

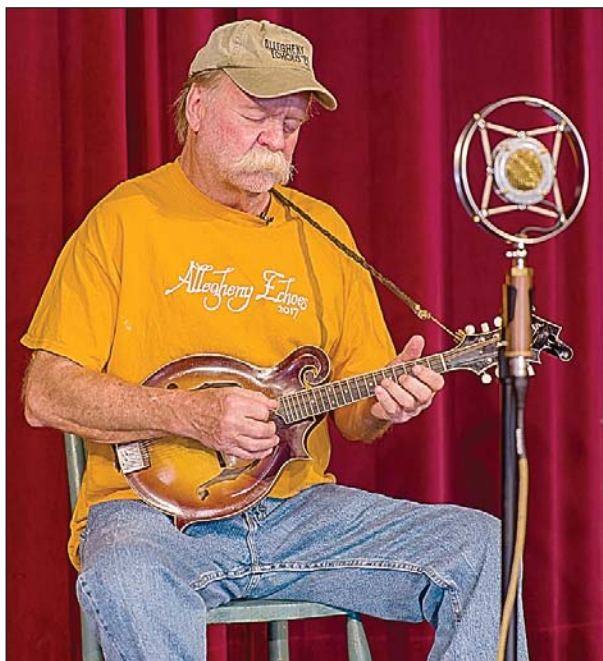
Mike has traveled the world with his brothers, Tim and Dave, playing old-time and bluegrass tunes in the aptly named band, The Bing Brothers.

During his session, Mike shared a few of his favorite tunes and the memories that are tied to the music.

His first tune was "Arkansas Traveller," which sounds familiar to anyone who grew up watching classic Bugs Bunny cartoons.

"If you remember old Bugs Bunny cartoons, that was part of the theme music for the cartoons," Mike said. "I think I chose that one because my brother, Tim, played it at a big fiddlers' convention in Fort Townsend, Washington."

"Well, my brother was sitting there playing banjo, and a girl from Japan stepped up behind him and said, 'that's one of those Bugs Bunny tunes, right?'" he continued. "So, we've



OPENING THE SECOND season of the Pocahontas County Opera House Story Sessions, Mike Bing played several of his favorite old-time and bluegrass tunes on the mandolin. Photo courtesy of Kurtis Schachner

never gotten over that. We've always said 'Here comes Bugs Bunny for ya.'"

Like most old-time and bluegrass musicians in Pocahontas County, Mike has learned a lot of Hammons family tunes through the years. After playing "Big Scioto," he explained that while musicians take liberties with the time signature, he said he prefers to play the tune slow, the way he learned it.

"When you hear it today, it's got a little more speed to it, which I don't like," he said. "I like the lilt of it. It's got that old Irish lilt because a lot of us here have Irish, English and everything else in us. Particularly the Irish and Scottish in us is what made this music stick around, because they came here and hid for a couple centuries and the music didn't change."

see Story pg 10



POISON HEMLOCK, LEFT photo, may look similar to Queen Anne's lace, right photo, but it is much more dangerous. Contact with poison hemlock can cause allergic reactions such as a rash and, if ingested, could be deadly. A key difference between the two plants is that poison hemlock has a larger, smooth stem and larger leaves.

Watch out for poisonous plants this summer

Suzanne Stewart
 Staff Writer

Plants and flowers of all shapes and sizes abound during the summer months, and some of them may be lovely to look at but they could also be poisonous.

One such plant is poison hemlock, which bears a striking resemblance to Queen Anne's lace.

A favorite summer tradition was picking Queen Anne's lace and putting it in a glass of water with food dye – then watching the delicate white buds turn shades of blue, red, green and purple. That was a treat.

If poison hemlock is gathered instead, it can lead to rashes and allergic reactions, which are not a treat.

WVU extension agent Greg Hamons said there is a subtle difference between the two plants and people should be on the lookout when they are out this summer.

"It is definitely larger," he said, of poison hemlock. "It does have a white flower. It's similar to Queen Anne's lace, but it has a much larger stem, larger leaves; same kind of pattern, but just a bigger plant overall."

The white flowers of the hemlock plant grow in clusters, its stem has purple spots, and it can grow to

be nine feet tall. Poison hemlock prefers to grow near waterways, but can also be found in gardens, backyards and nearly anywhere plants grow.

"A lot of these plants travel up and down waterways and water systems, so you often find it along the Greenbrier River and its tributaries," Hamons said. "Seeds have been passed up and down the river by different methods – wind, birds, water – whatever it may be, but a lot of time, poison hemlock is found along waterways."

see Plants pg 10

Welcome to the 56th Pioneer Days ~ July 7-9

Our ATM is located at our Drive-Thru for your convenience.

Lobby Hours: Monday - Thursday • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Friday • 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Drive-thru Hours: Monday - Thursday • 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Friday • 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Saturday • 8 a.m. - Noon



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History of Durbin Lecture,
 Saturday, July 16
 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Learn more at
 celebratepocahontas200.com



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Frustrated residents seek commission's intervention in curbing drug activity

Tim Walker
AMR Reporter

Seventeen outspoken, frustrated and, in some cases, very angry residents from three different areas of the county attended the June 28 Special Session of the Pocahontas County Commission. Many were upset with local and state law enforcement's responses to their repeated 911 calls about drug activity in their neigh-

borhoods, while others were more frustrated that law enforcement's inability to solve their problems is a result of too many legal protections for the criminals as opposed to the rights of innocent citizens to enjoy a peaceful life in their homes. Complaints included late night, loud and recklessly speeding vehicles, open drug dealing, firearm discharges, threats against innocent residents, and even the discharge of loud explo-

sive devices. The citizens came from Buckeye, Seebert and Brush Country Road, and each area seemed to have its own alleged drug house. One resident said one of those houses keeps 17 vicious and unvaccinated Pitbulls that roam the neighborhood and Greenbrier River Trail. She said they bite people, including herself who was bitten in the face. Another said that a trailer in the Seebert Road

area, in addition to being a drug den, is also discharging raw sewerage into the Greenbrier River.

While most requested that their names not be published for fear of threatened retaliation, one of the more outspoken citizens at the meeting, Agnes Doyle, who is also an on-air volunteer at Allegheny Mountain Radio, told this reporter she wanted to be

see Residents pg 11

Hollandsworth appointed to fill BOE seat

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer

At a special meeting Tuesday morning, the Pocahontas County Board of Education had a very short agenda. It was tasked with appointing someone from either the northern or southern district to fill a vacant seat on the board.

Superintendent Terrence Beam led the meeting and said there were two individuals who applied for the position - former board

president Sue Hollandsworth, who's term ended at the end of June, and Mike Vance.

Board member Morgan McComb suggested that since Vance was not in attendance at the meeting, the board should forego the interview process and appoint Hollandsworth to fill the seat. The board agreed and appointed Hollandsworth to return to the board.

see BOE pg 11

Justice ready to call special session on abortion rights

Charles Boothe
Bluefield Daily Telegraph

A special session of the West Virginia Legislature will be called "very, very soon" to deal with the ramifications of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade.

Governor Jim Justice said last week he has the legal opinion of Attorney General Patrick Morrisey on the issue and is now ready to move forward.

Justice said he talked with Morrisey about the enforcement of the abortion laws already on the books in the state that date back to the 1880s and the state needs to move "faster and we need to move further" on clarifying those laws, which include felony charges and penalties

(three to 10 years in jail) for abortion providers and possibly even mothers.

"The Legislature needs to amend this law to get it absolutely clarified in every way," he said, adding that a special session will be called "very, very soon," after he discusses the timing with Senate and House leadership.

Justice said legislators should get "their stuff in order" and be ready to say "what way they want to go."

In Morrisey's legal opinion released last week, he said a law from the 1800s that "criminalizes the provision of abortion for a health-care provider, and arguably the woman, is on the books and enforceable. So are many other abortion-related statutes."

"However, the West Vir-

ginia Legislature is strongly advised to amend the laws in our State to provide for clear prohibitions on abortion that are consistent with Dobbs," he said, referring to the Supreme Court decision. "A legislative session will need to focus on several crucial areas."

According to Morrisey, those areas are:

- Specifying the acts that are subject to criminal prosecution and determining whether a woman should be subject to prosecution.
- Determining the nature of any exceptions.
- Addressing how the Legislature may wish to define the scope of medical practice related to restrictions or eliminations of the use of abortifacients (drugs to induce an abortion).
- Development of a strong-

er enforcement regime to ensure that laws are uniformly applied in all counties, including appropriate civil tools to deter lawbreaking.

Assessing the need for additional changes in the law regarding reporting or other matters.

But Morrisey also said that, in accordance with Dobbs, an abortion exception should always include saving the life of the mother.

Morrisey said the state is ready defend a lawsuit already filed in Kanawha County challenging the laws already on the books and asking for a temporary restraining order.

"We will continue to provide counsel in response to this landmark decision and changing legal landscape, as

see Justice pg 11

Durbin receives AARP Community Challenge Grant

AARP West Virginia announced four state winners for the AARP Community Challenge, aiming to create change and improve quality of life at the community-level. Nationally, AARP Community Challenge grants totaling \$3.4 million have been awarded to 260 organizations - the largest group of grantees to date - to support projects that make communities livable for people of all ages. Each project was partially or fully funded

through the AARP Community Challenge grant and is set to be completed by November 30, 2022.

Community projects receiving 2022 AARP Community Challenge Grant Awards included:

Town of Durbin - Sidewalk and Lighting Enhancements.

Grant funds will be used to replace streetlights and repair sidewalks, to improve safety, walkability and accessibility for pedestrian users of all ages.

AG says EPA Supreme Court Ruling is a great win

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey said the ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court is a "great win for West Virginia and her residents."

In West Virginia v U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Supreme Court on Thursday overturned a lower court ruling in a 6 - 3 decision that would have given the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency virtually unlimited authority to regulate wide swaths of everyday life. In particular, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals mistakenly concluded that a narrow provision of

federal law grants EPA broad authority to reorder entire economic sectors, such as manufacturing, hotels and power generation in broad ways.

With Thursday's ruling, EPA can no longer sidestep Congress to exercise broad regulatory power that would radically transform the nation's energy grid and force states to fundamentally shift their energy portfolios away from coal-fired generation. EPA must instead regulate within the express boundaries of the statute that Congress passed.

"We are pleased this case returned the power to decide one of the major environ-

mental issues of the day to the right place to decide it: the U.S. Congress, comprised of those elected by the people to serve the people," Morrisey said. "This is about maintaining the separation of powers, not climate change. Today, the Court made the correct decision to rein in the EPA, an unelected bureaucracy. And we're not done. My office will continue to fight for the rights of West Virginians when those in Washington try to go too far in asserting broad powers without the people's sup-

port."

On February 28 before the high court, West Virginia and 18 other states challenged an overbroad interpretation of the EPA's power to regulate greenhouse-gas emissions from coal-fired plants.

Among other things, the Supreme Court agreed that this new power presents such a substantially important question that an administrative agency such as EPA cannot decide it without a clear statement from Congress saying that it can.

see EPA pg 11

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Fallen Rock SAT., JULY 9 9 p.m.
Cover charge. Must be 21 years of age with valid ID.
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Welcome to Pioneer Days!
We will have a limited menu this weekend, but still plenty of options! *Sorry, we cannot accept online orders this weekend.*
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FRI., JULY 8: Roast beef and Swiss on rye, pea salad and drink
DINNER SPECIAL: Low country boil, garlic bread and drink
SAT., JULY 9: Pulled pork burrito, refried beans and drink
SUN., JULY 10: 6 oz. Angus burger, baked beans, potato salad and drink
TUES., JULY 12: Taco salad and drink
WED., JULY 13: Cold plate, roll and drink

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Chiggers
Why conventional wisdom is often conventional B.S.

Most of our world is invisible to us.

The profoundly large and the very small cannot be seen directly by human eyes. When we gaze out into the universe, we see it as it was, not as it is. Due to the unimaginable distances, we only get glimpses of the past.

At the other end of the scale, the atomic and sub-atomic worlds are only theorized by instrumentation and complex mathematical equations. With few exceptions, the very small is even beyond the capabilities of the most powerful microscopes.

As we move up the scale of size, we can see things like cells and bacteria with microscopes, but not with the unaided human eye.

The smallest thing we can see with the naked eye is about 0.1 mm, and only then, if there is color involved, say a red grain of sand.

So, it is not surprising when we do not notice chiggers crawling around on our skin. Larval chiggers, the ones that bite us, measure between 0.25 and 0.5 mm, which is about the size of the point of a sharpened pencil.

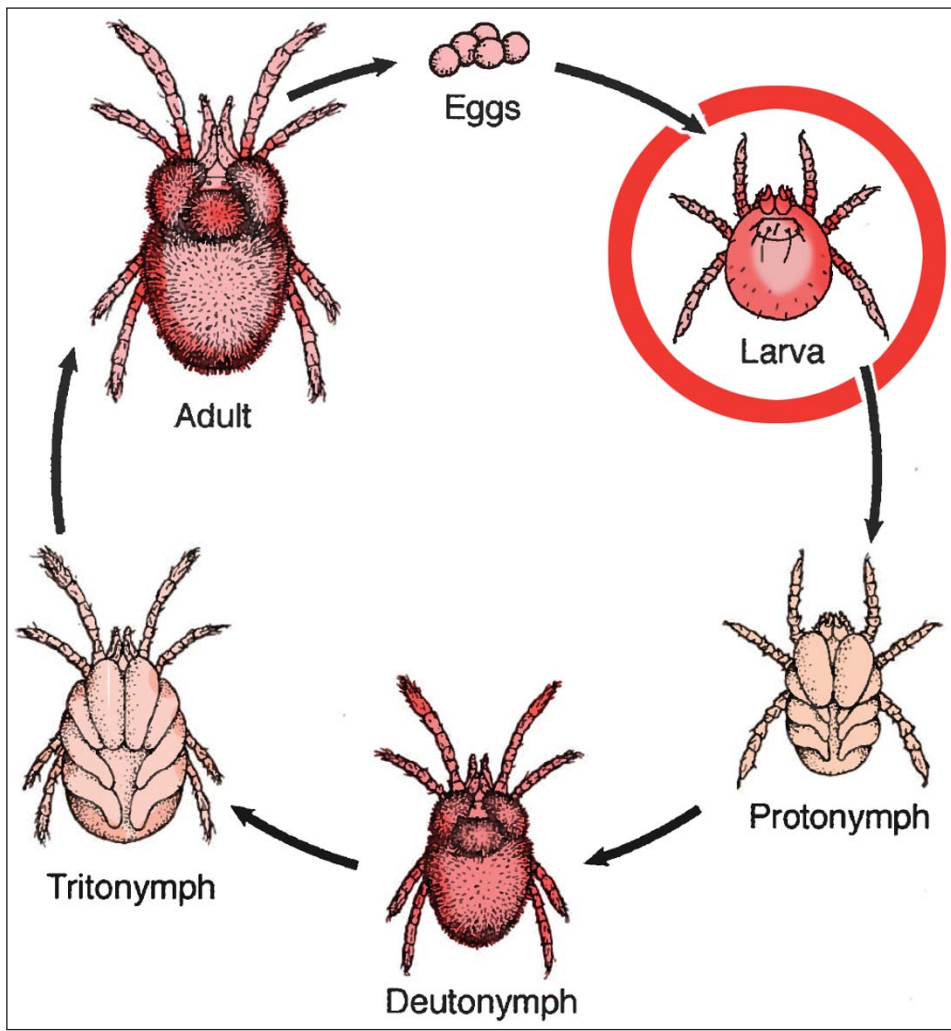
The depth and breadth of the human visual world are exceptionally narrow indeed. You might say that we are blind to much of the surrounding reality.

The stakeout

As a young park ranger, I was asked to participate in a multi-law enforcement agency stakeout.

A convenience store manager had overheard a discussion between two men while stocking shelves in an adjacent aisle. According to the store manager, there was to be a large drug deal in a remote area of the park at 1 a.m. on a designated July evening.

Early in the evening of the stakeout, we all gathered at the Sheriff's Office to discuss strategy and receive assignments. Mine was simple;



TOP PHOTO: CHIGGER bites on the lower leg. Bottom photo: Life cycle of a chigger. Photo courtesy of Wiki and Illustration courtesy of City Edu

I would be a lookout in plain clothes fishing from the bank of a lake.

I had a clear view of the boat launch ramp and the road leading to it from this location. The criminal activity was to take place at the launch ramp.

I was issued a shotgun and a radio with orders not to use the radio until I saw specific vehicles enter the area. Likewise, I was advised not to brandish or use the shotgun unless there was trouble and lives were at stake.

I chose a spot in tall grass to hide the gun and radio and waited. My fishing line wasn't baited, nor did it have a hook, just a heavy sinker to keep the line taut. As I

pointed out, it was my first stakeout, and things went smoothly resulting in several arrests and confiscation of weapons, drugs and other contraband.

Although my part was small, it was exciting. Afterward, I headed home and went directly to bed.

"I've been chiggered, honey."

My plans to sleep until noon were interrupted around 9 a.m. by an overwhelming need to scratch my ankles, waist, armpits and other unmentionable locations.

Jumping out of bed and running into the bathroom to view myself in a mirror, a multitude of red itchy bumps

greeted me.

I walked barefoot and nude to the kitchen, where my wife was nursing a cup of coffee, and I showed her my welt-covered body. She looked up from her coffee, her eyes growing larger at the sight of the infestation that covered much of my body below the shoulders.

"I've been chiggered," I said.

"You have just demonstrated one of the reasons that I love you," she replied.

"What, the fact that I boldly strode into the kitchen buck naked?" I remarked teasingly.

Smiling, she said, "No, dear, it's your uncanny grasp of the obvious. Now, let's get to work killing those chiggers."

Now that we had established the cause of my horrendous skin rash, we proceeded to treat the "insect" bites the way our parents and their parents did.

My wife ran into the living room to get her purse, knowing that time was of the essence. If we were to kill the little demons and save my blood supply, we would have to suffocate them by painting each bite with clear nail polish.

Conventional wisdom dictated that the chiggers had burrowed into my skin and were draining my blood supply like a horde of microscopic vampires.

Unfortunately, my wife used only two shades of nail polish, florid red and gaudy red. Clearly, I didn't want anyone to see my polka-dotted body.

Fortunately, or unfortu-

nately, whichever the case may be, park rangers were forced to wear long uniform pants even in the sweltering heat of summer. It was felt by the administrative staff who worked in air-conditioned offices that wearing shorts would make the rangers look unprofessional.

My wife, a stickler for detail, counted 93 angry red welts. It took a good half-hour to dab each bite with nail polish.

We had treated the chigger bites in the manner that most everyone did. This was, and still is, the prevailing belief about chiggers, the conventional wisdom, if you will.

On the one hand, there is conventional wisdom – and then there are the facts.

Much to the chagrin of the chigger (Trombicula), we have been calling it an insect. In fact, it is an arachnid, a member of the spider family.

see Your pg 11

TRIVIA – a little something to think about
Courtesy of Chuck Cornell

1. The Bronx Bombers featured a line-up that became known as "Murderer's Row." They played at "the House that Ruth built," and in 1951 the Oklahoma Kid arrived. Who was he?
2. Woodstock finally ended on Monday morning with a 2-hour set by the group "Gypsy Sun and Rainbows," that was introduced as "The Experience." Who was the front man for the group?
3. According to the parable in the Gospel of Luke, a traveler is robbed, beaten and left along the roadside. First a priest, then a Levite come by. Both look away and avoid the man. Then a guy from present day The West Bank comes along and helps the man. What area of the ancient land of Israel was the good guy from?
4. Who was the judge who presided over the criminal trial for the O. J. Simpson murder case?

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Courtesy of the Ruth Friel Estate

The bearded lady...
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Movie star.
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Bachelor's quarters...
Dog on the rug...
Whiskers to blame...
No one...
To hug.
Burma-Shave

A Pocahontas County Bicentennial Event
the Ballad of Cass
Written and directed by Missy McCollum, of the Old Brick Playhouse, Elkins, WV. Based on an original play by Nicolette Maleckar, from the writings of Tward Blackhurst about the people who lived in turn-of-the-century Cass.
Saturday, July 16 and 23
2 p.m. and 6 p.m.
Sunday, July 17 and 24 • 6 p.m.
The play is presented as a "promenade" – The audience moves in small groups to different locations in Cass for each scene, beginning in front of the Cass Company Store and ending at the Cass Community Center; followed by a lemonade social.
Tickets \$10 each.
Limited advance tickets available online at celebratepocahontas200.com
Tickets also available at the door.
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JUDGING CATEGORIES:
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Durbin Days Heritage Festival
July 13 - 16 Durbin, WV

EVERY DAY:
R&D Amusements Carnival, Food, Vendors, Rabbit Pong and Bingo in addition to special events.

WEDNESDAY
5 p.m. Opening Ceremony, Carnival Grounds Stage
6 p.m. Pet Show -sign up at 5:30 p.m. Free; donations for Humane Society appreciated
7 - 10 p.m. Karaoke with Brandon Kerr
8 p.m. Greased Pig Contest -sign up at 7 p.m. \$5 Fee

THURSDAY:
6 - 10 p.m. Live Music: Soda Pop Gypsies
6 p.m. Cakewalk - Station2 parking lot

FRIDAY:
5 - 7 p.m. Durbin Jail Tours with Jason Bauserman
7 p.m. Fireman's Parade
7 - 11 p.m. Live Music: Wild Fire Honey

SATURDAY:
9 a.m. - Noon Car Show, below carnival grounds. Entry fee \$15
9:30 a.m. 5k Run/Walk, Starting at Rinehart Rd., Bartow. Register at 9 a.m. Entry fee \$20.
10 a.m. - Noon Old-Time Music Jam with Cheat Mtn. Express, large tent, carnival grounds
10 a.m. BFD VFD Barbecued Chicken, Main Street
10 a.m. Cornhole Tournament. Sign up 9 a.m.; \$20 per team
11 a.m. Craft Show, Main Street
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. History of Durbin with Jason Bauserman, Durbin Library, Main Street
Noon - 4 p.m. Farmers Market
1 p.m. Antique Car Parade
2 p.m. Grand Feature Parade
2:30 p.m. Sundance Studio Cloggers, with Dorothy Stephenson
3 p.m. Parade Awards, Carnival Grounds Stage
4 p.m. Lumberjack Competition
5 p.m. Tug of War
6 p.m. Excavator Challenge
6 - 11 p.m. Live Music with Nite Phix
10 p.m. FIREWORKS!

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Obituaries

Nancy Bruns

Nancy T. Bruns, 89, a resident at Brookdale of Williamsburg, passed away Wednesday, June 15, 2022.

Born July 18, 1932, she was just shy of her 90th birthday.

Nancy attended Newport News High School, Class of 1949, and earned her BA in Journalism from Rutgers University in 1953. She went on to earn her Master's Degree in Fine Arts from George Mason University in 1996.

Throughout her life, Nancy worked as a reporter, writer and editor for such institutions as the Department of Justice, and Immigration and Naturalization, and as an aide for the United States Senate.

While in Fredericksburg, she also participated in many volunteer roles as an oral historian and historical interpreter at the Rising Sun Tavern, Mary Washington House, and the Stafford Hospital Auxiliary. Her hobbies included writing and researching her family history.

Nancy was preceded in death by her husband, Alan Bruns. She is survived by her daughter, Cameron Vardeman, and husband, William; grandchildren, Katie Stoddard, Will Vardeman, Hallie Whelan, Alma, Logan and Joseph Asay and Lily and Robin Bruns stepson, Bryan Bruns; stepdaughter, Mary Bruns; and nine great-grandchildren.

Services will take place at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 16, 2022, at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, 215 Richmond Road in Williamsburg, Virginia.

In lieu of flowers, please consider memorial contributions in Nancy's honor to the Alzheimer's Association, <http://act.alz.org/site/Donation2?df-id32112&32112donation=form1>



Rebecca Dunbrack

Rebecca Lynn Bennett Dunbrack, 24, of Marlinton passed away Thursday, June 30, 2022, at CAMC - Memorial.

Born November 18, 1997, in Fairlea, she was a daughter of Randy and Emma "Cricket" Hoke Bennett.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Cameron Dunbrack.

Rebecca was a homemaker and a 2016 graduate

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Nancy F. Galford
January 5, 1939
- July 8, 2009
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by her family.

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of Pocahontas County High School.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by a daughter, Isabella Marie May Dunbrack; two sons, Colton David Dunbrack and Christopher Kyle Dunbrack; all of Marlinton; four sisters, Loretta Sharp, of Snowshoe, Noletia Mayle Bennett, Brandy Bennett and Miranda Bennett; all of Marlinton; a brother, Randy Bennett Jr., of Marlinton; and many nieces and nephews.

The body will be cremated, and services for Rebecca will be held at a later date.

Donations of sympathy may be made to the Lantz Funeral Home to offset the cost of the funeral expense.

Online condolences may be made at Lantzfuneralhome.com



Forrest Friel

Forrest S. Friel, 88, of Marlinton, went home to be with the Lord Thursday, June 30, 2022, at his home.

Born July 1, 1933, in Clawson, he was a son of the late Warrick and Virgie Payne Friel.

Forrest was a member of First Baptist Church – Huntersville. He was a veteran, having served in the 101st Airborne during the Korean Conflict. He was also a retired coal miner and forester.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two infant children; daughters, Judy McLaughlin and Frances Castle; great-granddaughter, Alleah Barnisky; brothers, Clarence Friel and Charles Friel; sisters, Mary Ryder and Ada Galford.

Survivors include his wife, Susie Friel; daughters, Margaret Wilfong, and husband, Ted, of Hillsboro, Brenda Butler, of Shenandoah, Virginia, Connie Colaw, of Monterey, Virginia, Lisa Robertson, and husband, Sherman, of Buckeye, Teresa Johnson, and husband, Geno, Sandra Krout, and Randall Bennett, all of Marlinton;

son, Forrest "Rusty" Friel, of Franklin; 19 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; and a sister, Adele Smith of Monticello, Virginia.

Funeral service was held Sunday, July 3, 2022, at Lantz Funeral Home in Buckeye with Pastor Phillip Thompson officiating. Burial was in Clawson Cemetery at Thorney Creek with Military Honors by the Pocahontas County Veterans Honor Corps.

Online condolences may be made at Lantzfuneralhome.com

Kevin James

Kevin Allison James, age 61, of Woodrow, died Wednesday, June 29, 2022, at his home.

He was a dryer assembler for Whirlpool. Born April 22, 1961, in Marlinton, he as a son of the late Brady Edward and Carol Yvonne Sanders James.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Keith Allen James.

He is survived by his brother, Brian Lee James, of Upper Sandusky, Ohio; and his companion, Elizabeth Nave.

Per Kevin's wishes, the body was cremated.

Arrangements are being handled by VanReenen Funeral Home in Marlinton.



Travis Loudermilk

Travis Lee Loudermilk, 45 of Hillsboro passed away Saturday, July 2, 2022, at Roanoke Memorial Hospital.

Born November 21, 1976, in Marlinton, he was a son of Charlie Loudermilk and the late Sharon Beverage Loudermilk.

Travis was a Baptist by faith and an electrician.

He is survived by his father, Charlie Loudermilk and wife, Rosemary Hoffer, of Hillsboro; two sons, Blayton Loudermilk, of Millboro, Virginia, and Cole Lilburn Loudermilk, of Pennsylvania;

brother, Chawn Dale Loudermilk, of Covington, Washington; two stepisters, Amy Boylen, of Marlinton, and Teresa Conley, of Lewisburg.

Visitation will be held Thursday, July 7, 2022, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Lantz Funeral Home in Buckeye.

Funeral service will be held 2 p.m. Friday, July 8, 2022, at the funeral home.

Burial will follow in Ruckman Cemetery at Mill Point.

Online condolences may be made at Lantzfuneralhome.com



Leslee McCarty

Leslee J. McCarty, 73, passed away Wednesday, June 29, 2022, in The Villages, Florida, where she had been in hospice care.

Born December 4, 1948, in Huntington, she was the daughter of the late Maggie Harbour McCarty and Harold E. McCarty.

Leslee grew up in Barboursville, and was a 1966 graduate of Barboursville High School. She later received a B.A. degree from Marshall University and an M.S.W. from West Virginia University.

For 20 years, Leslee ran The Current, a popular Bed and Breakfast near the Greenbrier River Trail at Beard, where her guests often became her friends. She cooperated with the local animal shelters in fostering innumerable dogs and cats over the years. Her great love for the river and trail led her to co-found and spearhead the Greenbrier River Watershed Association, one of the many environmental causes to which she was devoted. And she was active for many years in the Greenbrier River Trail Association. She worked diligently as a lobbyist for the West Virginia Environmental Council for a number of years, and

was a faithful and energetic member of various environmental organizations in the state.

When she began to winter in Florida with her mother, she also grew to love the Chassahowitzka River near Homosassa where she could often be found in her kayak or boat. She loved the manatees in the area and became involved in efforts to protect them.

Leslee's concerns about climate change figured prominently in her efforts. She recently wrote that she would like most to be remembered as "a water protector and a friend to animals."

She is survived by a large family of loving cousins and friends.

Friends wishing to memorialize Leslee may send donations to The Greenbrier River Watershed Association, Save the Manatee Club, West Virginia Environmental Council, or another environmental organization of their choice.

Franklin Rexrode

Franklin Lee "Frank" Rexrode, 77, a lifelong resident of Durbin, passed from this life Tuesday, June 28, 2022, at Elkins Rehabilitation and Care Center.

Born Saturday, August 5, 1944, he was a son of the late Charlie W. and Joanna Washburn Rexrode.

He had never married.

Frank was a familiar face

where he worked for several years at both the Durbin Hardware Store and DMC (Durbin Mercantile Company). He was often seen, after his retirement, walking around the neighborhood. Besides walking, Frank's other activity was fishing, a sport at which he excelled. He will be greatly missed by everyone who came in contact with him.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by five siblings, William "Bill" C. Rexrode, Johnny J. Rexrode, Charlie "Allen" Rexrode, Goldie "Lovie" Daniels and Anna Mae Woods.

Left to cherish his memory are two sisters, Leona Daniels and Jackie Hudak; several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews; two sisters-in-law, Virginia "Gin" Rexrode and Shelia Rexrode.

The family would like to thank the nurses and staff at Elkins Rehabilitation and Care Center for their excellent care of Frank.

Frank's request for cremation will be honored. His ashes will then be scattered above Durbin at one of his favorite fishing spots – The Twin Oaks.

Randolph Funeral Home and Cremation Services has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Online condolences may be shared with the family at therandolphfuneralhome.com

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Obituaries are published free of charge up to three column inches with a \$5 per column inch charge thereafter.

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Sunday School 10 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

Marlinton
Church of God
CHURCH OF GOD
Beard Heights, Rt. 219
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Wednesday evening
Bible Study at 6 p.m.
Sunday Evangelism Service,
July 10 and 24, 6 p.m.
Rev. Fred Goldizen

Pocahontas County
CATHOLIC CHURCHES

SCHEDULE
ST. JOHN NEUMANN
Rt. 39 • Marlinton
Sunday Mass
9 a.m.
ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST
Rt. 250 • Bartow
Sunday Mass
11:30 a.m.
ST. BERNARD CHAPEL
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Saturday Mass
6:30 p.m.
Rectory:
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WEDNESDAY
BIBLE STUDY
7 p.m.

Cochran Creek Baptist Church
Rt. 92 - Rimel
Pastor Roger Frame

Sunday School 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

Psalms 25:4 Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths.

Marlinton Presbyterian Church

In-person Bible Study, Sunday at 9 a.m.
In-person worship, 10 a.m.
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Community VBS, July 11 - 14, 6 p.m.
Community Dinner
Thursday, July 28 • 5 - 6: 30 p.m.
Church in the Park, July 31
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Fun at First Friday



THERE WERE PLENTY of fun activities for youngsters to enjoy during July's First Friday event at Discovery Junction in Marlinton. From top photo: a trio of artists add some bright chalk drawings to the sidewalk; James Rose, of Hillsboro, found his favorite gig, crawling through the newly installed log feature; and youngsters channeled Jackson Pollack and splattered paint on a wedding dress, an event led by local artist Peggy Owens, not pictured. *S. Stewart photo*



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Jeremiah 1:5

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<p>2016 Kia Sedona SXL Package, Loaded, Only 47,000 Miles! READY FOR VACATION!</p>	<p>2019 Chevrolet Impala Premier, Only 49,000 Miles! Was \$30,975 Now \$27,772</p>	<p>2018 Chev. Silverado 2500 HD, Double Cab, 4WD, LT Pkg WAS \$42,995. Now \$38,877</p>
<p>2019 Nissan Sentra SR Pkg., Only 53,000 Miles! MUST SEE! \$299/month</p>	<p>2018 GMC Acadia Denali LOADED! LIKE NEW! WAS \$36,995 Now \$34,777</p>	<p>2017 Nissan Rogue SV Only 64,000 Miles! MUST SEE! \$379/month</p>

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CHEROKEE TRIBE, ABOVE – Front row: Emory Shipman, Chloe Bing, Stryker Gregory, Joe McClure and Levi Hill. Second row: Abbi Turner, Elizabeth Friel, Haylee Smith-Hayhurst, Kynlee Wilfong, Silas Dean and Tyler Friel. Third row: Brantley Cox, Makenna Marsh, Colton Cassell, Noah Dilley, Bella Arbogast. Back row: Jessica Armstrong, Andrea Alderman, Justin Jackson, Ramona Hardy, Max Chamberlain and Ayla Fanning.



MINGO TRIBE, ABOVE – Front row: Landen Arbogast, Kirsten Friel, Riley Pollack, Eden Smith and Rachel Felton. Second row: Sean Beverage, Rya Barlow, Riyan Gladwell, Jayden Cover, Abby Taylor, Melinda Beverage and Grace Beverage. Third row: Morgan Smith, Trey Sattler, Bentlee Gladwell, Erin Rider, Ace Gregory, Candan Lambert and Kya Arbogast. Back row: Ben Workman, Morgan Beverage, Declan Gravely, Carly Chamberlain, Colton Cover and Caitlin Mallow.

DELAWARE TRIBE, BELOW – Front row: Kevin Streets, Coleton Birely, Zara Fanning and Emma Anderson. Second row: Amanda Burns, Conner Spencer, TD Sparks, Haley Spencer, Claire Kelk and Khloe Gainer. Third row: Elizabeth McClure, Eowyn Smith, Ahna Valach, Weston Cassell and Bella McClure. Back row: Luke Taylor, Emma Sacca, Hunter Cheek, Luke Gainer, Wade Taylor and RT Hill. See a 4-H Camp report on Page 10.



SENECA TRIBE, BELOW – Front row: Richard White, Jaxon Cassell and Lillie Cassell. Second row: Lane Wilfong, Caleb Ritter, Rayna Smith, Hannah Burks and Mackenzie White. Third row: Mia Valach, Brysen Cox, Hayden Reed, Sienna Hamons and Makiya Burns. Back row: Camden Gregory, Bobby Lee Gray, Draven Hannah, Willa Hardy, Jarrell Clifton and Savana Sharp. Not pictured: Madeleine Burns and Mya Workman.



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ALLEN BURKETT, OF Criders, Virginia, poses with the record-breaking catfish he caught June 20 at South Mill Creek Lake in Grant County.

Angler breaks catfish record

A 17-year record for the largest channel catfish caught in West Virginia has been broken, the state Division of Natural Resources announced last Tuesday.

On June 20, Allen Burkett, of Criders, Virginia, caught a channel catfish that weighed 36.96 pounds and measured 40.59 inches in

length. Burkett was fishing with chicken liver from the shore of South Mill Creek Lake in Grant County. Burkett's record fish was measured by DNR fishery biologist Brandon Keplinger.

The previous record channel catfish of 33.42 pounds and 40.3 inches was caught by Michael Sears in

2005 at Patterson Creek.

Anglers who believe they have caught a potential record-breaking fish should report his or her catch to the WVDNR for verification. Fish that do not qualify as a state record, may still qualify for a trophy citation. For more information, visit wvdnr.gov/fishing/state-records

President's List

West Virginia University Potomac State College President Jennifer Orlikoff is pleased to announce that 165 students earned a place on the President's List for the spring 2022 semester. To be eligible for the President's List, a student must be en-

rolled for at least 12-credit hours of graded courses, excluding courses in which any grade of Audit, Pass or Incomplete is recorded, and must earn a grade-point average of 3.700 or higher for the semester.

The following Pocahontas

County students met the criteria:

Avery Friel and Charity Morrison, both of Marlinton.

TRIVIA ANSWERS: (1). Mickey Mantle (2). Jimi Hendrix (3). Samaria (4). Lance Ito

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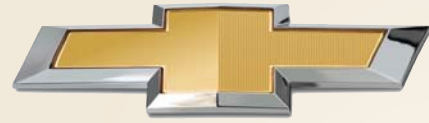
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6439 – Bartow. 2BR/1BA camp with good access off of Rt. 250. Near the East Fork of Greenbrier River, Little River, Spruce Knob, Buffalo Lake and national forest. – **\$38,500**



6441 – Hillsboro. Home with great potential located in town. Excellent large lot with garage. – **\$150,000**

MORE LISTINGS



6308 – Dunmore. 4BR/1BA home on 1.68 mostly cleared acres, completely surrounded by woodland. Very private. Near Snowshoe and Cass. Great location for home or get-away. – **\$129,900**



6340 – Mill Point. 8.79 acres of mountain woodland. Home site offers excellent views. Electric, phone and septic in place. Close to the Cranberry Wilderness, rivers and national forest. – **\$62,900**



6502 – Marlinton. Three-unit apartment building with separate 1BR home for total of four rental properties, or live in one and rent three. Great rental income. Great opportunity – **\$49,900**



6414 – Huntersville. 2BR/1BA cottage on 1.04 acres in a quiet area near Watoga State Park, Greenbrier River and Trail, national forest and Knapps Creek. – **\$74,900**



6309 – Marlinton. Five acres with great access, nice home sites and seasonal mountain views. Near the Greenbrier River and Trail and other recreational activities. – **\$29,000**



6369 – Elkins. 3BR/2BA home with basement and lower level one-car garage on 0.65 acre. Just minutes from downtown shopping, eateries, D&E College, schools and medical facilities. – **\$59,400**



6412 – Caldwell. Lot 82. A 25.17 acre parcel located in a peaceful and private gated community. Close to a state park and just a 10-minute drive to Lewisburg and White Sulphur Springs. – **\$60,000**



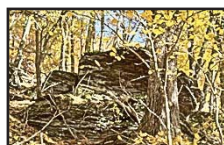
6411 – Marlinton. 3BR/2BA brick ranch home with finished basement and attached two-car garage on 0.70 level acre. Two porches. Out of the floodplain. – **\$168,000**



6390 – Sitlington. 2BR/1BA cottage with screened-in porch in a Greenbrier River community. Borders the Greenbrier River Trail. Out of the floodplain. – **\$80,000**



6214 – Mill Point. 3.3 wooded acres with end of the road feel; fantastic views available. Comes with one-year hunting lease on 400 acres. Near national forest. – **\$21,500**



6370 – Green Bank. 24.6 acres bordering Monongahela National Forest. Off-grid. – **\$88,000**



6215 – Mill Point. 13.37 rolling acres. Private location with nicely wooded ridge top building site. – **\$52,500**



6213 – Bartow. 1970s style service station with two-bay garage and office on US Rt. 250. Great investment. Needs a little TLC to get it up and running. – **\$69,900**



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