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Consideration
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This Valentine's Day

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Serving Pocahontas County in the Endless Mountains of Appalachia

MARLINTON, POCOHONTAS COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA 24954

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John Dean is Super Bowl bound ~ thanks to the Dream Foundation



JOHN DEAN, FORMERLY of Watoga and now of Charleston, at left, will have one of his dreams come true February 11. He will be in Las Vegas attending the 58th Super Bowl. Dean will be accompanied by his nephew, Ken Garrett, right, who may or may not be an even bigger football fan than Dean. Photo courtesy of John Dean

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer

He may have grown up in a rural area in West Virginia's largest state park – Watoga – but John Dean has been to quite a few big deal events. He attended a lot of home games of his beloved Cleveland Browns when he lived in that city and he saw the West Virginia University Mountaineers compete in the 2010 Final Four in Indianapolis, Indiana; and was in the stands for Game 2 of the 1995 World Series with the Atlanta Braves and Cleveland Indians and Game 4 of the 2007 NBA Finals with the Cleveland Cavaliers and San Antonio Spurs.

Dean is quite the sports fan, but there was one big deal game he had yet to attend – a Super Bowl.

You could say it's been a dream and now, that dream is coming true with the help of

the Dream Foundation, a Sloane Kettering as the place non-profit foundation which literally fulfills the dreams of individuals who have been diagnosed with a life limiting illness.

In 2022, Dean was diagnosed with inoperable pancreatic cancer. He was given a life expectancy of one and a half to two years.

With a lump in his throat, Dean took the news as well as could be expected, but didn't let the bad news keep him from seeking the best treatment possible.

"I was being treated at the Cleveland Clinic, which is in the top ten in the United States, but then I ran into an issue where their technology advances and their clinical trials available for me were not on a comparable level as MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, or Memorial Sloane Kettering in New York," he said.

After a lot of research, Dean chose Memorial

Burns trades theater stage for the silver screen

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer

Katelynn Burns was bitten by the acting bug when she was in high school at Greenbrier East. She joined the Greenbrier Valley Theatre in Lewisburg, and found her passion on the stage.

"I was kind of a shy kid, so it was a great way to feel like I could express myself," she said.

After graduating high school in 2013, Burns went on to earn a degree in musical theater from West Virginia University. She honed her skills and decided that she was going to go for it and move to a city for actors. But which one would she choose?

"I moved to Atlanta," she said. "I heard Atlanta was up and coming at the time, and I was thinking that it was close enough to home, but big enough to find some opportunities. I didn't want to go all the way to LA, it's expensive. New York is kind of the same thing. Chicago was just too cold."

"Atlanta seemed like the best fit of all."

It was hard to say goodbye to West Virginia, but Burns has returned as often as she can to visit family and for film projects.

"I moved about three months after I graduated," she said. "It was tough saying goodbye to West Virginia. I'm probably the most homesick actor. Most of my friends were like, 'I can't wait to get out of here,' whereas I can't wait to get back."

Although the film industry is cut throat and hard to break into, Burns managed to get her start rather quickly with indie (independent) film projects, reenactment parts in TV shows and student films.

"There are a lot of indie film projects happening in Atlanta, and you sort of have

to work your way up," she said. "My first jobs would have been student films, passion project films that are very one and done – grab a camera and tripod, and steal a shot because they don't have a permit for it, and you have to wing it on the spot."

As for the TV roles, Burns did a reenactment part in the series *American Detective* with Lt. Joe Kenda, which aired on the ID Network.

"It's so odd to play a character that is a real person," she said. "They're going to watch you later."

In addition to acting parts, Burns has most recently been a stand-in on the TV miniseries *Class of '09*, where she got to work with several famous actors.

"I got to meet some pretty amazing actors," she said. "I was a stand-in at the time for Kate Mara who was one of the football players' girlfriend's in *We Are Marshall*. That was a surreal experience. I was star struck at the time. I've had a lot of moments like that where I meet people I grew up watching."

Ironically, Burns' biggest project to date – a film titled *Aquarium* – was filmed at Marshall University in Huntington. Burns' costar, Steve Judy, who is also a producer on

the film, got his degree at Marshall University.

"I still get a lot of work from home," Burns said. "You'd be surprised how often I'm running back home to West Virginia to shoot projects with other West Virginia creators."

Aquarium recently had a premier in Huntington and will soon be available on Vanalida TV.

"It's a 1950s period piece, and it takes place in a bunker – a Cold War bunker," Burns explained. "It's sort of a metaphor

see Screen pg 6

Unusual and/or extinct

Melody Phillips
Staff Writer

For most of my life, I have been fascinated by unusual plants and animals. I sometimes wonder what an extinct food tasted like or how it looked as it was growing, or what an elusive animal sounded like. Pictures from the past, of species labeled extinct, are intriguing to me. Why did they go extinct?

Throughout history, people

have cross-bred animals and cultivated plants in an effort to enhance desired traits. Seeds saved

from the strongest, healthiest and earliest producing tomatoes from year to year will sooner or later start producing a strong early variety tomato. Saving seeds that produce a lighter or darker color each time eventually yields the desired color more frequently.

Selectively harvesting seeds,

or crossbreeding animals in like

manner, can create new and di-

verse flora and fauna but there could be a downside to it, as well; the forerunners become forsaken.

In the plant world, thousands of ancient species have already been lost due to the industrialization of monoculture, overharvesting and loss of habitat. One ancient plant, Silphium, only grew in a narrow strip of land in what is present day Libya. The 35-by-125-mile piece of land

see Unusual pg 8

Starting
next
weekend!

Mountain State
MAPLE DAYS
2024
Feb 17, 2024 & Mar 16, 2024

Two separate weekends celebrating our local maple syrup industry - February 17 and March 16.
See page 3 for more details!

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New and fascinating science updates - part one

A new theory about an old mystery ~ the 1908 Tunguska Event

A short documentary, Powers of Ten, came out in 1977. This nine-minute film, conceived and directed by none other than Charles and Ray Eames of furniture design fame, expands the mathematics of powers of ten out to vast distances in the universe and then reverses the other direction to the smallest known subatomic particles.

The unique thing about this mind blowing documentary is that it compares distance and size from a human perspective. This demonstration of the relative size of all things in our universe begins with a couple picnicking on the lawn in Grant Park, Chicago.

The overhead view moves away from the couple as each multiplication by ten takes us further into the depths of our universe. It then reverses back to Grant Park and into the bodies of the two people to demonstrate the smallest objects we know of in our world.

I urge you to watch it on YouTube. The investment of your time is minuscule compared to the rewards of this documentary. And, if you don't care for the film, check out the Eames' stylish and artful furniture.

So, readers, this series of articles examines several recent discoveries and theories from astrophysics, medicine and anthropology. I hope you

The resultant shockwave shook the Earth like an earthquake, registering a solid five on the Richter Scale. The explosion was many times more potent than the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Based on the explosion's damage, the object was estimated to be 120 feet in diameter and weigh 220 million pounds - a bit more than a U.S. aircraft carrier.

Yet, despite the tremendous explosion and resultant shockwaves, only three people were reported killed in the affected zone, more a function of the sparsity of people living in the area than anything else. The fatalities would have been exponentially higher if the atmospheric explosion occurred over a highly populated area, such as a city, preferably Moscow. (Just kidding)

According to oral histories from the Tunguska area, the shockwaves ejected fishing boats from the river onto the bank. Moreover, buildings collapsed, forests ignited spontaneously and winds were so hot people began removing clothing and seeking shelter.

The shockwave threw one man sitting on a chair nursing his morning brew several meters into a fence. He lived to tell the tale.

The shockwave that followed the explosion leveled more than 800 square miles of Tunguska forest. These 80 million trees did not blow over willy-nilly but in a perfect radial pattern that revealed ground zero for the explosion.

Yet, the weirdest part of this story is that even though we know where the impact site should be, there was no evidence of an actual impact. Despite the many research parties sent out to study the site, no rocky material, such as a meteorite or an impact crater, was ever found.*

So, what happened in Tunguska on this fine June morning in 1908? After 115 years, we still only have theories, very little evidence,



800 SQUARE MILES of mostly forest was downed by the atmospheric explosion over the Tunguska region of Siberia in 1908. As observed from above, the trees fell in a radial pattern, pointing to ground zero of the explosion. Public Domain photo

and none fit with the findings.

But quite recently, Matt O'Dowd, an astrophysicist from the City University of New York, Lehman College, offered a new and intriguing theory involving a special black hole, a Primordial Black Hole, or PBH.

A PBH is not a regular black hole that gobble up all the cosmic real estate that ventures near its event horizon. You probably know that black holes occur when a dying star collapses into something infinitely dense. The black hole, as predicted by General Relativity, warps the very fabric of space and time.

And you cannot discuss a black hole without offering the hackneyed yet accurate phrase, "A black hole is a dense, compact object whose gravitational pull is so strong nothing can escape it, not even light."

The whimsical term "spaghettification" explains vividly how anything entering a black hole is reduced to single atoms and, finally, subatomic particles.

(Many astrophysicists believe that this reduction and

separation of everything represents the future of our universe: cold, dark, and empty. O'Dowd.

What would that look like if a PBH was responsible for the Tunguska Event?

It is important to note that even though a PBH is invisible to the naked eye, it may have a mass equal to that of an asteroid. As this minuscule black hole enters the Earth's atmosphere, its gravitational pull begins accumulating molecules like oxygen, nitrogen and carbon dioxide.

If you were to enter a black hole feet first, you would soon find your legs stretching out below you with the rest of your torso following suit. And then? No one has been in one, so we can only speculate, but it wouldn't be pretty!

The Primordial Black Holes were forged in the heat and chaos during the first moments of the Big Bang, and for the past 13.7 billion years, they have been untethered and scattered about the universe.

O'Dowd's theory suggests

that the Tunguska Event

may have been caused by a Primordial Black Hole (PBH). He contends that it is possible that a PBH has already impacted the Earth or will sometime in the future.**

"There must be an unimaginably large number of them (PBHs) out there. And, in fact, they must be passing through the Earth constantly if that's the case," said

see Your pg 6



Pocahontas County SUGAR CAMP TOURS

February 17

and March 16

10 a.m.- 4 p.m.



FORT WARWICK FARM

Just off of Rt. 92 near Green Bank, 1/2 mile south of the Dollar General Store. Turn at the Deer Creek Bridge beside the Church of God and follow the dirt road 1/2 mile. Free tours and maple product samples. Visit www.fortwarwick.com

FROSTMORE FARM

Located on Rt. 92, south of Dunmore and north of Frost. Free sugar camp tours and open house February 17 only. Offers a year round roadside stand.

Visit facebook.com/frostmorefarm

STARRY NIGHT FARM

1647 Dee Friel Road, between Marlinton and Clover Lick. Maple Days hours: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. both weekends. Tours and retail sales of syrup, candy and cinnamon rolls. From Marlinton, turn onto Airport Road/Brush Country Road at Walgreens. Travel 5 miles to the Edray Road intersection; turn right on Edray Road for 1 mile; turn right on Fairview Road for 2 miles, then right on Dee Friel Road; go to the end of the road and driveway is straight ahead.

Watch for signage. Call 304-799-4816.

HILLSBORO MAPLE WORKS

Two locations just north of Hillsboro, off Rt. 219.

Demonstrations starting with sap collection and ending with finished products for sampling and for sale. Open House at the sugar house on February 17; Open House at the sugar bush March 16. Call 304-288-6604 for directions to either location or visit www.hillsboromaple.com

YEW MOUNTAIN CENTER

9494 Lobelia Rd, off US Rt. 219 south of Hillsboro.

Visit www.yewmountain.org

Lobelia Road is just south of Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park (a right turn if you're headed south). Stay right on Lobelia Road at the intersection with Jacox Road (about 2 miles). Continue for 1.3 miles and the center is on the left. Sugar bush tours, savory and sweet maple delights and kids' educational activities.

LIVE MAPLE DAYS ENTERTAINMENT AT THE POCAHONTAS COUNTY OPERA HOUSE:

Saturday, February 17: Opry Night • 7:30 p.m. (Traditional)

The Opera House is located on Third Avenue in Marlinton. www.pocahontasoperahouse.com



2024 Maple Days

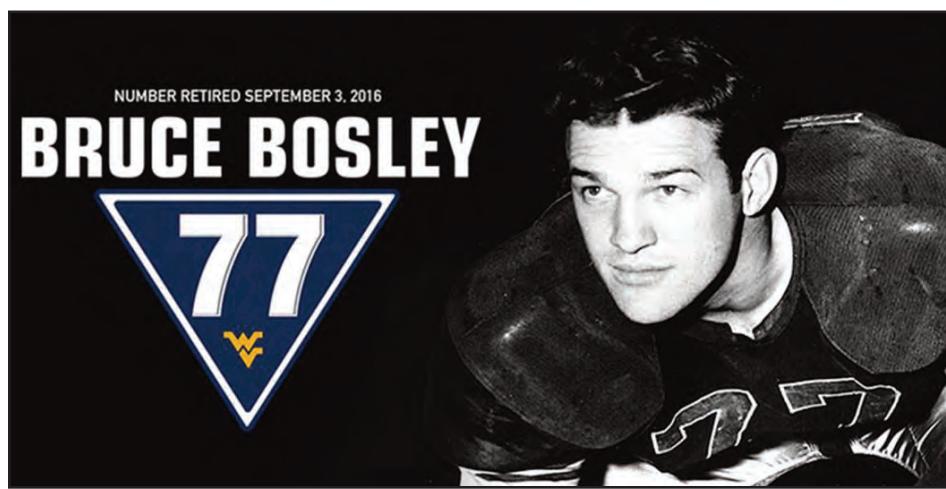


POCAHONTAS COUNTY, WV

For more information on Maple Day Weekend lodging packages, dining options or tours, visit pocahontascountywv.com/blog-news/2024-maple-days/

or call 304-799-4636

Bruce Bosley, Pocahontas County's most celebrated athlete



BRUCE BOSLEY WAS a dominant fullback at Green Bank High School back in the day. He went on to have a career with the San Francisco 49ers.

Gibbs Kinderman
Contributing Writer

There's a lot of buzz about the Super Bowl match-up between the Kansas City Chiefs and the San Francisco 49ers, and it's almost all about Patrick, Jason and Taylor. But did you know there's a Pocahontas County connection to this Mega Event?

Durbin and Green Bank High School's Bruce Bosley was a member of the 49ers squad in 1957, the year they came within a whisker of making it to the NFL championship game.

They were beaten by three points in the Western Conference championship game by the Detroit Lions, the same team the 49ers beat a couple of weeks ago to make the 2024 Super Bowl.

Ironically, Bruce was born in Fresno, California, but was mostly raised in Pocahontas. He was a dominant fullback at Green Bank.

My father-in-law, Larry, who played for Webster Springs at the same time, tells me he dreaded every time he had to line up against Bosley. Despite his reputation in this part of the state, Bosley only made third team All State, as a fullback. But WVU had a higher opinion of his talents, and gave him a football scholarship. Bruce blossomed in Morgantown, sparking a renewal of the football program along with fellow All-American Sam Huff.

A consensus All American in 1955, the chemical engineering major was also an Academic All American. Bosley was later honored by selection into the College Football Hall of Fame.

Drafted in the second round by the 49ers, he was a starter in his first season at guard, later playing center for many years.

He was All-Pro four times and played in four Pro Bowls in his 13 years with the 49ers.

After his football career ended, Bosley stayed in the Bay Area, went into renovation of historic houses, and was an active civic leader until his death in 1995.

So, friends, if you can take your eyes off Taylor Sunday, raise a glass to Bruce Bosley, all time 49er great, and the most celebrated athlete ever to come out of Pocahontas County.

tion source on the global conservation status of animal, fungi and plant species.

The IUCN Red List is a critical indicator of the health of the world's biodiversity. Far more than a list of species and their status, it is a powerful tool to inform and catalyze action for biodiversity conservation and policy change, critical to protecting the natural resources we need to survive. It provides information about range, population size, habitat and ecology, use and/or trade, threats, and conservation actions that will help inform necessary conservation decisions." IUCN. 2023. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2023-1. www.iucnredlist.org

In an effort to prevent more foods from going extinct and to ensure the loss of seeds due to war, natural disasters, disease and other devastating circumstances, the Norwegian government, the Crop Trust, the Nordic Genetic Resource Center, along with other groups worldwide, collaborated to build, operate and supply a seed depository. This seed vault is the Svalbard vault, is the world's premiere seed storage backup vault. It is located in the remote Arctic Svalbard archipelago, hidden

below ground, keeping the seeds safe during any possible power outages. This vault is supported by countries around the world to help ensure seed diversity in case of any catastrophic events. On its first anniversary in operation in 2009, the vault accumulated about 400,000 seed samples. These samples came from Ireland, the United States, Canada, Switzerland, Columbia, Syria and Mexico to name a few. As of October 2023, more than 1.2 million distinct crop samples had been amassed in this single location with 100 depositors from 74 different countries. The facility has ample room for storing up to 4.5 million seed samples.

Seed saving is an important step in preserving, not only our food source, but a part of history, as well.

Weather, from page 4

does hit the Southeast U.S. in January. I do not recall of that ever happening.

I am glad to announce that the Bartow Weather Station measured 5.49 inches of precipitation. Normal precipitation for January is 3.33 inches.

That is my third wettest Jan-

uary in 33 years of records. January has the wettest record at 7.50 inches. Also there was 6.01 inches in January 1999.

My records show 21 days of measurable precipitation. This El Nino system should last for awhile. Future precipitation should be bountiful and beautiful.

At Bartow, last year, my records show only 13.6 inches for the whole winter. This Jan-

uary produced 15.1 inches of snow. Normal January snowfall is 15.7 inches. There were 18 days with measurable snow.

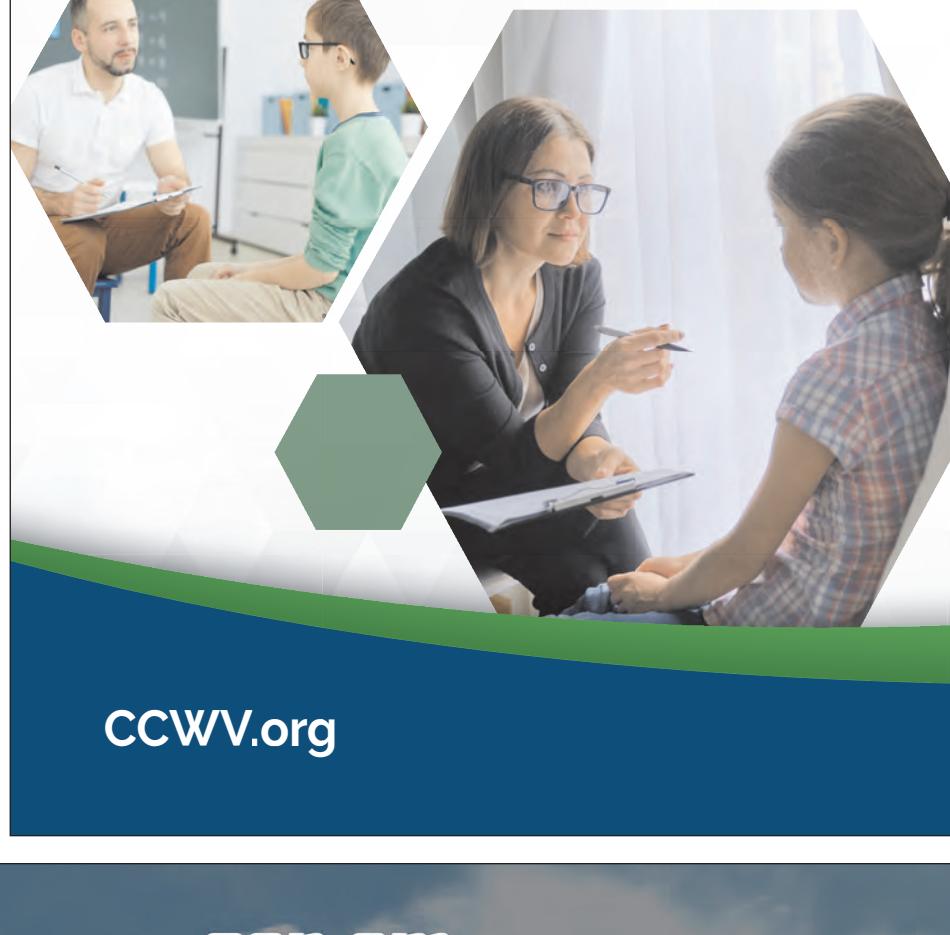
Normal temperatures for February are easy to remember. The normal high temperature is 38 degrees, the normal low is 18 and the mean is 28.

Much warmer temperatures are predicted for the start of February.



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Valentine's Day Dinner Wednesday, February 14

Menu Options:

Baked Steak, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans, Corn, Salad, Roll and Dessert \$26 plus tax per person	Chicken Alfredo Bake, with or without broccoli, Salad, Roll and Dessert \$22 plus tax per person
---	--

Reservations are "on the hour" between 4 and 7 p.m. Space is limited. Call to reserve your spot! Last day for reservations is February 9. 304-799-4888

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