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Serving Pocahontas County in the Endless Mountains of Appalachia

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MARLINTON, POCAHONTAS COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA 24954

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What was that all about?

Jaynell Graham
 Editor

Imagination and speculation kicked into high gear April 14 when 85 members of the West Virginia Police Canine Association hit town for a week of training and certification.

Officers and Canine (K-9) teams from municipalities, sheriff's departments, Department of Corrections and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) set up shop at the Marlinton Motor Inn for a week of serious work.

Although this year marked the 32nd annual seminar for the association, it was the first time it had been held in Pocahontas County.

"Everything is amazing here," said Sgt. Tim Corbett, of the Barboursville Police

Department and coordinator of the seminar. "It is the perfect training location."

The motto of the association is "To Unite and Assist Police Service Dogs and Handlers."

While the bulk of the training took place around the Marlinton Motor Inn, Edray Industrial Park and Harvest Farm, the units traveled the entire county, even visiting all five schools during the week.

They gave presentations and demonstrations at each school, and the students were allowed to interact with the dogs.

"We also had four or five nine-to-eighteen-week old Bloodhound puppies," Corbett said. "The dogs can socialize and interact with the kids under the officer's di-

rection, but when certain equipment goes on, and commands are given, the dog knows it's time to go to work."

These dogs are trained to assist law enforcement in a variety of ways; tracking people – the lost and the "wanted;" apprehension; retrieving evidence; drugs and explosives detection; and more.

The DNR has five dogs that work across the state that offer support in the areas of wildlife protection and apprehension of poachers.

Most people are familiar with the use of Bloodhounds in search and recovery operations, but the Canine Units include a variety of breeds: German Short Haired Pointers; Labradors, German Shepherds, even a Belgian



HANDLERS AND THEIR dogs visited all the schools in Pocahontas County last week. Members of the West Virginia Police Canine Association took time from the training and certification seminar to do presentations and demonstrations for the students. They are pictured here in the gymnasium at Pocahontas County High School. Photo courtesy WVPCA

Malinois.

The West Virginia Police Canine Association meets for the annual Training and Certification Seminar every year

in April. The trainings have been held in all corners of

County. When not on duty, he is the bass player for The Bing Brothers Band.

Trusler gets back in stride with new Leader Dog

Suzanne Stewart
 Staff Writer

In early April, Roger Trusler, of Marlinton, was preparing to take a trip to Michigan to pick up his new leader dog at the Leader Dog for the Blind facility. Then, he received a phone call informing him that in-field instructor Sue Hackman would be traveling to Marlinton with his leader dog, Neelix.

Hackman and Neelix arrived at Trusler's house April 13 and hit the ground running with training.

"We started off slow, and then we gained momentum," Hackman said. "They work as a team, so a lot of times – there's something that the dog does that the client isn't sure about and doesn't know how to react. And there's times when the handler does something and the dog doesn't understand. That's where I come in."

"I explain it all," she continued. "I speak for the dog and explain to the client, and then hopefully, little by little, if these things come up again, they understand each other."

While last Saturday was the first time Trusler and Neelix worked together, neither are strangers to the training. Trusler received his first dog, Koda, from Leader Dog in 2019. The two had an instant connection and continued their work together until Koda passed away in 2023.

Trusler applied for a second dog, and he was paired with Neelix, who has been



LEADER DOGS FOR the Blind in-field instructor Sue Hackman, right, spent a week in Marlinton, helping Roger Trusler, get acquainted with Neelix, his new leader dog. S. Stewart photo

preparing for his new job the day he was born.

With Leader Dog puppies, work begins when they are eight weeks old. They are assigned to puppy raising families who spend a year with them, getting such as accli-

mated to people and learning basic commands like sit, stay, down and heal.

"They spend the next year just raising a nice dog," Hackman said. "They're not

see Dog pg 13

Artist makes art accessible with vending machines

Suzanne Stewart
 Staff Writer

We all know those vending machines at the entrance to the grocery stores. For a couple of quarters you can buy a sticker, a spider ring or bouncy ball. It was so much fun to put your money into the machine and have your prize pop out, ready to be enjoyed.

Taking that same concept – and machine – in mind, printmaker Caroline Hertko decided to make art accessible and fun by filling a vending machine with business card sized Appalachian themes prints.

"This is not an original idea," she said. "There are other art vending machines out there, and I was very inspired by the culture of different things you can put in them. I wanted to make it my own and have an Appalachian theme of the vending machine."

Hertko applied for and received a grant from the West Virginia Department of Culture, Arts and History to purchase three vending machines for her prints. One of those machines is now located in the Rivertown building in Marlinton.

For the machine, Hertko created 18 small prints in her Appalachia series and gives the secret to collecting them all.

"They come out at random, but if you use the same slot, they're in order – one through eighteen – so if



PRINTMAKER CAROLINE HERTKO poses with her new art vending machine that is located in the Rivertown building in Marlinton. The machine has 18 business card size prints, made by Hertko, for sale for four quarters each. S. Stewart photo

you're trying to collect them all, stick to the same slot," she said, laughing.

The machine has three slots and can hold 500 prints at a time. For this series, Hertko said she printed 3,000 of the business card size prints.

"I think I was starting with a dozen [designs] and then it ended up – it's kind of funny – on the block of linoleum I was carving,

eighteen just fit and I had all of these ideas," she said. "I was really whittling them down, so I was a little impulsive and used them all."

A second machine is located at the Wild Bean in Lewisburg and Hertko is keeping the third to have with her at fairs and festivals.

see Art pg 14

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BOE saves math position, RIFs two aides

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer

After a month of uncertainty and unwavering support from the community, students and co-workers, Pocahontas County High School math teacher Casey Griffith can breathe a sigh of relief.

At the Pocahontas County Board of Education special meeting Monday evening, Griffith asked for a public hearing to discuss the Reduction in Force – RIF – notice she received in late March.

Griffith, AFT [American Federation of Teachers] representatives Jason Rogers and Robin Cutlip, PCHS principal Joe Riley, math department head Chris Sutton and math coach Joanna Burt-Kinderman spoke on behalf of Griffith and explained why it was important for her to retain her position at PCHS.

After two-and-a-half hours of discussion, which also included information provided by superintendent Lynne Bostic and board of

education attorney Jason Long, the board went into executive session to discuss the issue.

Roughly a half hour later, the board returned with a decision.

“We have decided to keep the fourth math position for next year,” board member Morgan McComb said.

The board voted unanimously to deny the RIF and keep Griffith in her position.

The decision hinged partially on the information provided by Sutton, Riley and math and computer science teachers Laurel Dilly and Jennifer Nail-Cook, who explained they are in the process of working with the West Virginia Department of Education to get certified to teach CTE courses. Dilly and Nail-

Cook, who have been teaching computer science, robotics and engineering courses for several years now, said they have been wanting to offer this option for some time and had been met with hesitation by the state.

Now that computer science and engineering is rising in popularity, they said PCHS will be allowed to have CTE completers in computer science through Project Lead the Way. Dilly and Nail-Cook plan to attend training this summer and will be certified in time for the 2024-2025 school year.

Sutton said that if the math department lost Griffith and was down to three full time teachers, it would not be able to offer the CTE program, as well as several other required classes.

The board was intrigued by the CTE option for computer science, and McComb said he asked several years ago why they didn't have

see RIFs pg 15

Commission approves landfill purchase

Tim Walker
AMR Reporter

April 18 was a busy day for the Pocahontas County Commission.

Commissioners met with members of the Pocahontas County Solid Waste Authority and members of the Fertig Family regarding the purchase of the County Landfill, which the Solid Waste Authority has been leasing from Renee Fertig-Hill.

The Solid Waste Authority members and the commission agreed that the authority will need the commission's financial assis-

tance to purchase the landfill in order for the authority to be able to continue to provide trash disposal using a transfer station built on that site after the landfill reaches its capacity and closes in about two years.

Fertig-Hill and the commission agreed that \$129,900 would be a fair price for the landfill, and both parties agreed that the recently surveyed boundaries of the 40.6 acre site were acceptable.

The remaining issue was who would pay to build the fence around three sides of the 40.6-acre tract, as required by the West Virginia Department of the Environ-

mental Protection, as well as another fence to run on both sides of the half-mile long roadway through the Fertig farm to the site. Fertig-Hill and her relatives said the fence along the state-maintained roadway is absolutely necessary to protect her cattle from the vehicular traffic that will be traveling to and from the transfer station.

It was determined that the cost for the fence around the landfill property would be \$24,307.50 and an additional \$19,900 will be required to construct a fence along both sides of the roadway. Commissioner Jamie Walker was

see Landfill pg 15

Commission to purchase lot in Beard Heights

Tim Walker
AMR Reporter

At the April 16 Pocahontas County Commission meeting, the commissioners voted to purchase a half-acre tract of land on Beard Heights, at a cost of \$30,000.

Commission President Walt Helmick proposed this purchase because the land contains one of the two wells used by Pocahontas Memorial Hospital and others as their water supply. Helmick explained that they have been leasing that well from Sherri Bennett, and the purchase will ensure the water supply for the future. He said that, if needed, another well could be drilled there. The commission already owns a 7 1/2 acre adjoining lot which contains the second well. Each of these wells delivers about 25 gallons of water per minute. Helmick added that another well they were using in the area collapsed about 10 years ago.

The Commissioners also laid their tax Levy for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year, which begins on July 1, 2024. The levy rates per \$100 are:

- Class I: 11.850 (Currently exempt taxation)
- Class II: 23.700
- Class III: 47.400
- Class IV: 47.400

West Virginia House of Delegate member Hollis Lewis (D) addressed the commission, telling them that, in his day job, he runs First Choice Services, an organization that runs crisis hotlines such as 988 and the Quit Tobacco Hotline. He said they are now offering a new service, the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). He explained that CIT works with mental health facilities to train law enforcement as well as other first responders in how to deal with mentally unstable persons in crisis whom they encounter on their jobs. He said they have a training session for first responders coming up soon at Snowshoe.

In other matters:

• At the request of Commissioner John Rebinski, the commission agreed to send a letter to David J Cain, who lives near the county-owned former FEMA lots in East Cass, asking him to stop mowing or doing any other maintenance on the county

owned lots. Rebinski said that since one of the lots is next to the Greenbrier River, they had decided to let that lot grow out naturally, but Cain keeps mowing it even after being asked not to.

• For some reason, the County EMS Board was never officially voted into existence many years ago, as is required by the state. The commission voted to correct that mistake and make the EMS Board an official county entity. They also included in that vote that the commission retroactively approves all prior decisions made by that board. Rebinski explained that the EMS Board regulates the six EMS departments in the county, helps them promote training, coordinates their issues or concerns with the state, and assists them in acquiring equipment.

• The commission appointed Kenneth Woods and Andrew McNabb to the County Building Commission.

BOE – different night, same concerns

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer

The Pocahontas County Board of Education returned to the board office for the April 16 meeting and also returned to the hot button issue of proposed cuts at Pocahontas County High School.

Before opening the floor to the hear callers portion of the meeting, board president Sue Hollandsworth gave an explanation about the RIF – Reduction in Force – process and said there are certain things the board members can and cannot discuss prior to the RIF hearings, which were scheduled for April 22.

“First, this came from the attorney,” she said, reading a statement. “Employees potentially impacted by personnel decisions have yet to have their statutory hearing before the board of education. No recommendations have come before the board of education yet in this process. So, we need to caution everybody – [board] members and those speaking – of the unique process set forth under the code that we do not discuss anything that has to do with people; only positions. If you slip up in that, I'm afraid your time is up.”

Hollandsworth then said that while the hear callers section is limited to five minutes per person, she had requests to extend the time for presentations and would allow it.

She added that the RIF process does not allow for the board of education or public to know about the proposed RIFs until after the hearings are held.

“It ties our hands on a lot of things and one of them is telling you all and telling us ahead of time,” she said.

“When positions are RIFed, it is to be between the superintendent, the principal and the teacher. Period. That makes it tough.”

Nine individuals in total spoke concerning the proposed RIFs. Among those was Pocahontas County High School science teacher Justin Dille, who was allowed more time to give a PowerPoint presentation about the science department.

Dille corrected several statements made at the last board meeting and said that it would be very difficult for the department to provide all the courses needed if one of the science positions was taken away.

He added that the dual credit courses offered in the science department are offered through Glenville State University, which pays for the college portion of the classes.

Dille explained that it would be impossible to combine AP courses into one class, explaining that the different disciplines – like chemistry and biology – are difficult to teach simultaneously.

In the presentation, Dille shared a student survey to show how many students are interested in each science

class slated to be offered next year. He said that if a position is cut, class sizes would be too big and a large group of students would be turned away from the classes they need to graduate.

The other speakers shared their concerns about losing a math position and science position, with most offering to provide help in reviewing the budget and help the board find ways to keep all positions for the next year.

They also shared their concern about the swiftness in which the RIFs take place and asked for the cuts to be stalled until solutions could be researched for a better outcome.

In reports:

- Superintendent Lynne Bostic gave a presentation the RIF process and shared

see BOE pg 14

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Thursday, April 25,

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SATURDAY: Pulled pork sandwich with coleslaw and chips.

SUNDAY: Pepper steak, mashed potatoes, corn and roll.

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County Commission Room on the first floor.

Wed., May 1 - Sat., May 11.
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We often ignore them, fail or forget to feed and water them, leave them outside, expose them to excessive heat and cold, tie them to trees with chains, and sometimes, we are brutal to these gentle beings.

Still, they wag their tails when we pass them by, desperately seeking our attention.

We call them dogs, and our language frequently co-opts that name, sometimes in a demeaning way, with phrases such as: “Sicker than a dog,” “Barking up the wrong tree,” “You can’t teach an old dog new tricks,” “A dog and pony show,” “Dog eat dog world,” and, of course, “underdog.” Most, if not all, of these phrases are pejorative.

There is one other catchy canine phrase, but, dog gone it, I cannot remember it.

On a warm August morning in 2004, I joined a dog rescue group to visit a barn in north-central Ohio. An anonymous caller had tipped off the dedicated group that a known dog hoarder had rented a hog barn at a farm just outside Ashland. Moreover, she was collecting and warehousing dogs in the barn and not providing adequate food and water.

But it was more disturbing than that.

As soon as we opened the van’s door, the unmistakable stench of dog feces and death washed over us, filling our lungs. One of the women ran behind the barn gagging, but the nauseating smell was only a hint of the horror we were about to witness.

We swung the doors open as the barn owner watched unemotionally from a distance away. When our eyes adjusted to the gloom of the windowless barn, we were appalled to find over 60 mixed-breed dogs thrown together in an area covered with several inches of pig and dog feces.

The well-intentioned hoarder was broadcasting dry dog food on the animal waste. In one corner of the pen, we found the remains of two cannibalized dogs.

We managed to get all the dogs out, but two who ferociously resisted our attempts to get them into crates. We heard later that the traumatized pair couldn’t be rehabilitated and were euthanized.

The rest of the dogs were amenable to training, so with lots of love, tenderness, and veterinary care, all of the remaining dogs were eventually fostered or adopted.

Author’s note: A dog hoarder is not just someone with a large number of dogs; rather, the animals do not receive adequate food, water, or veterinary care and are

ning out of areas that could be called wilderness in the strictest sense. Siberia extends over five million square miles, an area one-third larger than the United States. Most of Siberia is considered wilderness, and some areas are still unexplored.

Three-year-old Karina Chikitova, a Mowli, a Native Siberian, lives in a remote village called Olam in the densely forested Taiga region. With just a handful of residents, this tiny hamlet is a peaceful home for Karina and her parents.

Despite her few years of life, Karina was wilderness-savvy and knew many edible plants. And that skill was about to be tested.

One morning in late July



THIS PHOTO WAS taken moments after Karina Chikitova was found in the Siberian wilderness, where she survived with her dog for 11 days. Note that the rescuer is wiping tears from his eyes. Photo courtesy Russian Media



BRONZE STATUE OF Greyfriars Bobby in the cemetery where he slept on his caretaker’s grave every night for 14 years until his own death. Public Domain

2014, Karina’s father set out through the forest to a job waiting for him in another village some distance away. Unbeknownst to her parents, Karina and her Malamute puppy, Naida, searched for her father in the bear and wolf-dense forests beyond her village.

It was only a short time before Karina and Naida were hopelessly lost. This area of Siberia has some of the lowest temperatures ever recorded on Earth. Even in

forces immediately started searching the forests and marshes in the direction her father had taken, believing that Karina had indeed tried to follow him.

The dog slept close to Karina, keeping her warm with his body heat and barking to keep wild animals at bay. During the day, she would forage for blueberries and drink from the streams.

On day ten of Karina’s ordeal, her puppy returned to her village. The searchers first thought his appearance was a bad sign; perhaps the child had died, and Naida had left her. But the malamute’s body language indicated otherwise – Naida was encouraging the searchers to follow him.

Searchers immediately resumed looking for Karina on foot and by helicopter. Finding the little girl was like finding the proverbial needle in a haystack; the tall marsh grasses obscured the ground.

Searchers soon found her bare footprint on a stream bank, indicating that she had been there and had abandoned her shoes, which must have made walking in the forest quite painful.

Then it happened; a searcher saw a tiny arm sticking up from the marsh grass; it was Karina. She was hungry, thirsty, and covered with mosquito bites, but she was alive and wanted her dog.

Karina’s strong will to live and cool head helped her

survive her ordeal. However, she would unlikely have survived the brutally cold nights without Naida. There is no doubt that the young malamute returned to her village to bring help to Karina. Likewise, Naida and Karina are now part of Siberian folklore.

Karina is now a star ballerina studying English but has avoided much of the spotlight. Like many Siberians, she is modest and brave. One would have to be level-headed and possess great courage to survive such a long period in the bear-infested forests of the Taiga.

Hachiko 1923 - 1935
It’s time to leave Siberia’s wilds and travel to a far more populated country—Japan. Here, we’ll meet a dog named Hachiko and learn about his incredible display of loyalty to his caretaker, Professor Hidesaburo Ueno.

Hachiko, a 90-pound Akita, walked to the Shibuya Train Station every afternoon to await Professor Ueno’s return from Tokyo Imperial University.

On May 21, 1925, Hachiko went to the train station as usual, but Professor Ueno failed to step off the train. Unknown to the dog, the professor had suffered a cerebral hemorrhage and died during his lecture.

Beginning that day and every day afterward for nearly 10 years, Hachiko went to the train station

see Your pg 17

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I'd like to thank Scott Barkley and the inmates at Denmar Correctional Center for retrieving about thirty-five tires (some with rims) that someone rolled down a hill on Denmar Road. It was not an easy job to get them up along the road where Chris Cartwright with the Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP) was kind enough to remove and properly dispose of them.

This was part of the WV Make It Shine program, a statewide cleanup held during the first two weeks of April each year. During that time, and throughout the year under the Adopt-A-Highway program, volunteers clean up the trash that others — for whatever reason — litter our roads and highways with. Whether litter bugs are unconscious of what they are doing, lazy, anti-social or just dullards, the result is the same: others have to spend their time and effort cleaning up after them. Neither tourists nor their neighbors want to look at their garbage while driving around beautiful Pocahontas County.

When litter bugs throw something "out" their win-

dow it is "IN" for everybody else.

There was a time when antique bottles, crocks and other collectibles could be found in old dumps. This is no longer that time. The mass produced aluminum, plastic and glass in our modern day, throw-away society is nothing but a growing problem — even if properly disposed of in a landfill. We don't need or want it scattered along our roads.

Alan Balogh
Hillsboro

Dear Editor;

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.' I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state, sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four little

children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today." — From "I Have a Dream" delivered at the Lincoln Memorial on Aug. 28, 1963 by Martin Luther King.

I wonder what the Reverend would think of the current Diversity, Equity and Inclusion scam that seeks to divide people by their race or sexual orientation. Would he be in favor of separate graduations or dorms based on race, the demoralization of our military by moving away from merit? Would he be in favor of rewarding individuals based on anything other than ability and character and the lowering of standards in many school systems to achieve equity instead of helping poorly performing students to do better? What would he think of so-called gender affirming care resulting in irreversible sex change operations on children? What would he think about allowing men to compete in women's sports? What would he think about the infatuation with pro-

see Letters pg 17



Marlinton Mayor's Corner

By Sam Felton

In 2018, the Town of Marlinton started replacing sections of older sewer lines at Second and Third avenues, Ninth Avenue and Seventh Avenue. The town decided about that same time to pursue grant opportunities to help speed up the process of replacing the older sewer lines. Because of the age of some of the collection lines (100+ years), groundwater gets into the collection lines. This specific issue is commonly referred to as inflow and infiltration. Consequently, the treatment plant must handle more capacity than what it should be

treating.

Therefore, in 2024, wastewater treatment continues to be an important issue for the Town of Marlinton. Through Region 4 Planning and Development Council, the Town of Marlinton has worked to plan and (more importantly) find funding to ensure the town's wastewater treatment system is compliant with relevant state regulations. The process continues to move forward with a combined water/sewer/stormwater project.

The project is intended to ensure continued use of the town's sewer system for all existing customers, many of

which are business-based. Each rely on these services to meet their daily operating needs. The town will continue to work toward an improved sewer system which is compliant and effective. The positive impact this project will have on the community cannot be overstated.

This project, when completed, will support the town's mission to efficiently comply with the State DEP environmental laws and regulations. Our goal is designed to provide and maintain a healthful environment consistent with economic benefits. The Marlinton project will assist in meeting the goals of the Towns Plan of Corrective Action and meet the goals outlined in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Community Calendar

OPERA HOUSE

Enjoy the powerful rhythms and soul-stirring beats of Zuzu's Hot 5 for an unparalleled musical journey Saturday, April 27, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per adult, and admission is free for attendees aged 17 and younger. Tickets can be purchased at the 4th Avenue Gallery in Marlinton, online at pocahontasoperahouse.org or at the door the evening of the performance.

PUBLIC NOTICE

All 2023 real and personal taxes MUST be paid in full by April 30, 2024 to avoid publication and penalties.

Food Handler Course Wednesday, May 8, and Tuesday, May 14, 10 a.m. Community Wellness Center. Additional class May 14 at 3 p.m. Call 304-799-4154 to register.

Green Box sites summer hours: Wednesdays and Saturdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

MEETINGS

NA meeting Tuesdays, 6 to 7 p.m. at Hillsboro Library. Call 681-418-1484 for more information. Everyone welcome.

EVENTS

FREE Community Dinner Thursday, April 25, 5 to

6:30 p.m. at Marlinton Presbyterian Church. Sponsored by area churches and community volunteers. Menu: pork loin, mashed potatoes, green beans.

Great Greenbrier River Race, Saturday, April 27, 11 a.m. beginning on Main Street in Marlinton.

First Friday — May 3, 5 to 7 p.m. at Discovery Junction. Farmers Market, Evening with the arts, student performances and more.

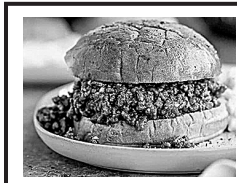
Calling All Crafters — Do you have craft materials you'd like to sell or swap — or give away? You are invited to set up beside Handmade WV during the First Friday event, May 3. Quilters and sewers won't want to miss the wide selection of fabric, patterns, etc. that will be available that evening.

Fill the Bus fundraiser for Communities in Schools Friday, May 3. A bus will be at each Dollar General store during the day and at First Friday in Marlinton. Items collected will be for the children in all Pocahontas County schools.

The Yew Mountain Center's 8th Wildflower and Ramps Festival Saturday, May 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Guided wildflower walks, art class, music, native plant sale, "Ramps By Robin" and more are on the menu.

LIBRARY NEWS

Intro to Birding Walk at Green Bank Public Library, Saturday, April 27, 10 a.m. to noon. Binoculars are limited. Bring your own if you see Calendar pg 17



What's Cookin'?

With Sally Cobb

Sloppy Joes

2 Tbsp. water, divided
1/2 tsp. plus 1/8 tsp. baking soda, divided
1 pound 85% lean ground beef
1/2 tsp. plus 1/8 tsp. salt, divided
2 tsp. vegetable oil
1/2 medium onion, chopped fine
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 tsp packed brown sugar
2 tsp paprika
1/4 tsp. red pepper flakes
1/4 cup tomato paste
1/3 cup ketchup
1 Tbsp. red wine vinegar
1 Tbsp. Worcestershire Sauce

1/2 tsp. cornstarch
4 hamburger buns
Combine 1 Tbsp. water and 1/2 tsp. baking soda in small bowl. In a large bowl, toss beef with water mixture and 1/2 tsp. salt until thoroughly combined. Set aside. Heat oil in a 12-inch non-stick skillet over medium heat until shimmering. Add onion and 1/8 tsp. baking soda and stir to coat. Cook, stirring occasionally, until onion is softened, 3-4 minutes. Add garlic and cook, stirring constantly, about 30 seconds. Stir in sugar, paprika, pepper flakes and 1/8 tsp. salt and cook 1 minute. Add tomato paste and cook, stirring constantly, until paste is rust colored, 3-4 minutes.

Add beef and cook, breaking up meat with wooden spoon, until beef is no longer

pink, about 5 minutes. Mash beef with potato masher until finely textured, about 1 minute. Add ketchup, vinegar and Worcestershire and stir to combine, scraping up any browned bits.

Combine cornstarch and 1 Tbsp. water in small bowl, then pour mixture over beef and stir well. Cook, stirring constantly, until sauce thickens and coats beef, about 1 minute. Season with salt, extra sugar and/or extra vinegar to taste. Spoon mixture over hamburger buns and serve.

Strawberry-Rhubarb Crisp Topping

3/4 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 cup panko bread crumbs
1/4 cup packed light brown sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. cinnamon
6 Tbsp. unsalted butter, melt

Filling

3 1/2 cups fresh rhubarb, trimmed, cut into 1/2 inch pieces
2 cups fresh or frozen strawberries, coarsely chopped
1 1/4 cups packed light brown sugar
2 Tbsp. cornstarch
1/8 tsp. salt
For the topping:
Whisk dry ingredients together into a bowl. Add

melted butter and stir until no dry spots of flour remain and mixture forms clumps. Refrigerate until ready to use.

For the filling:

Adjust oven rack to middle position. Heat oven to 375 degrees. Toss all ingredients in large bowl until thoroughly combined. Transfer to 10-inch oven safe skillet. Cook over medium-high heat, stirring frequently, until fruit has released enough liquid to be mostly submerged, rhubarb is beginning to break down, and juices have thickened, about 8 minutes. Remove skillet from heat.

Squeeze topping into large clumps with your hands. Crumble topping into pea-size pieces and sprinkle evenly over filling. Bake until topping is browned and filling is bubbling around sides of skillet, about 20 minutes. Let cool for 15 minutes. Serve with vanilla ice cream. Serves 6.

REVIVAL

Cochran Creek Baptist Church

Route 92 South
Monday, April 29, through Wednesday, May 1
6 p.m. Nightly
with Pastor Joe Collins
from Versailles, Kentucky
Everyone welcome!

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
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General Manager
JAYNELL S. GRAHAM,
Editor
WILLIAM P. MCNEEL,
Editor Emeritus

HEALTH FAIR

EVERY Monday - Friday during the Month of May
Pocahontas Memorial Hospital Medical Clinical Lab

Come see us **AT YOUR CONVENIENCE** any Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m., during the entire month of May for **Health Fair bloodwork!**

- No appointment necessary.
- No provider's order needed.
- Fasting is recommended for 12 hours prior to bloodwork.
- Report to the Hospital Front Desk to complete paperwork and pay.
- Lab results mailed to your home.

Comprehensive, low cost bloodwork

Executive I**	\$30
Executive I & PSA	\$35
Vitamin D	\$25
Vitamin B12	\$25
A1c	\$15

**includes CMP, Lipid, Thyroid

Contact Susan at 304-799-7400 ext 1009 with questions.

Pocahontas County Health Department

Food Handler Courses

May, 2024

Location	Date	Time
Marlinton Wellness Center	May 8	10 a.m.
Marlinton Wellness Center	May 14	10 a.m.
Marlinton Wellness Center	May 14	3 p.m.
Durbin Library	May 28	1 p.m.

Please call 304-799-4154 to reserve your seat. Cost of course is \$20.
Courses will continue monthly through August.

New River

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Black Cohash	Wet: \$1 ⁵⁵	Dry: \$6 ⁰⁰
Golden Seal	Wet: \$6 ⁰⁰	Dry: \$30 ⁰⁰
Blood Root	Wet: \$.80	Dry: \$8 ⁰⁰
Mayapple	Wet: \$.50	Dry: \$3 ⁵⁰
Stone Root	Wet: \$1 ⁴⁰	Dry: \$5 ⁵⁰
Wild Yam	Wet: \$1 ⁷⁵	Dry: \$6 ⁰⁰
Slippery Elm Bark		Dry: \$4 ⁵⁰

plus many other herbs

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WWW.NRMAN@HOTMAIL.COM • Find us on Facebook

ZUZU'S HOT 5

POCAHONTAS COUNTY OPERA HOUSE
818 Third Avenue Marlinton, WV 24954
304-799-6645

\$10 Donation for Tickets Available at the Door
Advanced Tickets Online at PocahontasOperaHouse.org or 4th Ave Gallery in Marlinton
Free Admission for Ages 17 & Younger

SATURDAY APRIL 27 7:30 P.M.

Experience the vibrant and soulful sounds of New Orleans jazz from legendary musicians such as Buddy Bolden, King Oliver, and Louis Armstrong, seamlessly blended with contemporary elements to create a unique and unforgettable musical experience.

Obituaries

Leona Daniels

Leona M. Daniels, 95, formerly of Durbin, passed from this life at Elkins Rehabilitation and Care Center Elkins Monday, April 15, 2024.

Born Thursday, February 7, 1929, she was a daughter of the late Charlie W. and Joanna Washburn Rexrode.

Leona loved and fed not only her cats but all of the neighborhood cats, as well. She also enjoyed reading, sewing and making crafts, and she was a wonderful cook.

The family would like to thank the nurses and staff at Elkins Rehabilitation and Care Center for the wonderful care given to Leona during her extended stay there.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by brothers, William “Bill” C. Rexrode, Johnny J. Rexrode, Charlie “Allen” Rexrode and Franklin “Frank” Rexrode; and sisters, Goldie “Lovie” Daniels and Anna Mae Woods.

Left to cherish Leona’s memory is her son, Charles “Gene” Rexrode (Nancy); daughter, Gloria Daniels; sister, Jackie Hudak; sister-in-law, Shelia Rexrode; and several nieces and nephews.

In keeping with her wishes, the body was cremated.

Interment was in Arbovale Cemetery.

Randolph Funeral Home and Cremation Services was entrusted with the arrangements.

Online condolences may be shared at www.therandolphfuneralhome.com



Mary Dever

Mary Elizabeth Sours Dever, 100, passed away Tuesday evening, April 16, 2024, at the Elkins Regional Convalescent Home where she has been a resident for the past two years.

Born January 7, 1924, in Craigs, Virginia, she was a daughter of the late Melvin Thomas Sours and Daisy Elizabeth Via Sours.

Mary retired from the State of West Virginia, and also the State of South Carolina as a registered geriatric nurse and had worked 50 plus years in that profession. Mary was proud of becoming a geriatric nurse during the 1940s. She also served as the Pocahontas County Health nurse early in her career. At Denmark State Hospital, she served as a floor nurse working up to a charge nurse and then being promoted to assistant director of nursing during her tenure there. After partial retirement, she moved to South Carolina where she continued working as a registered nurse dispensing medication for a residential home-based program for disabled persons.

Mary enjoyed gardening and cooking, but her greatest love was working in her flower beds year-round. A rose in any color was her favorite. She was also active in the church during her young adult years leading youth groups. Her faith was very important to her.

Mary was the oldest of the three and loved being spoiled by her younger brothers.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband, Dennis Dhari Dever, who passed away November 2011; and three brothers, Edward Sours, Melvin H. Sours and Nelson W. Sours.

She is survived by two children, Mary Dharla Dever French, and husband, Steve, of Columbus, Ohio, and Dennis Dever, and wife, Connie, of Dauphin Island, Alabama; three grandchildren, Adam, and wife, Rosie

French, of Appleton, Wisconsin, Rachael Dever, of Frankfort, Kentucky, and Bradley French, of Columbus, Ohio; and one great-grandchild, Sophia French.

A private graveside service was held Saturday, April 20, 2024, at Mountain View Cemetery with Pastor David Lee, of Marlinton Presbyterian Church, officiating.

VanReenen Funeral Home of Marlinton, was in charge of the arrangements.



Edith Dilley

Edith Emma Popplewell Dilley, 104, of Lewisburg, passed away Thursday, April 18, 2024, at the Seasons Place.

Born March 24, 1920, in Butler, Missouri, she was a daughter of the late Dell and Dessie Thompson Popplewell.

Over the years, Edie worked as a hairdresser and telephone operator and co-owned a restaurant with her husband, Joe, in California. After they moved to West Virginia, she went to work as a secretary at Bath County Pump Storage (VEPCO), and Yarid’s at The Greenbrier.

After her husband passed away, Edie moved back to Missouri to be close to family. She was there for 26 years until the age of 100 when she decided to return to White Sulphur Springs to finish out her life. She called her adopted daughter, Rita Kincaid, to come to get her and she has been her caregiver ever since.

She was a 50-year member of Marlinton #97 OES, BPW. Daughters of the American Revolution, Gray Hair Ladies Democrats and on the board of many organizations in Butler, Missouri. She loved to play cards with her friends.

Edie moved into The Season’s Assistance Living Center in 1999. She loved it there and they took very good care of her. She will be missed by many of her friends.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph Butler Dilley; brothers, James and Pleas; and several nieces and nephews.

She is survived by a great-niece, Marjory Poppelwell; and great-great nephew, J.T. Popplewell, both of Butler, Missouri.

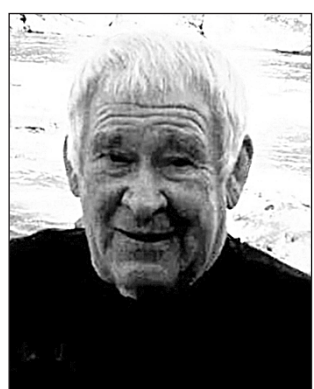
In keeping with her wishes, the body will be cremated, and a celebration of life will be held Sunday April 28, 2024, at 2 p.m. at May Chapel with Pastor Lowell O’Dell officiating.

Interment of the cremains will follow in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the

May Chapel Cemetery fund, 23445 Pocahontas Trail, White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986

Online condolences may be made at Lantzfuneralhome.com



Orvil Harless

Orvil Harless, 86, of Hillsboro, passed away Sunday, April 14, 2024.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Evelyn Kincaid; parents, Elmer and Viney Harless; and brother, David Harless.

Orvil is survived by his two daughters, Sonya Whipkey (Timothy) and Renee Harper (James); sisters, Shirley, and her family, and Gladys (Dave); brother Jimmy; niece, Laura Eagle (James); great-niece, Kimberly; stepdaughter, Ruth Kincaid (Bill); stepson, David Kincaid (Jennifer); daughter-in-law, Vickie Kincaid; step grandchildren, Wally, Chris (Amanda), Josh, Elizabeth (Joey), Steven (Shara), Mason, Cody and Kaycee.

He will be forever missed by his beloved dog, Bella.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, May 11, 2024, at 1 p.m. at Trout Baptist Church, Trout, West Virginia.

Lantz Funeral Home is honored to assist the family during their great time of need.



Elsie Isabell

Elsie Ann Isabell, age 89, of Webster County, passed away Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at Oak Hill Assisted Living in Oak Hill. She is with the Lord in heaven at a big reunion of all her family she has missed for years.

Born March 12, 1935, in Knoxville, Tennessee, she was a daughter of the late Virley “Skinny” and Alma Harmon Isabell.

Elsie was a home economics teacher at Webster County High School. She was a great cook, quilter and crafter. She retired after many years to care for her father and mother until they passed. She was a beloved daughter, sister, aunt to many nieces, nephews and a friend. Elsie was a wonderful woman. Her passing has left a void in the hearts of all

who knew her, and she will truly be missed especially by her niece, Marsha.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brothers, Virgil “Joe”, Ralph and Frank Isabell; and sisters, Mary Sears, Bonnie Kelley and Alma “Toots” Bucchi.

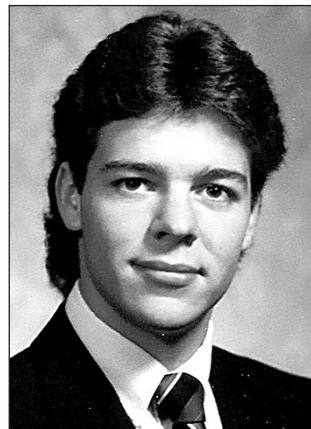
She is survived by her brother, John Isabell; and many nieces, nephews and extended family members.

She leaves behind cherished memories for all who knew her and anyone she met. She is peacefully resting among the angels.

Funeral service was held Saturday, April 20, 2024, at Adams-Reed Funeral Home in Cowen with Pastor Eddie Green officiating. Burial was in West Virginia Memorial Gardens in Calvin.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at adamsreedfh.com

Adams-Reed Funeral Home in Cowen is honored to be serving the Isabell family.



Bradford Jackson

Bradford Scott Jackson, 54, of Orlando, Florida, passed away November 2, 2023.

Born May 30, 1969, in Terre Haute, Indiana, he was a son of the late Hugh Jackson, Jr. and Deama Lambert Jackson.

Scott graduated from Thomas McKean High School in Wilmington, Delaware, in 1987 and enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps. After his discharge, he was employed by State Farm Insurance, Snowshoe Mountain Resort and was a member of Army National Guard. He moved to Florida 18 years ago.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his grandmothers, Elsie Lambert and Lucy Jackson Warner.

He is survived by his daughters, Bethany Fuller (Chris), of Bristow, Virginia, and Tiffany Biddle (Michael), of Baltimore, Maryland; brother, Greg Jackson (Lisa), of Wilmington, Delaware, grandchildren, Hannah Fuller and Hudson Fuller; and several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

A graveside memorial service will be held at Fairview Cemetery Saturday, April 27, 2024, at 2 p.m. with Pastor Tim Scott officiating.

Debra Roy

Debra Lou Roy, 68, of Marlinton, passed away Friday, April 19, 2024, at Pocahontas Center in Marlinton.

Born August 4, 1955, in Marlinton, she was a daughter of Evelyn Frances Jackson Sparks and the late David Wayne Sparks Sr.

Debbie was a member of the Marlinton Church of the Nazarene, and a homemaker.

In addition to her father, she was preceded in death by her husband, John Eston Roy; and a brother Paul Sparks.

Debbie is survived by a daughter, Susan Ray, and husband, Jason, of Arbovale; grandchildren, Madeline Ray and Brayden Ray; sister, Eleanor and Oran Nelson, of Morgantown; brothers, John Sparks, and wife, Margie, of Arbovale, David Sparks, and wife, Sandy, of Mt. Morris, Pennsylvania, Willie Sparks, and wife, Sheila, of Morgantown, and Timmy Sparks, and wife, Missi, of Marlinton; sister-in-law, Diana Sparks, of Marlinton; and many nieces and nephews.

In keeping with her wishes, the body will be cremated and there will be no service.

Online condolences may be made at lantzfuneralhome.com



Patrick Saffer

Patrick Scott Saffer, 40, passed away suddenly Tuesday, April 16, 2024, while traveling from his beloved Pocahontas County to Ripley, where he was currently living.

He was born August 10, 1983 in Greenbrier County and was raised in Hillsboro. He loved the beauty of the mountains and Greenbrier River. He graduated from Pocahontas County High School and was so proud to be a third generation WVU graduate where he received his degree in Forestry.

He had several jobs over the years but nothing as fulfilling as his time with the WVDNR as assistant park superintendent at Coopers Rock State Forest.

Patrick had struggled with depression and anxiety since the death of his best friend and brother, Shannon Vaughan Saffer.

He is survived by his lov-

ing mother, Dede Parsons Saffer, of Ripley; father, Martin Saffer, of Hillsboro; half-brother, Charles Saffer, and family, of Charleston; uncles, Greg Parsons, of Ripley, and Pat Parsons, of Charleston, and their families. He will also be missed by his best dog, Bobo.

To honor his wishes, there will be no formal service. A private family service will be held at a later date. Online memories and condolences may be sent to the family by visiting waybrightfuneralhome.com



Emogene Smith

Emogene Spencer Smith, 89, of Serbia, went on to be with the Lord Thursday, April 11, 2024, at home, surrounded by all her family.

Born September 1, 1934, at Strange Creek, she was the oldest daughter of the late William Holbert and Edith Spencer.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Jack Allen Smith; and siblings, William Jennings (Newt) Spencer and Clemotene Evelyn Mullins.

She is survived by her sister, Betty Gill; five children, Michael and Chris Smith, of Hillsboro, Molly and Mike Chapman, of Serbia, Debra and Kevin Ballard, of Weaverville, North Carolina, Judy Smith, of Gassaway, and Jeffrey (Ted) and Sherry Smith, of Serbia; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and many true friends and neighbors.

Funeral service was held Tuesday April 16, 2024, at Wilson Smith Funeral Home in Clay with Pastor Joe Bob Truman officiating. Burial was in Chapman Cemetery at Flat Fork.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at carlwilsonfuneralhome.com

Wilson Smith Funeral Home is honored to serve the Smith family.

Obituary Policy:

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

WE OFFER PET CREMATION SERVICE.

Because, after all, they're family, too.

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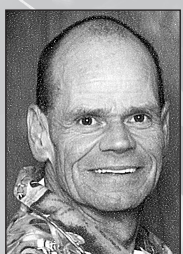
A BETTER PLACE

There's a place I've never seen beyond this world we know. A place I've only heard of, but some day hope to go. It's not on any map, there are no roads to take me there. But it's a place of perfect peace where hearts are free of care. And though I understand you may be saddened when I leave, one day we will all meet again. That's what I believe... And when it's time to travel there, I think I'll wear a smile. I'll say goodbye to those I love, but only for a while.

Knowing there are others who have traveled there alone, who cannot wait to greet me and to whisper: "Welcome Home."

In Memory of Darrell Landis

March 10, 1958 - April 30, 2021



In Memory Of DARRELL LANDIS

March 10, 1958 –
April 30, 2021

Those we love can never be
More than a thought away...

For as long as there's a memory
They are in our hearts to stay.
If we had all the world to give,
we'd give it, yes, and more,
To hear his voice and see his smile,
And greet him at the door.

Love, from the Landis families

We're not
*just a funeral home,
we're your friends
and neighbors –
and we're here to
serve you.*

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www.wallaceandwallacefh.com

VOTE
May 14
MARK THOMPSON
MAGISTRATE - Pocahontas County
Paid for by the candidate

West Virginia Police Canine Association



OFFICERS AND CANINES (K-9) from 85 various municipalities and sheriff's departments, Department of Corrections and Department of Natural Resources set up shop at the Marlinton Motor Inn for the 32nd annual West Virginia Police Canine Association Training and Certification Seminar. The members were a welcomed sight around the county as they interacted with residents and supported local businesses. The group posed for a photo in the dining room at the Marlinton Motor Inn.

Placing West Virginia in the right category

Manchin Press

It comes as no surprise that federal officials don't quite have the right words to categorize Appalachia in a way that is useful to the National Center for Education Statistics within the U.S. Department of Education. But U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., is hoping to change that with a letter sent to NCEES Commissioner Peggy Carr, asking her to consider adding "ruggedness scales" to the measurements used to classify school systems for purposes of allocating federal resources.

"West Virginia is the only state that lies completely within the Appalachian Mountain region," Manchin wrote. "It has a higher mean elevation than any state in the east. Much of West Virginia, and Appalachia as a whole, continues to be mis-categorized as 'urban,' denying opportunities to many of our most vulnerable regions."

Manchin shared statistics such as "11.7% of the U.S. population lives in a rugged area, with 1.4% living in a highly rugged area. For comparison, West Virginia has the largest share of residents living in a rugged area, with 80.7% of the population living in a rugged area and 15% in a highly rugged area."

Numbers come from an August 2023 report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"While ruggedness alone cannot dictate rurality, we feel that it is an important consideration when determining what is rural and what is not," Manchin wrote.

Surely Carr and the rest of the NCEES will include data that lets them do a better job for students not only in West Virginia, but elsewhere.

Given the attention Manchin has drawn to the report, ignoring it can only be interpreted as intentional.

By: Editorial Board
 Source: *Intelligencer*

A trip to the Bahamas

By Dawn Reed

Beginning January 1st, I pray about opportunities to serve the Lord during the year-near or far. I had one week open in March. There was a dental team going to Alaska. That door closed. I continued to pray. If nothing happened, I would just stay home and spring clean.

Some guys in our church are very active in SportsReach, going to prisons in Kentucky, Georgia and Florida. SportsReach uses sports to open doors worldwide to share the gospel. They planned a trip to Her Majesty's Prison at Fox Hill in the Bahamas. SportsReach - nor any other American group - had ever gone to the prison. Our guys planned to join friends from Georgetown, Campbellsville and Knoxville and play softball for three days. In between the games, they would share testimonies (stories of what God has done in their lives) and pray with the inmates. Some of their wives asked to go to the women's

block in the prison. Permission was granted. I was invited and jumped at the chance. It was the week I had been praying about!

We had no idea what to expect so scoured the Internet for pictures of the prison to get ideas about space. A contact there told us 45 women were in the block. We prayed, planned and packed games, paint, puzzles and Bible studies.

As soon as we committed to go, violence broke out in the Bahamas. There were two gangs at war. Several people had been killed. Other Americans had experienced horrific things. The U.S. issued a warning for its citizens to stay away from the Bahamas. Still, we knew we were supposed to go.

If I might be honest here, we live in dangerous times in a not-so-safe-country. I drive on US 23, drink city water, and was raised on Country Crock-fake butter. I'm not guaranteed another day! And since that is the case, we went right on. We took precautions, used the buddy system, etc., and were

cautiously aware of our surroundings at all times.

When we got to the prison, the guys played softball as planned. The women had heard we were coming and thought we were going to play softball, too. We were not.

We shared what we had. Over the course of three days, some of our girls told what God has done in their lives, Jen taught two Bible lessons, we painted an ocean scene on canvas and added a Bible verse, and played games. There was laughing and just fun. We met with about 20 women there. We cannot write to them, but took their names and prayer requests. Promising to cover them in prayer, we hope to see them next year.

A door to go to the Willie Mae Pratt Center for juvenile girls unexpectedly opened up for us. We saw 36 girls each day. Pulling out our suitcase of tricks, we painted, played inside



Dawn Reed

games, played games outside in the hot Caribbean sun, and shared Bible stories.

It was not the typical vacation in the Bahamas. There were torrential rains with roads flooding. It took 36 hours to get home because all flights had been canceled the day before we left. But - we can't wait to go back!

The Lord opened the door for us to begin something good there, and we pray it will continue.

pocahontastimes.com

Non-Partisan candidates will be elected in the May 14, 2024 Primary Election. They will take office July 1.

- Those offices are:
- Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals
 - Justice of the Intermediate Court of Appeals
 - Judge of the Circuit Court
 - Family Court Judge
 - Magistrate
 - Board of Education
 - Conservation District Supervisors

MICHELLE WILFONG
FOR GREENBRIER VALLEY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SUPERVISOR

Conserve & Protect
 Pocahontas County Farms
 For Future Generations!

VOTE MAY 14

wilfongfarms@yahoo.com 304-456-4652

Meet Jennifer Dunz-
Candidate for
Magistrate, Division 2,
Wednesday, May 1, 5 - 7 p.m.
Old Clark Inn, Marlinton
 Ask questions, show your support!
 Light refreshments.

Ad paid for by candidate

Keep Circuit Judge
RICHARDSON

Judge Robert Richardson has:

- Eliminated the huge backlog of cases that existed before he took office.
- A strong reputation for integrity and for fairness to all parties.
- Broad experience with the wide range of legal issues that come before the circuit court.
- Served 10 years as a judge and 27 years as a practicing lawyer.

Hardworking. Honest. Experienced.

Paid for by Committee to Keep Judge Richardson, David Hammond, Treasurer

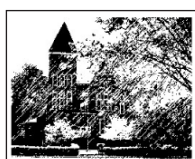
ELECT
Timothy Walter Helmick
for County Commissioner
A STRONG CONSERVATIVE LEADER

- Republican for 12+ years
- Small Business Owner for 30+ years
- Graduate of PCHS and WVU (Political Science/Government)

A highly qualified candidate, ready to work for Pocahontas County

- Hardworking
- Honest
- Trustworthy

Paid for by the candidate.



Preserving Pocahontas
B. J. Gudmundsson, Preservation Officer

Mayo Beard with Family – circa 1925



FAMILY PORTRAIT OF Mayo Constance Beard with her husband and their two daughters near Hillsboro, W.Va. Mayo, born in 1901, was the daughter of Richard and Bessie Dysard Beard. She attended Marshall College and Davis and Elkins College. She was a teacher in Pocahontas County schools for many years. She became a member of Oak Grove Presbyterian Church in Hillsboro early in life and taught Sunday School at Beard Presbyterian Chapel. She was honored as the Pocahontas County "Teacher of the Year" in 1962 and passed away in 1963. She was loved and respected by everyone who knew her. (Dysard/Beard/McClure Family Collection, Courtesy of David A. Riel; ID: PHP007783)

Access the "Preserving Pocahontas" Digital Library at www.pocahontaspreservation.org or www.preservingpocahontas.org

If you have historical records or photographs to be scanned for the county Historical Archive contact Preservation Officer B. J. Gudmundsson at 304-799-3989 or email info@pocahontaspreservation.org Prints of photographs are available.

Footsteps through History

The Pocahontas Times
Andrew Price, Editor

Thursday,
April 27, 1899

Last Friday, a boy fishing for trout found an old millstone almost buried in the bed of a small stream on the headwaters of Tygart's Valley River. The site of an old mill and mill dam was discovered a half mile above. The mill stone was perfect and about ten inches thick by about two and a half feet in diameter.

Some of the farmers in Arbovale have abandoned making sugar until after corn-planting. George Kerr has made 65 gallons of molasses, and James Sutton has made 260 pounds of sugar and 10 or 15 gallons of molasses. He will finish out 300 pounds after corn planting.

Our Delegation at Moundsville

Sheriff Hill has returned from Moundsville Penitential Institute where he matriculated Jim Lewis. He saw the Pocahontas collegians. Alex Armstrong is a favorite with every one and stands well. He is a carpenter by trade. The officials seemed anxious that he should be pardoned. He is leading an exemplary life. He invented a computing scale which a prominent man in Moundsville has taken up and patented for a half interest. It is said to be bringing him money. Rev. Ratcliff, who had a penchant for other people's horses is serving a most enjoyable term. His side whiskers are preserved in all their pristine beauty. His work is to keep the chapel clean. He has an opportunity

of preaching whenever he feels so inclined and to a congregation that cannot get away. Willfong looks sour. His work is to fold up clothing. Elmer Jackson is in the whip department. Ervine Houdyschell has recently graduated.

BAD NEWS

The latest is that, owing to the opposition developed by the town of Hinton, the big pulp mill will be built at Covington, instead of on the Greenbrier. This causes the State to lose a gigantic enterprise, and Hinton, having tried to raise the devil, in succeeding, stands frightened at the apparition.

The first five miles of the railroad is let to Lane Bros., of Ohio, and they have men at work. The pulp mill at Covington gives the railroad a longer haul.

THE PASSING OF THE COVERED WAGON

"The Greenbrier Valley Railroad will be built through a section of West Virginia, which is practically destitute of transportation facilities." *Manufacturer's Record.*

What of the covered wagon? They seem to regard the wagon and team of little or no account, but it has done wonders in carrying freight into Pocahontas. It has been slow and expensive, but no one can say it has not been effective. The goods might get damaged by water in the fords; the rain might leak through a defective wagon cover; the goods get rubbed in the hauling; the wagon stuck in a mud hole; a wheel

crushed down by the weight of the load; a horse gets sick or dies; or the wagon and team go over the side of the road down a precipitous mountainside; but all these years, the mountain schooners have been trailing over our long roads supplying a numerous people with all the luxuries and necessities of modern times.

It would be hard to find a community of people who live better or more comfortably than the people of this county.

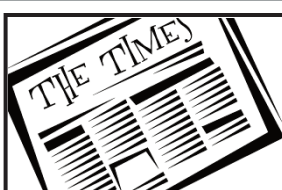
They have good stores, well-built houses, nicely furnished, and the latest and best farm machinery. Great quantities of salt and commercial fertilizers are imported. We export livestock which is driven out with less drift than if carried on the train, and timber which has been floated away by the river...

And as long as they compute the strength of the locomotive by comparing it with the power of a horse, and we have thousands of horses and experienced wagoners, please do not say that we are practically destitute of transportation facilities.

MARRIED

Miss Effie F. Barlow, the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Barlow, was married to Mr. Joel E. Peck Wednesday, April 19, at 8:30 a.m. The attendants were Miss Lena Moore and Mr. Adam Baxter and the ceremony was read by Rev. J. H. Dills. A sumptuous breakfast was then served in the old-time generous way, and after

see History pg 18



Fifty Years Ago

Jane Price Sharp, Editor

Thursday,
April 25, 1974

CHEAT MOUNTAIN

By Skip Johnson

Spring comes slowly to Cheat Mountain. The hardwood trees still are barren of leaves, and banks of snow linger on the ground well into late April or early May.

Last week, low-hanging gray clouds rolled across Cheat, bringing rain and snow, and there was an arctic bite to the wind as it whistled through the red spruce.

But whatever the season, Cheat is West Virginia's best known mountain range – except for the origin of its name.

"There are several theories, including that it was named for a French-Canadian trapper-explorer named Jacques Cheate; that it was named because the river of the same name is deceptive and has cheated many people of their lives; or that it was named for a grass that looked like wheat but wasn't, thereby cheating early

settlers out of food.

Dr. Earl L. Core, professor emeritus of biology at West Virginia University, said he is inclined to believe the second theory. The river has a dark color and its depth is deceptive," he explained.

"It seems a rather unlikely explanation, but I prefer it over the other two."

Cheat, extending about 25 miles through Pocahontas and Randolph counties, is different things to different people.

TO DR. EUGENE HUTTON, JR. of Elkins, it is a lifelong botanical and geological fascination.

Hutton says the Cheat range is closely related geologically to Asia.

"Ninety percent of the plants found there are common to Asia," he pointed out. Several Arctic-related plants also are found on Cheat.

TO CHARLEY CROMER, of Durbin, Cheat is a faint memory. Cromer, 89, is a retired railroader who started firing engines for West Virginia Pulp and Paper Co. in

1904 during the glory days of logging on Cheat.

"It was just a big forest of timber and laurel," he said.

Charley's father, Harvey Cromer, came to Cheat in 1886 as a surveyor for the same company. He wrote many of the panther tales that graced the pages of the late Cal Price's Pocahontas Times.

TO DABNEY KISNER, owner of the Pocahontas Motel on Cheat on U. S. 250, the mountain is a good place to bear hunt, providing you're capable of following a pack of dogs through tangled spruce and rhododendron thickets.

"There are more logging roads than when I came here 21 years ago," Kisner said. "But I can't complain. I'm usually the first person to use them."

TO BOB BURRELL, of Morgantown, author of a book on wildwater boating in West Virginia, Cheat is the birthplace of "the big mountain river."

Shavers Fork River heads on Cheat and races along at an elevation of more than 3,700 feet – making it the highest river of its size in the eastern United States.

see 50 pg 18

Seventy-Five Years Ago

Calvin W. Price, Editor

Thursday,
April 28, 1949

NOTICE

Of Motor Carrier Hearing On the 10th day of May 1949, at 10 a.m. in its offices at the Capitol in the City of Charleston, the Public Service Commission of West Virginia will hear the application of the undersigned for a certificate of convenience and necessity to operate as a common carrier by motor vehicle in the transportation of commodities generally and heavy equipment within Marlinton, Pocahontas County, and a radius of twenty-five miles thereof, at which time objections may be made thereto.

Fred C. Burns
Marlinton, Pocahontas County West Va.

SADDLE DAYS

Gray Loury, of Huntington, sends to his old home paper a handbill advertising "The celebrated Wilbourn Saddle, manufactured by the Buena Vista Saddle and Harness Company."

The date is July 16, 1890. The selling talk is plenty strong: No matter how heavy the rider, how hot the weather or how long the ride, it never hurts the horse. It makes a natural seat to furnish a rest to the muscles of thigh and leg. It is like a comfortable buggy seat.

The certificates of praise were somewhat fulsome, too. One heavyweight wrote he used a blanket to protect saddle and not the horse. An enthusiast from Rockingham went so far as to certify he would not take a thousand dollars for his Wilbourn saddle if he could not get another... The saddle and horse days brought to mind a tale of sixty years ago. Pocahontas County Singing Association met in annual meeting at Edray Church. Horses were hitched to racks, fences and trees. There were perhaps a score of nice buggies parked in the church yard. Four prominent citizens, who were the local bankers of their day and generation, looked with jaundiced eye on those shiny surreys,

carry-alls and buggies – representing an investment of perhaps as much as five thousand dollars. It was consensus of opinion that no county could remain financially solvent in the face of such reckless outlay of funds.

FOUR-WAY BIRTHDAY PARTY

A four-way birthday party was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Merl Cloonan at Millpoint on Easter Sunday, April 17, in honor of Miss Doty Cloonan, Elmer David Workman II, Mrs. Elmer Workman and Mrs. Merl Cloonan...

BIRTH

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Sanford Boggs, a baby girl named Inez.

COMING HOME

Sergeant William Marvin Jeffries, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Jeffries, was wounded in the landing on Luzon and died February 20, 1945. His body is expected to arrive in Marlinton Thursday, April 28. The funeral will be held from the Marlinton Methodist Church Sunday afternoon. His body will rest in the family plot in Mt. View Cemetery.

see 75 pg 18

100-Years-Ago in The Pocahontas Times

Calvin W. Price, Editor

Thursday,
April 24, 1924

Facing something to write about, as usual. Everything is so trivial and not worthwhile. I am still on the road. I'm writing this in a hotel with a Gideon Bible as my sole library. Hotels nowadays have Bibles in guest rooms. They are always to be found on the bureau in front of the looking glass. I went into a hotel the other day and missed the Book, but immediately located it in the top bureau drawer.

Some twenty-odd years ago, two devout drummers met and formed the organization of the Gideons, and it is a most successful organization.

They have placed the Bible in the hotels. And in helping others, they have helped themselves, so that they occupy a proud position in the business world and magnify their calling.

The business portion of the town of Franklin, Pendleton county, was almost wiped out by fire last Friday. The courthouse, two banks, hotels, stores and the printing office were burned.

Dennis Dunn and Edgar Smith have found coal of a good burning quality on their place at Watoga.

The high winds of Tuesday brought down the smoke stacks of the light plant, and the town was out of light and power until new ones could be erected.

CONFEDERATE VETERANS

Confederate soldiers living in Pocahontas county at this date:

Daniel A. Fisher, Huntersville; Wallace W. Beard, Hillsboro; John Jackson, Edray; Abram Hayes, Seebert; Isaac B. Smith, Seebert; Mathew John McNeel, Seebert; Noah D. McCoy, Beard; George B. Cochran, Beard; James D. Kerr, Boyer; John E. Gum, Greenbank; Samuel C. Hevener, Hosterman; Frank W. Harper, Hillsboro; Andrew N. Taylor, Cass; William E. Gragg, Hosterman; Claiborne D. Ashford, Green-

bank; James C. Wiley, Thornwood; George M. Kee, Marlinton; Reuban E. Overholt, Marlinton; John Trainer, Trainer; Wm. Henry Hull, Marlinton; Peter H. Warwick, Greenbank; James H. Warwick, Greenbank; James M. Spencer, Bartow; John S. Griffin, Boyer; C. Wilson Rider, Frost; Godfrey Geiger, Marlinton; Edwin D. King, Marlinton.

BIRTHS

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Howard, at Sharpless, a son, named Robert Warwick Howard.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Preston Moore, at Onoto, a son. Born to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Loan, of Marlinton, a son.

DIED

John E. Gum, one of the pioneers of Pocahontas, passed away from this earthly life to the great beyond Wednesday, April 16, 1924, at the home of his son-in-law, Oscar L. Orndorff, near Arbovale, at the age of 94 years.

Uncle John, as he was called by his wide circle of friends, will be greatly

see 100 pg 18

John Eilers, D.O.
is unable to see patients at this time.
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State Math Field Day



SIX POCAHONTAS COUNTY students attended State Math Field Day April 20 on the campus of Concord University.

Left to right: Pocahontas County High School students Wade Garber, Hannah Beverage, Eden Smith and Dillon Dunz; and Marlinton Middle School students Jarrell Clifton and Eli Beezley.

MES Students of the Month



MARLINTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL recognizes its Students of the Month for March.

Pictured, 1 to r: above, Chase Wright, first grade; Esmee Donet, kindergarten; Adalyn Beverage, third grade; and Savannah Barnes, fourth grade.

Pictured, 1 to r: Waylon Burdette, fifth grade; and Draydon Cassell, fifth grade.

HES Students of the Month



HILLSBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL congratulates its March Students of the Month. Pictured, 1 to r: Hunter Hefner -fifth grade; Cambree McLaughlin - fourth grade; Kysor Calhoun – third grade; Aubrey Jo Evans - second grade; Ella Pugh – first grade; and Kaiden Dowling – kindergarten.



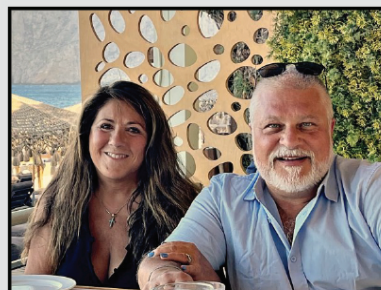
April Students of the Month. Pictured, 1 to r: Mackenzie White - fifth grade; Dominick Blankenship - fourth grade; Sadie Mason - third grade; Harper Hummel - second grade; and Ryder Hefner- first grade.

These students reflect the HES Mission Statement: We will be learners. We will be respectful. We will be successful. Because we are Red Devils!

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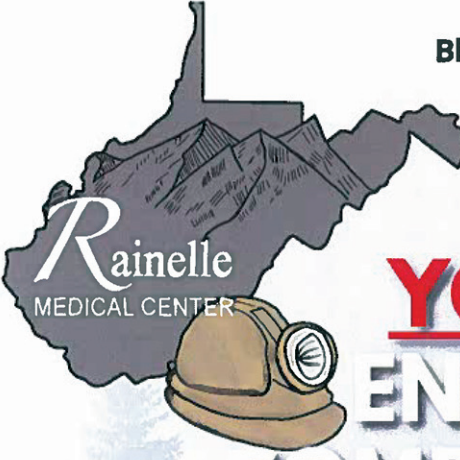
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Zuzu's Hot 5 heats up the opera house stage

The Pocahontas County Opera House will welcome the powerful rhythms and soul-stirring beats of Zuzu's Hot 5 for an unparalleled musical journey Saturday, April 27, at 7:30 p.m.

Known for fusing traditional jazz with the infectious energy of Mardi Gras, Zuzu's Hot 5 is set to mesmerize the audience with a high-energy performance, channeling the spirit of New Orleans.

For more than a decade, Zuzu's Hot 5 has been serving up a potent mix of music, fusing the spirited jazz notes from Buddy Bolden, King Oliver, and Louis Armstrong's timeless tracks with a modern flair. The ensemble is renowned for creating a vivid auditory experience shaped by thrilling trumpet calls, wailing clarinet notes, and a growling trombone driven by an unstoppable rhythm from thumping strings.

Much like a well-crafted cocktail, Zuzu's Hot 5 transports their audience through

their powerful vocals and unique charm that have become their signature.

With a commitment to inclusivity, all Opera House performances are designed to be informal, family-friendly, and accessible to all. The venue ensures that individuals with disabilities can thoroughly enjoy the experience, with tailored accommodations available upon request.

Tickets are \$10 per adult, and admission is free for attendees aged 17 and younger. Tickets can be purchased at the 4th Avenue Gallery in Marlinton, online at pocahontasoperahouse.org or at the door the evening of the performance.

This performance has received financial support from the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, with the endorsement of the West Virginia Commission on the Arts; Pocahontas County Dramas, Fairs and Festivals, Mid-Atlantic Arts, and the Pocahontas County Convention and Visitors Bureau.



Zuzu's Hot 5

Highlands Community Orchestra upcoming performance

The Highlands Community Orchestra (HCO) will present a concert 3 p.m. Sunday, April 28, at The Highland Center in Monterey, Virginia. This will be the orchestra's third concert since its founding in 2023.

The HCO concert, in December 2023, attracted one of the largest crowds that has ever gathered at The Highland Center. Included on Sunday's program will be many familiar pieces of music, including the *Blue Danube Waltz* by Johann Strauss, Jr. and *Can-Can* by Jacques Offenbach.

The orchestra is made up of amateur musicians from Highland, Bath, Pocahontas and Pendleton counties — truly a mix of the counties from both Virginia and West Virginia. The full orchestra is conducted by Gretta Sandberg, a former high school orchestra director and currently the string instructor at the Highland Studio of the Allegheny Mountain String



THE HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY Orchestra at its Christmas concert last December at The Highland Center in Monterey, Virginia. The orchestra will perform again Sunday, April 28, at 3 p.m. Members of the orchestra include several musicians from Pocahontas County.

Project. Ms. Sandberg has had more than 40 years of conducting experience with orchestras in Virginia and in Detmold, Germany.

The HCO is supported by the Highland County Arts Council and by donations

from individuals in the wider Highlands community. The orchestra meets on Wednesday evenings at the Highland Center in Monterey from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

No audition is required to join the orchestra; however,

a player must be able to read music at a grade 3 level.

Persons interested in participating in the Highlands Community Orchestra may contact Ms. Sandberg at grettasandberg@gmail.com

TRIVIA – a little something to think about

1. "Hey, you've been great. See you in the cafeteria!" is the final line of Seinfeld's final episode and is spoken by Jerry in what setting?
2. What company, whose trademark included a dog listening to a gramophone, sold the first mass-produced color television set, starting in 1954?
3. What television personality, comedian, and actress discussed in a 2011 episode of "The View" that she had once worked as a phone sex operator?
4. January 1, 1971 was the last day these were seen on American television.

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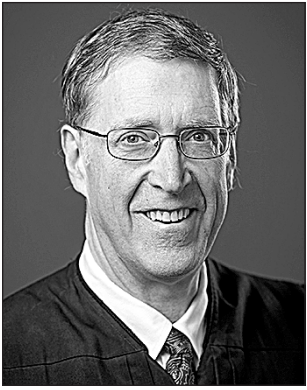
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2024 Primary Election Preview

Judge of the 29th Judicial Circuit – Division 1



Robert Richardson

Robert Richardson is seeking re-election as Circuit Judge for Pocahontas and Greenbrier Counties, pledging to maintain a high standard of integrity and impartiality.

During his ten years as Circuit Judge, he has earned a strong reputation for carefully considering each decision he makes, while treating everyone with courtesy and respect. He is known for being well-prepared, and as a hard worker who moves cases to final resolution.

When he took office in 2014, Judge Richardson faced a huge backlog of cases, with more than 600 open cases on his docket, most of which had already been pending longer than the time provided under the applicable rules. He now has a caseload of about 300 open cases, and cases in circuit court are being resolved at the same rate that new cases

are being filed.

“It takes hard work, but my goal is to ensure that each case receives the attention it deserves and that all cases are decided without undue delay,” he explained.

As a judge, Richardson has been particularly concerned with drug abuse issues and their effect on the community, and he gives careful attention to the circuit’s drug court program.

He and Judge Jennifer Dent, who is retiring, have been actively developing a family treatment court program for the circuit, to help families involved in abuse and neglect cases overcome their substance abuse problems.

Judge Richardson grew up in Greenbrier County, attended the county’s public schools, and earned his bachelor’s degree from West Virginia University. He was the University’s first recipient of the Truman Scholarship (a national award recognizing leadership potential in public service), and served as the WVU Mountaineer mascot.

Judge Richardson continued his education at the University of Virginia School of Law, where he was an editor of the Virginia Law Review and recipient of the prestigious Ritter Prize for Honor, Character and Integrity.

For 27 years after completing law school, Judge

Richardson engaged in a wide-ranging law practice, including both civil and criminal litigation, as well as estate planning, real estate and business transactions.

“When many people think about the court system, they think first about criminal cases, but those cases make up only about a quarter to a third of the actual workload of a Circuit Judge,” he said. “Having experience in all areas of the law is a tremendous asset for a judge.” An active member of the West Virginia Judicial Association, Judge Richardson regularly speaks at the Association’s educational conferences, updating his fellow circuit judges about developments in the law.

Judge Richardson is a long-time 4-H volunteer and has been inducted into the West Virginia 4-H Hall of Fame. He served for 25 years as director of Older 4-H Members Conference, a weeklong leadership program for high school and college age youth held at Jackson’s Mill. He has also served the community through extensive work with the Greenbrier County Youth Camp, Habitat for Humanity, Legal Aid of West Virginia, and HospiceCare.

He and his wife, Susan, have been married for almost thirty-nine years, and have two daughters.



Ryan Blake

I’m Ryan Blake, and I am running for the office of circuit court judge (Division 1) for Pocahontas and Greenbrier Counties in order to promote fairness, balance, and accountability for the judiciary. I have dedicated my career to public service, trying my best to always make the right decisions for the right reasons, while striving to be fair to all parties, and I intend to bring that approach to the bench.

I was raised in the Greenbrier Valley by my parents, Brenda and the late Ralph Blake. A Greenbrier East graduate, I earned my bachelor’s degree with honors at Bridgewater College in Virginia. I then attended law school at Penn State University, where I was an editor of the Penn State Environmental Law Review.

Following law school, in 2005, I began work as a judicial law clerk for the Hon.

Frank Jolliffe. I attended court proceedings, conducted research, and discussed cases and issues with the judges. That experience provided me the opportunity to become familiar with, and gain an appreciation for, the role of circuit judge.

In 2007, I joined the Greenbrier County Prosecuting Attorney’s office, where for 17 years I have appeared regularly in the courtroom, handling a diverse caseload on behalf of the citizens. I have extensive trial experience on matters of community concern that impact the peace, safety, and welfare of our citizens: murders, sexual assaults, home invasions, crimes against children, and various drug crimes. My background has given me valuable insights and a strong foundation for the court. I have developed an extensive legal knowledge and an ability to properly analyze evidence, and demonstrated a commitment to upholding justice and the law fairly and impartially.

Representing the office in the drug court program to combat drug abuse has also been a rewarding experience. While offenders need to be held accountable for crimes, we, as a collaborative team, have been able to provide certain eligible persons with the necessary structure and an opportunity for treatment

to break the cycle of addiction that is plaguing our community. I am very proud of those efforts, and I will work to improve those programs.

My positive relationships with the people, offices, and agencies routinely involved with the court system are certainly valuable. I understand the consequential decisions made by attorneys, their clients, police, victims, and interested parties before they ever step foot in the courtroom. I promise to treat everyone who comes into my courtroom with civility and respect. I will also strive to be on time, be prepared, and focus on the efficient and effective administration of justice.

I currently reside in Lewisburg with my wife, Heather, and our three wonderful children: Andrew, Brandt, and John. My family is highly involved in the local community. This relationship is important for a judge: it provides a chance to converse with your neighbors to understand and appreciate their values, needs, and sentiments. It allows a judge to be accessible to the community, not isolated from it.

I respectfully request your vote.

Judge of the 29th Judicial Circuit – Division 2



Patrick I. Via

I am pleased and excited to announce my candidacy for Circuit Court Judge (Division 2) in the 29th Judicial Circuit, comprised of Greenbrier and Pocahontas Counties. I am currently the Prosecuting Attorney of Greenbrier County, serving in my sixteenth year, having been elected to the first of four terms in 2008. Previously, I maintained a private practice of law for over fifteen years, representing numerous individuals and businesses in the Greenbrier Valley. In the course of both my professional and personal life, I have had the opportunity to build relationships with many of you, and I am proud to count many of you as friends.

My educational background includes a B. S. in Social Studies Education from Bluefield State College (1990), and thereafter, a J. D. Degree from the West Virginia University College of Law (1993). Since completing law school, I have spent my career in the Greenbrier Valley, and have developed a deep understanding of the people in our communities, and the values that we all share.

I am especially proud of the love and support from my wife of nearly thirty years, Jeri Banton Via, and our two sons, Cooper and Tucker. I have received immeasurable support from my family over the course of my

career and I firmly believe that the values that we share as a family are the values that we all share as a community.

I believe that my vast courtroom experience over the past thirty years will lend itself very well to the performance of the duties of a Circuit Court Judge. In the course of my practice, I have been very active in the courtrooms of Greenbrier and Pocahontas Counties. Most importantly, my many years of experience as a prosecuting attorney have given me the opportunity to see, in a unique and up-close way, the troubles and difficulties that our citizens face. These issues include the plague of drug abuse and addiction, child neglect and abuse and the fear of being unsafe in our own communities. As a Circuit Court Judge, I will take these experiences and perspectives to the courtroom to conduct my role fairly, prudently and in accordance with the law, recognizing that the law is intended to afford protection for our citizens.

It has been my great honor to serve as Prosecuting Attorney for Greenbrier County for all of these years, and it is very exciting to have the opportunity to serve the citizens of Pocahontas County as well, as a Circuit Court Judge. Since this campaign began, I have had the pleasure of making several visits to Pocahontas County to renew old acquaintances and to make new ones. I look forward to many more visits in the weeks ahead. More importantly, I look forward to becoming a part of the Pocahontas County community while serving as Circuit Court Judge.

I would be honored by your vote and support. Thank you very much.

Pocahontas County Magistrate – Division 1



Cynthia D. Broce-Kelley

My name is Cynthia D. Broce-Kelley and I am running for re-election for Pocahontas County Magistrate in Division One. I have lived in Pocahontas County for most of my life. I have two adult children, Sarah and Reese Kelley. I am the daughter of Sharon McCloud Mullens and the late Kenneth Mullens and the late George Allen Broce. My grandparents were Mary and George Broce and June and Agnes McCloud. I have one brother, David who resides with his wife in Greenbrier County. I am a 1994 graduate of Pocahontas County High School. After graduating high school I attended college at West Liberty State College and transferred to Bluefield State College in 1995 where I began my major in the criminal justice field focusing on law enforcement and the correc-

tional system.

I believe I have the experience, knowledge, and desire to continue to learn that is needed to serve in this position. I have been your current magistrate for the past 3 terms. I work under the supervision of the WV Supreme Court. It is a magistrate’s responsibility to use their training, sound judgment to oversee the application and enforcement of the state laws as defined in the WV Code, court rules and procedures. Magistrates have jurisdiction over civil cases (less than ten thousand dollars), landlord/tenant issues, misdemeanor cases, holding preliminary hearings in felony cases to determine if the State has established probable cause for the case to be bound over to circuit court. Magistrate issues and records affidavits, reviews criminal complaints, issues arrest and search warrants, as well as set bail amounts in accordance with the WV State Code, conduct initial appearances on all criminal

cases, make decisions concerning civil and criminal cases, assess and collect court costs, fines, fees, and bonds. A magistrate must be available on an alternating on-call schedule to conduct initial appearances, review domestic violence petitions, issue temporary emergency protective orders in cases involving domestic violence, and preside over mental hygiene hearings. Magistrates also review personal safety petitions and hold those final hearings, preside over preliminary juvenile cases, and review applications for ratification of emergency custody in child abuse and neglect cases.

The duties of a magistrate are complex, having a significant impact on people’s lives. I strive to be a magistrate that is always aware,

courteous, and professional when dealing with those who appear before me, I will continue to listen to each case carefully and apply the law to the facts presented. As a magistrate it is my job to be fair and impartial and to make decisions only after thoughtful consideration of the facts, evidence and testimony presented at trial. I will continue to be confidential in all matters that are before me and to be available as your magistrate. I will continue to serve the citizens of this county with honesty, dignity, integrity, and respect.

Like Re-Elect Cynthia D. Broce-Kelley for Pocahontas Magistrate, Division One on Facebook

I ask for your continued support and votes in the 2024 election.

**Election Day
is Tuesday,
May 14**

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except Wednesday afternoons
starting May 15, when we will be
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Two miles south of Dunmore
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Watch for the Fresh Eggs
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April 19!** **RED LICK FARM
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GREENHOUSES**
Open seven days a week
Beverly 5-Lane, South of Elkins
304-636-4051

Pocahontas County Magistrate – Division 2



Jennifer Dunz

I'm Magistrate Jennifer M. Dunz.

I am one of the current Magistrates in Pocahontas County.

I am asking for your vote as an incumbent on May 14, 2024 in the Primary Election.

I've been a Magistrate since July 2020.

My background is in Corrections as a Counselor and an Investigator. I worked with Adult Services and Adult Protective Services for West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources. I have a Bachelor's Degree.

My great-grandfather was Governor of West Virginia in the 1930s.

I have a good rapport with all the agencies and people I work with day to day as a Magistrate now.

I am dependable, approachable and fair. I enjoy working as a Magistrate for the state of West Virginia.

Please vote Dunz, so I can resume working for our county, following the WV Code, ethically and sensibly. As an office-holder, I will continue with my experience to do the job well.

Stop by, call or come see me at the courthouse, call my house at 304-799-4123

with any questions or concerns

RE-ELECT Jennifer Dunz for Magistrate

Thank you for your support!



Mark Thompson

My name is Mark Thompson, and I am running for Magistrate of Pocahontas County.

This beautiful county has been my home since 1982. I was fortunate to live near Millpoint for most of my 40 years here. My father was Boyd Thompson, with whom many are familiar.

For over 30 years, I have been a building contractor here, a role that has allowed me to intimately understand the needs and concerns of our county's residents.

As a Magistrate, I pledge to serve the people of Pocahontas County with integrity, impartiality and consistency. I am highly motivated to do my part in serving the community and its deserving residents.

I was blessed to live among these spectacular mountains and rivers. Therefore, I want to give back to a West Virginia county that has been so good to me.

Thank you for your generous support for Pocahontas County Magistrate.

Mark Thompson

Pocahontas County Sheriff Candidates



Troy McCoy (D)

Hello. I am Troy McCoy, Democrat candidate for Sheriff of Pocahontas County. I am a lifelong resident of Pocahontas County and have been involved in community service for many years. From 1983 through 1989 I was an Emergency Medical Technician with the Hillsboro Rescue Squad and a Volunteer Firefighter with the Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Department. During that time, I worked at an automotive supply company in Lewisburg, starting out as a delivery truck driver and working my way up to a management position within four years. Also, during that time I attended the local community college at night, working toward a criminal justice degree. In 1989 I began my career with the Pocahontas County Sheriff Department and am a graduate of the WV State Police Academy. After my academy training I continued to attend advanced training courses and in 1995 became certified as a WV Law Enforcement Instructor by the WV Division of Justice and Community Services, Law Enforcement Professional Standards. I have provided numerous training courses to law enforcement agencies since 1995. In 2009 I started my own firearms training company, WV Firearms Tactics LLC and have provided firearms training and concealed weapons training

classes to many citizens since that time.

I didn't start at the top in the Sheriff Department, I started at the bottom and worked my way up through the ranks, being promoted over the years to Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain and then receiving an appointment to a Chief Deputy position. I have been in a supervisory position within the department since 1999. I am familiar with what "works" and what "doesn't work" for the Sheriff Department. I believe that my 35 years of Sheriff Department experience will help me to effectively and promptly take over the Sheriff Department and lead it forward if given the opportunity to do so.

If elected as your Sheriff I will continue to maintain a good working relationship with all other law enforcement, judicial and community service agencies and departments, to work together toward a common goal of reducing the number of drug offenses and offenders that prey on our communities. It will take a combined effort of a number of agencies to make a lasting effect on what seems to be a never-ending problem as there is no easy fix for this problem.

If elected as your Sheriff I will ensure that all Sheriff Department personnel are professionally trained to meet the needs of the Sheriff Department, enabling them to perform required tasks with a high level of proficiency. As your Sheriff I will maintain a proactive and professional law enforcement agency that will be dedicated to serve the needs of the citizens of Pocahontas County. There is no substitute for experience and this is my 35th year with the Pocahontas County Sheriff Department.

The citizens of Pocahontas County deserve to have an experienced leader in your Sheriff Department.

I ask for your vote and support to make me your next Sheriff of Pocahontas County.



Kenneth "Buster" Varner (R)

Hello, my name is Kenneth "Buster" Varner, Republican candidate for Sheriff. I am kindly asking for your vote on May 14th. I'm a life-long resident of Pocahontas County. I live in Durbin with my wife Sandy. I have two daughters Jessica and Vanessa. I graduated from Pocahontas County High School in 1982. I started my own business and have become a successful businessman. As a business owner, I have developed the knowledge and experience needed to manage finances, employees, tax situations, equipment purchases, control a busy office and work with the public. I am a strong supporter of all county Fire and EMS squads. I have volunteered in the Fire and Rescue Squad since my teenage years. For the past 42 years I have held different positions in the department. I am currently the Fire Chief and President. I am also a certified EMT with the department. I have been exposed to a variety of emergency situations. As Sheriff I will be responsible for law enforcement on a county level, en-

sureing that all local, state, and federal laws are followed. I will attend law enforcement classes to give me the needed knowledge in law enforcement. As Sheriff I will manage a department in charge of protecting people, property and maintaining order. I want the Sheriff's Department to be trusted by the people. Trust comes when the department operates in a friendly, helpful and professional way. It comes from respecting and maintaining high standards of conduct throughout the ranks. Trust and respect are earned when differences between enforcement and the judicial system are handled in a professional and cooperative manner. As Sheriff of Pocahontas County I will hold myself and my employees to high standards of conduct. I will not turn a deaf ear to charges of misconduct by any deputy or any other employee. I want a Sheriff's Department that will earn the respect of men and women in and around the county. As Sheriff of Pocahontas County I will meet regularly with the Prosecuting Attorney and my staff to assure cases are properly prepared for before being brought to trial. I will expect my team to cooperate also. I will join and work with other counties' drug task forces on drugs.

If a community has faith that its Sheriff's Department is serious about stopping the destruction brought by drugs it will respect and work with the department. Every family is faced with drug problems. If elected as your Sheriff I will do the job to the best of my ability. I ask for your vote on May 14th to make Pocahontas County a better place. A vote for me will be a vote to try to stop drugs. Thank You for your vote.

Pocahontas County Prosecuting Attorney Candidates



Laura M. Kershner (D)

I am Laura M. Kershner (Finch) and am asking for your vote for Prosecuting Attorney in the Democratic Primary May 14. If given the opportunity to serve, I commit myself carrying out the duties of the office with diligence, respect and integrity.

I started my legal career as a Law Clerk for Judge James J. Rowe, shortly after completing my J.D. at the University of Kentucky in 2012. In 2016, I bought the law office formerly occupied by Martin Saffer, Adolph Cooper, and others, and set up my shop in Marlinton.

I lived in Hillsboro for seven years before moving to Droop. Last April, I began working as the Assistant Public Defender in Marlinton, reporting to the Chief Public Defender in Lewisburg. That experience has been valuable and reward-

ing. My husband, David, now works for the Department of Human Services in Lewisburg. He also performs upright bass and operates live sound on the weekends. We recently took up bowling and love it.

All lawyers bear a great responsibility in representing their clients, but the Prosecuting Attorney bears the responsibilities of representing the State of West Virginia, seeking justice for victims, and making life easier for law enforcement. I take these responsibilities very seriously, and if elected I intend to carry them out with maturity, even-handedness, and decorum.

From my administration, you can expect that matters are disposed of promptly, if at all possible in the term of court in which they are filed. A term of court is 4 months, beginning with the meetings of the Grand Jury in April, August and December.

By operating more quickly and efficiently, the current caseload will decrease, and life will be made easier for law enforcement and judges. In some cases, delay is inevitable, but the average time to trial or plea would improve if the State's position were clear from the beginning. To achieve that, the Prosecuting Attorney's of-

fice needs to use adequate resources to effectively communicate with law enforcement and victims. The Prosecuting Attorney needs to have adequate experience and insight to implement those resources.

One thing I hear from citizens is that they do not understand why criminal defendants are immediately released after they are arrested for a crime. I want to explain something. Most criminal defendants are entitled to bond pre-conviction, and not everyone will ultimately be incarcerated after being found guilty of criminal charges. Nonetheless, if the prosecutor is motivated to seek justice for the State, they will advance the case to a trial or plea without delay, and the defendant can more quickly begin serving their debt to society. From my perspective, the problem is not pre-conviction bond, the problem is delaying the trial or plea and the imposition of sentence, in serious cases leading to more crime being committed by these defendants.

If you have any concerns like this that I might address, please call me. Our home number is (304) 653-4255. I usually get home from work around 6:00.



Joni Nichols (D)

Greetings Fellow Pocahontas Countians.

My name is Joni O'Neal Nichols, the current Assistant Prosecutor, and I am seeking the office of Prosecuting Attorney for Pocahontas County.

I'm a lifelong West Virginian, born and raised in Hinton, where I graduated from Summers County High School. I earned my Bachelor's Degree from Alderson-Broaddus College, where I graduated at the top of my class. I later earned a Master's Degree from West Virginia University.

I spent several years trying to figure out my place in this world before settling on the legal profession. I worked in hospitality, insurance, and even a brief period as a Starbucks barista. I realized I

was in the right place when I began working as a legal assistant for a firm in Charleston. That experience motivated me to pursue a law degree. I left the state for a brief time to attend Elon University in North Carolina, where I graduated at the top of my class, a full semester ahead of my classmates, before returning to serve my home state.

Since being sworn in as an attorney, I've worked in all three branches of government. I began with the House of Delegates, working as committee counsel during the 2017 legislative session. I drafted bills and worked with members of both parties to ensure that each Delegate knew the content of the bills before voting on them.

Next, I moved onto the judicial branch, where I worked in Circuit Court for Judge Richardson as his law clerk for six years. That position offered me the opportunity to better develop my research and writing skills. The most valuable experience of working as a law clerk was sitting through almost every single trial conducted in Pocahontas and Greenbrier Counties during my tenure, both criminal and civil.

Since July 2023, I've had the opportunity to serve Pocahontas County as the Assistant Prosecutor. I can honestly say that I love my job! It is by far the most difficult job I've had as an attorney, but the sense of fulfillment I get from it is second to none. I truly feel that this is the job I was always meant to do. I can only hope that the voters of Pocahontas County see fit to have me assume the role of the elected Prosecutor.

Outside of my work life, I have an absolutely wonderful husband and a brilliant daughter. We have three dogs and an axolotl. The Greenbrier River will forever have my heart, and I've lived in all three counties through which it flows. I love living near the headwaters now, having grown up less than half a mile from where the Greenbrier ends by flowing into the New River.

Until an injury sidelined me about two years ago, I was an avid runner, which is a status to which I am working to return. I have completed seven half marathons, in six different states, with the hope and goal to complete one in every state.

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JOIN ME IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

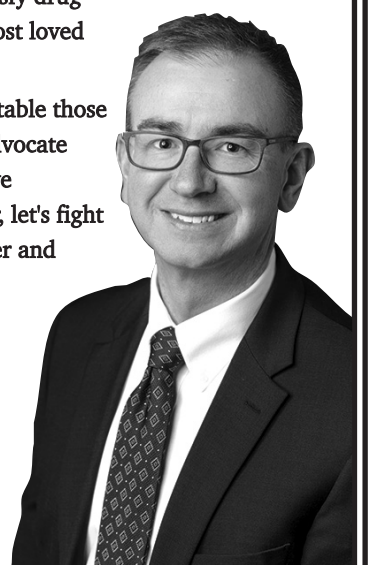
Experience matters. As a prosecutor, I've seen firsthand the devastating impact of the opioid epidemic on our communities. I have consulted with victims of break-ins and theft, whose homes and businesses were looted to satisfy drug cravings, and I have counseled family members who lost loved ones way too soon to this scourge.

I'm committed to upholding justice, holding accountable those responsible for fueling this crisis, and continuing to advocate for better solutions that prioritize sensible and effective rehabilitation and support for those affected. Together, let's fight this epidemic and make a difference by building a safer and healthier future for all.

Please vote Ryan Blake for Circuit Court Judge in the Primary Election on May 14.

BLAKE FOR JUDGE

Paid for by Ryan Blake for Judge, Jason McDaniel, Treasurer.



Pocahontas County Commission Candidates



Tim Helmick (R)

My name is Tim Helmick, and I am a Republican running for Pocahontas County Commissioner. I am the son of Walt Helmick of Minnehaha (married to Rita Hedrick) and Libby Gasko of Marlinton (married to Joe Gasko). My siblings are Sam, Brian and Shelley (deceased). I attended Marlinton Elementary School, Marlinton Middle School and Pocahontas County High School where I graduated in 1984.

My family moved to Pocahontas County in 1970 when my father accepted a position at the new high school as the welding teacher. I enjoyed a wonderful childhood growing up in Marlinton.

After high school, I attended Fairmont State College and West Virginia University where I graduated in 1988 with a Political Science degree with a minor in History. I married Terri Workman in 1992, and we have three grown children, Isaac, Nick and Sarah. My in-laws are Skeeter and Nora Workman of Hillsboro.

Most of my adult life, I have earned my living running my own businesses. I have been a self-employed real estate appraiser for over thirty years. I have also had a trout farm in Mill Point, and a bottled water distribution business in Minnehaha. I really enjoyed delivering water to many of the local businesses and homes for several years. As a businessman, I am familiar with what it takes to run a county. I am fiscally responsible with my own business, and I would carry out the county's business in the same manner. I know how to look at all sides of issues and make sound de-

isions. Terri and I currently live on Droop Mountain where the natural beauty of the county is all around us. I am a member and elder of Oak Grove Presbyterian Church in Hillsboro. I am also a member of the Marlinton Masonic Lodge. Over the years, I have served on several boards including the West Virginia Real Estate Appraisers Licensing and Certification Board and its Standards Committee (Chairman), as well as the West Virginia Property Valuation Training and Procedures Commission. I currently serve on the Greenbrier River Trail Foundation, Greenbrier River Trail Association and the Great Greenbrier River Race Committee.

As a result of my education, business and life experience, I believe that I am very qualified to serve as County Commissioner and if I am elected, I will:

- Support Pocahontas Memorial Hospital to make sure that we have a viable hospital for years to come;
- Support the fire and emergency services to ensure that when our citizens need these services, they are available; and
- Support our major employers in the county such as tourism, timber, trucking and agriculture.

I commit to the voters that I will work with the utmost integrity, honesty and professionalism. I would appreciate your vote.



Thane Ryder (R)

Hello, my name is Thane Ryder. I'm running as a republican candidate to represent you as the southern district member of the Pocahontas County Commission.

I was born and raised in

Pocahontas County. I'm a member of the 1987 graduating class of Pocahontas County High School. My three sons graduated from PCHS, and my grandsons have recently started their schooling here. My Parents are Willie and Shelby Ryder, both from the Huntersville area and lifelong residents of Pocahontas County. The Ryder Family has deep roots embedded into this beautiful place we call home.

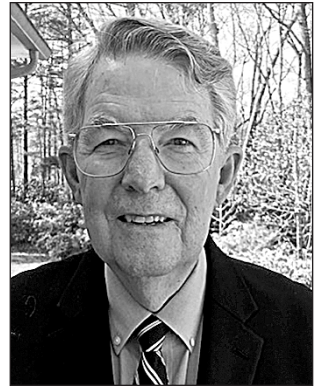
I grew up on a farm, and was fortunate enough to also grow up in a well established business that began in the early 1970's by my parents. Upon graduation 1987, I immediately entered the workforce as a member of W. A. Ryder Contracting Co. Inc., working in all types of excavation and forestry industries. In 1992, at the 19th annual WV Mining Symposium, the business was among 16 companies recognized for excellence in reclamation, and 1 of 2 recipients of the special awards for abandoned mine land projects.

I'm currently the President and General Manager of Ryder Inc. In 1993, I started my own business continuing in the excavation and forestry industries working at the local, county, state, and federal levels all over WV. I have built many home sites, roads, and developments for lifelong residents and new comers in Pocahontas County. In recent years I have overseen and completed industrial projects in our county as well as capping the last cell at the old tannery site in Frank, site-work for the recently rebuilt Huntersville bridge, and the sitework for the new Dollar General stores at Slatyfork and Hillsboro just to name a few.

Pocahontas County has been, and will always be a big part of my life personally and in business. In 2002, I was appointed as honorary state chairman for the National Republican Congressional Committee business advisory council, serving with the primary goal- ending Government waste and inefficiency. I come to you

with 37 years of experience in problem solving and bringing people together to put aside differences and get the job done. I know what it takes to set a budget and meet the payroll. I've spent my entire life building a business to not only help the community of Pocahontas county, but provide jobs to its citizens. I've never held a public office, nor have I ever been employed by any county or state agency. I believe it's my experiences in life and business that can help for the common good of our county. Spending the county's money- "your money" should have a representative that's guided by the principles of someone that has had to survive and is willing to thrive in the workings of our county.

I'm asking for your vote on May 14th, 2024. I would be honored to represent you as a member of the Pocahontas County Commission. Thank You.



Jay Miller (D)

Since retiring from the FBI in 2007 and moving to Pocahontas County I've focused on activities aimed at improving conditions for county residents. I may not be from here but I live here now - and I care about Pocahontas County. I believe I can now make the biggest difference by serving as County Commissioner - and help to restore balance and sanity to spending priorities that are seriously out of whack.

For two years I worked (without pay) as County Coordinator - staff to the County Commission. I was asked to make it possible for residents to attend college

without leaving the county by bringing New River Community and Technical College to Marlinton. I developed a plan to use the second floor of the City National Bank building, arranged joint financing between the College and County Commission, and wrote the 3-party agreement. In 2011, the One Room University opened and is still operating as envisioned.

For over ten years I've volunteered at Marlinton Elementary School where I currently tutor more than 100 students each week to develop math fluency. I was initially asked to help 4th graders who had not learned the multiplication tables. I soon realized that many students were not proficient in addition or subtraction facts either. I work with teachers in K-4 to help ensure that students advance to the next grade with competence in basic arithmetic skills. I get things done.

The County Commission oversees the budget for all elected officials and their offices - essential services such as the Sheriff's Department, Assessor's Office, Prosecuting Attorney, County Clerk and local courts - as well as other essential services such as fire protection, emergency management services, and solid waste disposal. These organizations are primarily paid from the county's general revenue, as they should be.

There are other county

agencies such as the library system, parks and recreation, historic preservation and arts-related organizations which improve the quality of life for county residents. For decades, they've been funded by the Hotel/Motel Tax - which is paid by visitors to the county. That changed dramatically last year when commissioners started diverting hundreds of thousands of dollars to their pet projects - most notably the ambulance service and the county's hospital - thereby cutting funding to the libraries, parks and recreation, etc., and jeopardizing their long-term ability to improve the lives of county residents.

The ambulance service represents a huge conflict of interest which can only be remedied by changing the voting majority of the county commission. One commissioner directs the day-to-day operations of the ambulance service and its employees, but also, as a commissioner, recently directed \$275,000 of Hotel/Motel taxes to his own project. Another commissioner insisted that 5% of H/M taxes be used as a contingency fund in case the hospital fails to meet future loan obligations. Another questionable use of H/M taxes was for equipment for the Sheriff's Office. The only way these unorthodox spending practices will be examined starting in January is if I am elected in November. It's time for a change.

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ACROSS	48 Pre-TiVo machine	88 Raconteur's offering	3 Ladd or Alda	41 High-voltage transformer	76 Bigger than med.
1 Theater district	49 — Lanka	90 "... and — it all over again!"	5 Petit four and Sally Lunn	42 Cloudland	77 Suffix with Ecuador
7 Butcher's cleaver	50 Comparable in humility to one particular sorority member?	91 Young boy	6 Piercing spot, often	43 Peppermint — (York treat)	80 Groove for receiving the end of a board
14 Winter melon variety	53 Quick glance	94 Lion's hunting recollections?	7 Prefix with air	44 "Bring it on!"	81 Not worth — (valueless)
20 Replacing, with "of"	55 Not durable	102 River in central Jersey	8 Coop up	45 Nuggets' org.	83 Perplex
21 Privy person	57 Groups of four	103 Certain shade provider	9 Fireplace receptacle	46 Unusual	84 Structured frameworks
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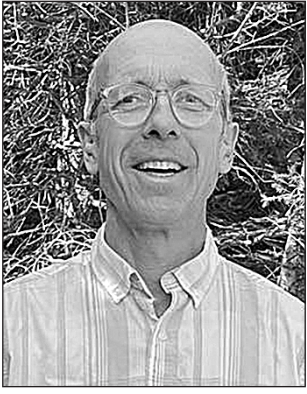
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The Pocahontas Times

Pocahontas County Board of Education

Non-Partisan Board of Education (Two to be elected)



Sam Gibson
Central District

Hello Pocahontas County families, students, school staff and voters. My name is Sam Gibson and I am one of your current representatives on the Pocahontas County Board of Education from the central region and I am seeking reelection. It has been an honor to have served you the past 4 years. In this term I feel that I have acted and voted in the best interest of our communities, and with equality for us all. I have been available and responsive to the public and only have missed a couple of meetings in 4 years. I routinely participate in functions at our schools, and provide support for our staff. I always provide positive encouragement to our students and families. We have dealt with many things together in the past 4 years and there are many things still to come and if re-elected and I retain my seat with the PC BOE I can absolutely promise you that I will remain committed to equality, transparency, availability, positivity and compassion within our schools here in Pocahontas County. I am sure that our students and families are great and deserve a representative with these attributes to

represent them. I am not afraid of the future and thank you for your consideration in voting for me.

Sam Gibson
Resort Maintenance and Gibson Renovation-A Team
Po Co Parks and Rec-Board Member
Po Co Board of Education - Board Member
WVSSAC official - Soccer



Dawn Baldwin Bartlett
Northern District

I'm Dawn Baldwin Barrett and I'm blessed to live in Pocahontas County. I first visited in 1989 and kept returning, wanting to move here full-time, which happened at last in 2009. I'm owner/operator of Brightside Acres, on the Old Pike Road near Bartow. We grow organic vegetables and fruits and raise a menagerie of birds and four-leggeds. Since 2010, we've sold produce along with farm-made herbal teas, preserves and goat milk soap. I'm a 13-year member of the Pocahontas County Artisan Co-op, for which I served as president for six years, during which time the Co-op moved into the Shops at Leatherbark Ford in Cass and the Marlinton Depot, long-vacant after the 2008 fire.

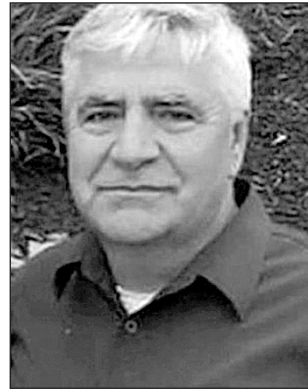
I grew up in Memphis, where I graduated from a terrific public high school in 1984. My public K-12 edu-

cation prepared me for life, and thank goodness for it! College-bound from the start, events intervened and I didn't complete a college degree. My safety net is my excellent public education. Public school taught me essential facts and skills, but more importantly, public school taught me to think and to learn. Learning how to learn is more important in the 21st century than it's ever been. Proving your capacity to learn is what 21st century employment and entrepreneurship is all about.

Our Pocahontas County kids deserve a school system that prepares them for life, by empowering them to be lifelong learners whether they graduate to college, trade school, or the workforce. Our system must be dedicated to instruction, founded in the understanding that every classroom, whether welding or physics or humanities or forestry matters, because it provides the foundation for a future that students can envision for themselves. Funding public education is a generational trust: how dare we foreclose on our children's and grandchildren's dreams without first moving heaven and earth to avoid it?

The purpose of the Board of Education is to establish policies to be carried out by the Superintendent. If it's BOE policy that the children of this county graduate from high school prepared for life, then it's the BOE's job to advocate for a budget that prioritizes the instruction that makes such preparation possible. For too many years, beloved academic and vocational programs have ended when teachers have retired and not been replaced. This has to stop. There's a better way forward than telling our kids to expect less.

I'm at a place in my life where I can devote time and energy into Funding Instruction First. I want to work to fund instruction that meets the needs and dreams of all our students. I believe this is possible, but only through open collaboration among the board, central office and community. Financial transparency is essential. Trust must be built, so that you know your money is being well-spent. Funding Instruction First for our kids is funding their future—and ours. If you agree, vote for me, Dawn Baldwin Barrett on May 14. I love Pocahontas County and I'm ready to serve!



Emery Grimes
Northern District

Hello Pocahontas County Residents,

My name is Emery Grimes, I am a 7th generation farmer and have lived and worked on our Bicentennial farm in the Hill Country, making me a lifelong resident of Pocahontas County. I am a 1976 graduate of Pocahontas County High School. I have had 4 children and 4 grandchildren who have graduated from PCHS. I have future great grandchildren who will be attending Pocahontas County Schools. At this moment my daughter works for the school system as a history teacher. As you can see,

I am well invested in our county's school system and have been for a very long time.

I previously spent 10 years on the Pocahontas County Board of Education and 6 years as board president. I am very concerned about the direction our school system is headed. There needs to be a level of common sense applied and a board watching every dollar spent. With my experience and previous knowledge, I have to say that I am concerned that certain situations are not being handled properly and applied correctly. This includes allowing the public to be knowledgeable.

While I served on the Board of Education, we brought many programs to Pocahontas County Schools. Working diligently to ensure the foundation of our school system. The dual credit courses will save parents of this county a roundabout quote of \$20,000 in college tuition. However, I am not just concerned with those students who seek college as a future, but also those who seek CTE/Vocational training in blue collar America.

I went through the forestry program at PCHS, taking what I learned from that specific program, making a lifelong career, and spending 45 years in the forestry industry. I spent 30 years as a General Manager of two companies.

So, I know what it is to manage a budget and make those tough decisions. We cannot afford to give our kids here in Pocahontas County a disadvantage in any work field they decide to pursue. We must prepare them for life in today's America. We must remember that students are our future; teachers are our foundation and parents are our partners in education.

Over the last 65 years I have served our county and community well. Early on I was a member of the Frost Trailblazers 4-H club. In high school I was a proud member of our PCHS's Future Farmers of America (FFA). I coached football at Green Bank, Marlinton, and PCHS. I currently announce all PCHS Friday night football games and have since 2011 for Allegheny Mountain Radio. I also serve as Vice President on the Board of Directors of our family's church Mt. Zion. I am a former president of the Marlinton Rotary Club. Past member of the Appalachian Lumbermen Club, and the National Hardwood Lumber Association up until my retirement.

As you can see, I care deeply about our community and schools here in Pocahontas County.

A VOTE for EMERY GRIMES is a vote for our STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND PARENTS.

The deadline for **Letters to the Editor** is Monday at noon. Writers may use a maximum of 600 words. Letters should be issue-oriented and never personal.

Send letters to
jsgraham@pocahontastimes.com
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please call at 304-799-4973.

Dog, from page 1

trainers. The puppies don't wear a harness. They don't do any formal training with the dog, but what they do is the important work of setting the foundation for a nice dog."

After the puppy's first birthday, the family returns him or her to Leader Dog in Michigan and there, they begin the specific training they need to be an official leader dog. The puppies are given a medical evaluation and taken through several phases of training. At any point during this time, if the puppy has issues or is not learning like it should, it is taken out of the program.

The puppies that do not "graduate" are either sent to be emotional support dogs or adopted as pets.

"I raised two puppies for Leader Dog and one was career changed, medically, as a puppy," Hackman said. "She had an allergic reaction to a vaccine, so that automatically excluded her from the program. I have her at home. Then I raised a German Shepherd, and they pulled her to be a breeding dog. I was really, really honored."

The German Shepherd

went on to have four litters and of the 16 puppies, two became leader dogs.

While the puppies are being trained, Leader Dog staff evaluate client video submissions to match the dog to their new human. Once that is complete, it is time for the individuals to go to Michigan for training with their new dog, or an in-field instructor brings the dog to them.

Hackman said they usually plan for the instructor to be with the individual and their dog for two weeks, to make sure that their personalities mesh and there are no issues.

She only needed a week with Trusler and Neelix.

"They bonded so quickly," she said. "I think Neelix picked up the warmth and the comfort that Roger was able to show when we weren't working. When we went out to work, he was like, 'I'll do this for you; I'll keep you safe; You're a good guy.' The turnover was quick."

Neelix joined Trusler on his daily routine of walking around Marlinton, going grocery shopping and even attending Marlinton Town Council meetings.

Last week, there was a special town council meeting, which ended up being short, so it was an ideal time to introduce Neelix to the routine of walking from home to the municipal building auditorium.

"We were able to go in and Roger patterned him up to the doors, up the stairs, into the room and then to his chair where he sits all the time," Hackman said. "So the next time they go, he'll be able to just take him right to it."

Hackman was pleased, so only one question remained – how did Trusler feel?

"It's been good," he said. "He walks a little different from my previous dog. I've got to make changes. As far as walking in town, it went as well as can be expected with a new dog. With time it

will get better."

Although he was prepared to go to Michigan to get Neelix and train with him, Trusler said he's happy to have done the training here at home.

"It's really worked out well," he said. "I really appreciate it. It's more intense one-on-one."

Neelix has met his veterinarian and is on a diet that will keep him fit and in healthy condition to serve Trusler for many years to come.

Leader Dogs for the Blind was founded in 1939 and is located in Rochester Hill, Michigan. The organization has recently expanded internationally and will soon have facilities in Israel and India.

ELECT
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Board of Education
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Thomas Perkins (R)
Republican For District 46 of the WV House of Delegates
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School News

April 29 – May 3

Monday, 29: Texas toast apple cinnamon with syrup and fruit. Chicken with broccoli, vegetable stir-fry, seasoned brown rice, whole grain breadstick, fresh carrots, fruit cup and milk.

Tuesday, 30: Mini-bagel

with cinnamon, cream cheese and fruit. Spaghetti with meat sauce, garden salad with Romaine lettuce, radishes, whole grain roll, corn, pineapple and milk.

Wednesday, 1: Breakfast pizza and fruit. Pulled pork sandwich on whole grain bun, coleslaw, harvest baked

vegetables, fruit cup and milk.

Thursday, 2: Homemade cinnamon rolls, cheese stick and fruit. Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, whole grain roll, roasted broccoli, Birthday popcorn, fruit and milk.

Friday, 3: Cooks' Choice.

BOE, from page 2

West Virginia Code 18A-2-7A which explains that school superintendents must provide written notice to the affected employees before April 1. Those employees receive a letter and have a private meeting with the superintendent to discuss the possibility of a reduction or transfer.

The employees have the option to have a hearing before the board of education in which they can discuss the issue before the final decision is made. Those hearings and the final decision must be made by May 1.

Bostic said the process begins in the fall, with an assessment of numbers.

"You look at numbers in enrollment," she said. "You look at numbers of students and staff in grade levels and subject areas. That started back this fall. You're constantly monitoring grade level numbers. For instance – we do not have this situation – but if you had eighteen students in a first grade classroom and you have two second grade classrooms, you're only going to need one second grade classroom the following year."

"So you start thinking about how that will work," she continued. "You worked with your treasurer, budgeting, finding sources. We have a lot of different funding sources, and it's kind of hard to explain when you see some people hired, it's because we have different funding sources we use."

Positions like coaches are federally-funded, so those positions don't affect the number of employees who are paid out of the general fund.

Bostic said she works with the educational directors and principals to determine where the belt can be tightened and employees can either be transferred to another position or a position can be cut. From there, the superintendent works with the board attorney, Jason Long, to make sure that she is following code and policies when making the changes.

"That's a quick overview of the process and these five board members, by state code – you cannot talk to them about the people or about the positions until the [April 22] meeting," Bostic said.

Student representative Riley Pollack gave an update, saying the SAT took place earlier in the day at school and all the students seemed prepared and had an overwhelming amount of support from the fellow students and staff.

She also reported that there is an issue with students, especially juniors and seniors, not getting the support they need in regard to preparing for ACT/SAT testing, as well as getting information they need for college applications and scholarships.

"I didn't take the ACT/SAT prep class, so I didn't have any idea when any of the dates were and I had no idea when to test or how to get said information to test," she said. "Unless I was having a message relayed through my friends who are actually in the class. I was also told that students were denied registration forms to actually sign up to take the test, so they didn't get the opportunity to do that," she continued. "We, as students, a student body, are being shorted information that we need and that we're required to have as students and as a school to kind of help along with that."

Pollack added that the senior class does not yet know

who the valedictorian, salutatorian or honor graduates are.

Roger Griffith, with New River Community and Technical College, gave an update on the classes offered by the institution to PCHS. He said there are several pathways students can select from and they can take many dual credit classes toward that pathway. There is a new welding pathway being developed for next school year that Griffith said was developed partially with PCHS in mind.

Josh Hardy and Tonya Pollack, members of the PCHS Local School Improvement Council – LSIC, gave a presentation on the proposed cuts at PCHS. They asked that there be better engagement between the board of education and the school and LSIC to ensure everyone is up to speed on any changes that may occur. They also requested that there be more budget meetings to keep the public informed about any changes made due to financial shortfalls.

Treasurer Sherry Radcliff gave a budget update and went through the multiple line items in the budget, explaining that expenses have increased and exceeded what she budgeted for them. She added that the ESSER – Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund – was discontinued and left a \$1.5 million hole in its wake.

Radcliff also shared a comparison of past budgets to the current budget explaining that expenses have increased and some funding has decreased. In 2016, the board had \$16 million in expenses for the entire fiscal year from July 2016 to June 2017. The 2022-2023 fiscal year expenses were \$21 million. The 2023-2024 fiscal year expenses, thus far, are \$14 million.

After Radcliff's presentation, she asked if there were any questions and board member Sam Gibson said he had several.

"I just don't understand why we as an education institution, the first thing we look at is cutting..." he began.

"Let's not get into that tonight," Hollandsworth interjected.

"No, let's get into this tonight," he continued. "We're talking about RIF. I'm talking about people's jobs here."

Hollandsworth banged the gavel twice and addressed Gibson.

"We cannot discuss that before we have the hearings," she said. "You can re-use yourself. We cannot discuss certain things before the affected personnel have their hearings. After that, you can discuss anything."

Gibson chose to remain in the meeting and change the subject.

At the end of the meeting, during the matters from the

board portion of the agenda, Gibson once again tried to turn the discussion to the RIFs.

"I've got a lot of things," he said. "I want to start with – we just sent a bunch of kids to the state social studies fair, which is really cool."

"This RIF thing," he continued.

"Don't even go there," Hollandsworth interjected.

"Yes ma'am," Gibson replied.

Also during matters from the board, board member Becky Campbell shared her appreciation for the respect and poise shown by those who spoke concerning the proposed cuts.

"I thank everybody for being so respectful," she said. "Not one person was out of line and this is tough on all of us. It's tough and hopefully we can all work together to get through this, because it's not easy on any of us."

In financial management, the board approved following:

- Tax Levy Estimate, effective for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, rates as follows: Class I – \$19.40; Class II – \$38.80; Class III – \$77.60; and Class IV – \$77.60.
- Payment of vendor listing, payment of local government purchasing card, employee payroll, grant awards and budget adjustments.

In miscellaneous management, the board approved the following:

- 2024-2025 School Calendar.
- Overnight trip with seven FFA students to Cedar Lakes, on April 18 and 19, for the WV Envirothon Competition. Transportation will be provided by private vehicle with Andrew Friel and one female chaperone.
- Trip with the forestry class to Mountain Gateway Community College in

Art, from page 1

Hertko said she is excited to have the machines out in the public and says that the project has become more than just a fun way to collect art.

"It's partially a public art piece because making an individual piece of art for one dollar is not incredibly sus-

tainable and so part of it is a grant-funded public art piece," she said. "I'm really excited to do this, and I'm hoping they'll be here for the minimum of six months and then I may come up with a different series and location."

"Most people can come up with four quarters to do something fun, and it makes it really accessible," she continued. "Not everybody can buy an expensive oil paint-

ing or an expensive sculpture, but it just helps art to be a little more accessible and to make it a little more casual and approachable."

The print designs include: a fall leaf, morrell mushroom, mountain laurel, rocking chair, mountain bike, ramps, a banjo, mason jar, black bear, cabin, trout, Mothman, ginseng root, firefly, cast iron skillet, canoe, camper and radio telescope.

Clifton Forge, Virginia.

- Bid for Gordon Food Service/HPS as the vendor for the Country Roads Food Cooperative.

In personnel management, the board approved the following:

- Resignation of Tom Denison as head boys basketball coach at Green Bank Elementary-Middle School, effective at the end of the 2023-2024 season.
- Resignation of Kenneth Beezley as head boys basketball coach at Marlinton Middle School, effective at the end of the 2023-2024 season.
- Resignation of Scott Garber as head boys basketball coach at Pocahontas County High School, effective at the end of the 2023-2024 season.
- Request to transfer Noah Pugh as school bus operator for Pocahontas County Schools from his current run to a new run.
- Employment of Jacob Dunbrack as school bus operator for Pocahontas County Schools.
- Employment of Richard McLaughlin as mentor for Alexandryl Hummel at Pocahontas County High School and Marlinton Middle School, effective for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year and for the first three grading periods of the 2024-2025 school year at a rate of \$625.
- Employment of Brianna D. Sharp as substitute teacher for Pocahontas County Schools, at state basic professional salary, based on degree and experience, for the 2023-2024 school year, as needed.
- Employment of the following probationary contract service personnel for the 2024-2025 school year: Stephanie Ames, Diane Arbogast, Kimberly Balance, Haley Cummins, Tabatha J. Ellis, Christopher Irvine, Kimberly Jordan, Julie Markley, Forest Mullenax,

Mason Owens, Noah Pugh, Trista Robinson, Arthur J. Sharp, Darrell Shinaberry and Tiffany Wayne.

• Employment of the following continuing contract service personnel for the 2024-2025 school year: Katie Broce, Loretta Irvine, Joseph Judy, Joseph Rose and Michael D. Sharp.

• Employment of the following probationary contract professional personnel for the 2024-2025 school year: Kristin Baer, Eleanor Bell, William Brown, Amanda Buzzard, Sarah Hamilton, Alexandyr Humel, Melissa

Jordan, Kaylea Kelley, Wendy Kirk-Picarella, Krystal Lewis, William Meehan, Melissa Robinson, Melinda Ruth, Jennifer Stewart, Jonathan Taylor and Tina Tracy.

• Employment of the following continuing contract professional personnel for the 2024-2025 school year: Kristi Hammons, Darla Huddle, Charlie Hughes, Michelle Rose, Cynthia Solak and Melissa Walker.

Suzanne Stewart may be contacted at sastewart@pocahontastimes.com

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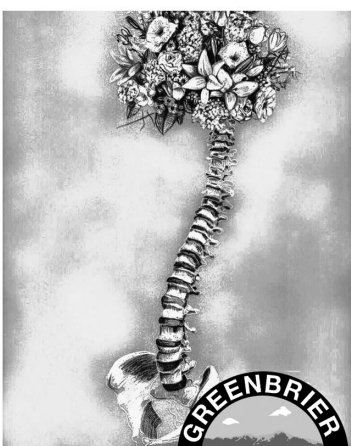
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RIFs, from page 2

the computer science teachers become CTE certified sooner because the state will fund CTE programs.

With that in mind and the evidence of Griffith's success working with her students, the board made the decision to keep the math position, and Griffith.

Although there was only one hearing request, there were a total of three RIFs on the agenda for consideration. The board approved to RIF Tabby McCoy at Hillsboro Elementary School and Katie Broce at Marlinton Elementary School, who were both first grade ECCAT/aides. ECCAT stands for Early Childhood Classroom Assistant Teacher.

There was no discussion regarding the two RIFs.

In financial management, the board approved payment of vendor listing, payment of local government purchasing card, employee payroll, change order for the School Building Authority for the Marlinton Elementary School roof project, audited 2023 financial statement and grant.

In miscellaneous management, the board approved:

- Memorandum of Agreement between the Marshall University Research Corporation and Pocahontas County Schools.

In personnel management, the board approved:

- Grade level reassignment of Kristin Baer from teacher of kindergarten at Green Bank Elementary-Middle School to teacher of second grade at Green Bank Elementary-Middle School beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.

- Consent to change Shirlene Groseclose as teacher of Spanish at Pocahontas County High School to half-time Spanish teacher/half-time virtual facilitator at Pocahontas County High School, effective at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year.

- Consent to change Teresa Mullen as teacher of Pro-Start at Pocahontas County High School to half-time teacher of Pro-Start at Pocahontas County High School, effective at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year.

- Resignation of Douglas Lantz as EMT athletic trainer for the Pocahontas County football team, effective April 12.

- Employment of Brandon Hamons as head baseball coach at Pocahontas County High School for the 2023-2024 athletic season.

The next board of education meeting will be Tuesday, May 7, beginning with an LSIC meeting at Hillsboro Elementary School, at 3:30 p.m., followed by the regular meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Landfill, from page 2

willing to pay Fertig-Hill \$24,307.50 for her to build the fence around the landfill by adding that amount to the purchase price. But he insisted that the Solid Waste Authority pay for the fence along the roadway.

The commission voted to pay Fertig-Hill \$129,900 for the property plus the \$24,307.50 for her to have the fence built around the landfill property, for a total of \$154,207.50. They said it would be easier for Fertig-Hill to build that fence than for the commission to have to go through the complicated process accepting bids for the job.

Ed Riley, Chairman of the Solid Waste Authority, said they had already offered to build the fence along one side of the road, if Fertig-Hill would build the fence along the other side, but the authority will still need to formally approve that at its next meeting.

Fertig-Hill indicated that the commission's offer appears to be acceptable.

Regarding the post-closure cost of monitoring the water at the landfill and of maintaining the cap for 30 years, SWA office administrator Mary Clendenen said they have revised down the estimated annual cost of that from \$75,000 per year to \$50,000. The commission indicated they might also be willing to help with that cost, as well as with some of the future costs of operating the transfer station since it is in the best interest of the citizens that the cost of garbage disposal remain as reasonable as possible.

In addition to the solid waste issue, the commission also met with Tim Keaton, the National Flood Insurance Coordinator for West Virginia; Betsy

Ranson from FEMA; Ruthie Maniscalchi, with WV Emergency Management; and two WVU GIS Specialists; and with the County, Durbin and Marlinton Flood Plain coordinators; to discuss the new FEMA Flood Plain Maps for the county.

Keaton explained that FEMA's new flood maps for Pocahontas County have just been released in preliminary form. He said that for now the maps are "advisory." He said they can be seen on the WV Flood Map Tool at <http://www.mapwv.gov/flood/map/>

He said they can also be found on the FEMA website <https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps>

There is currently a 90-day appeal period, then six months after that ends, the maps will become official.

He said the new maps have been under development for many years, and are much more accurate than the old ones. This is because Lidar mapping from aircraft was utilized to determine the exact elevations of the surface of the land. Keaton said the old maps used highway maps containing 20-foot elevation contours, and those are not nearly as accurate as the radar-based Lidar mapping.

Keaton said the new maps show expanded flood plain and floodway areas in the county. As a result, a much larger portion of Marlinton, as well as of other parts of the county are now in a flood plain or floodway. The areas in a floodway are more dangerous than those simply in a flood plain. He said new construction is very restricted in a floodway, while construction in a flood plain, while difficult, is still possible.

They said that the owner of a building in a flood plain should purchase National Flood Insurance, but if there is a mortgage on the structure, flood insurance is required by most lenders. He also warned that if your home is

mortgaged and the new flood maps place it in a flood plain when it was not before, your mortgage company will likely require that you purchase flood insurance.

Without flood insurance, Keaton explained, if your home is damaged in a flood, you could receive a very limited amount of disaster relief from FEMA — an average of about \$4,000, but if it floods a second time you won't be eligible for any more disaster relief funds. But, if a structure is covered by flood insurance there is an average flood damage reimbursement of \$19,000 for each flood damage occurrence.

They said that the new maps show that about 200 structures in Pocahontas County have been moved into flood plains, and about the same number have been moved out of flood plains. The new maps show there are about 900 structures in the county that are in flood plains, but only 190 of them are covered by flood insurance.

They said that the flood plain/floodway areas in Marlinton and elsewhere in the county have increased. Part of the reason for that is the increased accuracy of the flood mapping techniques, but also because people have illegally elevated of structures by adding fill which increases size of the flood plain and the amount of flood damages experienced by other properties in the area. They said FEMA will be cracking down in the near future on these fill-elevated properties that were built up without proper permits.

Keaton said there are flood mitigation grants available to homeowners who wish to legally increase the elevation of their house by using piers.

The presenters also said that Marlinton is in the top 10 percent of all flood risk areas in West Virginia.

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Your, from page 3

every afternoon, waiting in vain for his caretaker to come home. In the Japanese mindset, Hachiko represents something they hold dear – loyalty. Hachiko died in 1935, and by popular demand, a bronze statue of him now stands where he waited each afternoon at the Shibuya Train Station. In 1994, researchers found a 78 rpm recording of Hackiko's bark, and when played on the radio, millions of Japanese experienced hearing their canine hero's voice.



PHOTO OF HACHIKO and station master of Shibuya Train Station in Tokyo, where the dog waited in vain for his caretaker's return every afternoon for 10 years until his death. Public Domain

Greyfriars Bobby 1855 - 1872

We'll now catch a KLM flight from Tokyo to Edinburgh, Scotland, almost six thousand miles away. Here, we'll visit the grave of another extraordinary dog. Constable John Gray of the Edinburgh City Police was required to have a dog with him on his night patrols. He chose a Skye Terrier, who came to be called Greyfriars Bobby, to accompany him on his rounds. After all, Scotland is known for its many terrier breeds, including Scotties,

West Highland White Terriers, Cairn Terriers, and the Dandie Dinmont Terrier, all known for their intelligence and sense of loyalty. Neither Constable Gray nor anyone else would have believed the depth of Bobby's love and devotion to his caretaker. Constable John Gray passed away in 1858, leaving Bobby behind. Although various people ensured that Bobby was fed and cared for, he slept on Gray's grave in Greyfriars Kirkyard, a ceme-

tery in the old town of Edinburgh, every night for nearly 14 years. Greyfriars Bobby died on January 14, 1872. Edinburgh's City Council commemorated Bobby's exceptional loyalty with a bronze statue of him situated beside Gray's grave. Scotland is proud of its many heroes, and Greyfriars Bobby, a dog, is in the upper echelons of treasured figures like William Wallace, Rob Roy and Mary, Queen of Scots.

Amazing stories about dogs are told throughout the world. We are reminded from time to time that we are not the only creatures on Earth capable of love, selfless acts and incredible loyalty. I sometimes wonder if we humans deserve such love and loyalty. We are not there yet, but maybe someday, in a much kinder world.

Until next time, Ken Springer ken1949bongo@gmail.com

Letters, from page 4

nouns? What would he think of allowing repeat violent offenders to freely walk our streets and reoffend or shop lift without significant consequences? What would he think of drag queens reading to elementary school students or pornographic material in school libraries? What would he think of kids being allowed to believe they are animals or parents choosing to be their kids' friends and not providing the guidance they need to succeed in life.

What would he think of the homeless industrial complex that spends vast amounts of money to let the homeless continue their self-harming drug abuse instead of getting them the mental health care they need? What would he think of open borders with the vast influx of over 10 million individuals who do not qualify under the asylum rules driving down the income of Americans at the bottom of the wage ladder and in some cases committing violent criminal acts. What would he think of the 50-year war on poverty at a cost of 22 trillion dollars that has resulted in more depend-

ency and many poor families not having a father in the home. What would he think of taking money from working Americans who never went to college to pay off the student loans of those that did openly ignoring the Supreme Court's ruling on this matter. What would he think of the harm of paying able bodied citizens to stay home and not work? What would he think of the damage social media is causing to children? It is time for the adults in the room to step forward and stop putting up with this insanity and say NO. If you are an adult, I believe you

have the right to do anything you want that makes you happy to include loving anyone you want that does not hurt others, unfortunately much of what is taking place does hurt others and destroys the fabric of our society so don't expect us to help validate your choices if they are reflective of mental illness, your fetish or a desire to feel special without doing anything of value. We, the silent majority, have had enough of this stupidity. The answer is NO, a compassionate and caring NO.

Joe Kaffl Hillsboro

Calendar, from page 4

can. Call the library to register, 304-456-4507. Rain date: May 4. **Cards and Coffee** at Green Bank Library Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Beginners welcome. Hot drinks provided. **Friday Fun Day** 4 p.m. for ages three to 10, at Durbin Community Library. Reading, crafts and activities.

PARKS AND REC
All activities are at the Community Wellness Center, unless otherwise noted. **Zumba is back!** Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 5 p.m. **Chair Yoga**, Tuesdays, 5 p.m. at the Green Bank Observatory old tour center. **Yoga** at Durbin Library Tuesdays at 5 p.m. and Cass Community Center Thursdays at 5 p.m. **Taekwondo**, Wednesdays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. **Groovy Tots** – active fun for preschoolers, Fridays, 10 a.m.

CHURCH NOTICES
Central Union United Methodist Church, Worship 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m.
Marlinton Presbyterian Church – Sunday School 9 a.m.; Worship 10 a.m.
Arbovale United Methodist – Worship 11:15 a.m. Sundays; Bible Study 6 p.m. Thursdays.
New Hope Lutheran – Minnehaha Springs – Worship 8:45 a.m.
First Baptist Church – Huntersville – Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:45 a.m. Wednesday night service 7 p.m.
Marlinton Seventh-day Adventist Church, 16741 Seneca Trail, Marlinton. Bible Study Saturday 9:30 a.m. Church service, 11 a.m.
Seebert United Methodist Church – Sunday School every Sunday 9:20 a.m.; Worship second and

fourth Sundays at 10 a.m.
Catholic Mass: St. John, Marlinton – Sunday 9 a.m.; **St. Mark, Bartow** – Sunday 11:30 a.m.
Liberty Presbyterian, Green Bank – Worship at 11 a.m.
Dunmore United Metho-dist Church – Worship 10 a.m. Adult Bible Study via Zoom 8 a.m.
Marlinton First Church of the Nazarene – Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.; Wednesday night Bible Study 7 p.m.
Marlinton United Methodist Church – Worship at 11 a.m. Parking lot service on 90.3 FM radio, or join us on Facebook.
New Hope Church of the Brethren, Worship at 9:30 a.m. and Bible Study Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.
Pine Grove Church of the Brethren, Arbovale – Sunday School 10 a.m., Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study, Thursday, 7 p.m.
Cochran Creek Baptist Church, Rimel – Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.
Campbelltown Church, Marlinton – Worship 10 a.m.; Sunday School 11 a.m.
Cook Town Community Church, Rt. 219 – Sunday Service 10 a.m.
Edray United Church – Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.
Marlinton Church of God, Beard Heights – Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study 5 p.m. Study of Revelation. Sunday evening evangelistic service Sunday, April 2, at 5 p.m.
Marlinton Church of Christ, Lakeview – Sunday School 9:45 a.m.; Worship 10:45 a.m. and 6 pm. Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.
Trinity Baptist Church, Rt. 219 Buckeye Hill – Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.; Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m. Pastor David Moore.
Make submissions to the calendar by emailing jsgraham@pocahontastimes.com

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FOR SALE - 27 ton log splitter, \$1,000; 14hp brush chipper, \$2,500; 4x8 utility trailer, \$600. Call 681-368-3351. 3/21/1fnc

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FOR SALE - 1.8 acres at 138 Wildcat Run Road, Rimel. Overgrown bushes, dilapidated singlewide. Assessor appraised at \$22,500. 681-206-7138 or 305-608-6838 or sunnybeach@tutaimail.com 4/4/4p

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sonable/cash. 252-675-3869. 1/25/1fnc

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50, from page 7

TO PASSENGERS on the Cass Scenic Railroad, Cheat is the long climb to the top of 4,242-foot Bald Knob — the second highest point in the state.

TO MOTORISTS driving along U. S. 250 from Elkins to Huttonsville, Cheat is the mountain range rising proudly to the left of the valley. This drive affords the best view of Cheat.

TO JAMES TROTTER, who carried the mail across the mountain on horseback in the 1800s, Cheat was the road to immortality. One day, he received a nasty letter from the postmaster general in Washington about tardy deliveries, and his reply became legendary in the annals of the postal service.

"If you knock the gable end out of hell and back it up against Cheat Mountain, and rain fire and brimstone for 40 days and 40 nights, it won't melt the snow enough

to get your damned mail through on time."

INSTALLATION

Sunday evening, April 28, the Reverend Richard L. Newkirk will be installed as the minister of Marlinton Presbyterian Church. ... Mr. Newkirk is a graduate of Hampden-Sydney College. He received the B. D. degree from Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia, and has the M. A. Degree from Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Richmond...

WEDDING

Mrs. Florence B. Hinds proudly announces the marriage of her daughter, Sandra Michelle Hinds, to Ronald Franklin England, of Oak Hill. Sunday, the newly married couple visited the bride's mother and her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. I. B. Bumgardner in Marlinton.

BIRTH

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mullenax, of Arbovale, a daughter named Lisa Lynn.

History, from page 7

the meal special thanks were offered to the Giver of all good. In a short while, the bridal party started for the home of Mr. D. A. Peck. This was a proper mar-

riage, Miss Barlow is a popular, practical, Christian lady. Mr. Peck is one of our best young men. He is all that the word Christian gentleman implies. He has kept himself unspotted from the world, and it is safe to predict for him a useful and prosperous life. May their union be blessed.

DEATHS

Mrs. Cora Frances VanMeter, 60; born at Slaty Fork, a daughter of David and Jemima Johnson Hannah. Funeral service was held in the Slaty Fork United Methodist Church by Rev. Richard Newkirk. Burial in the Gibson Cemetery. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jacob VanMeter; and one son, Jacob VanMeter, who was killed in Vietnam.

Mrs. Nettie Blanche Tracy Malcom, 81, of White Sulphur Springs, a native of Boyer. Burial in Rosewood Cemetery in Lewisburg.

Cameron J. Wickline, 55, of New Oxford, Pennsylvania, formerly of Hillsboro, a son of the late James W. and Lena P. Dameron Wickline. He was a member of the Lobbelia Methodist Church and a World War II veteran. Burial in New Oxford Cemetery.

75, from page 7

DEATHS

Mrs. Lena Galford Knecht, 41, a daughter of Mrs. John Galford, of Cass, and the late Mr. Galford. Funeral service was conducted at the home of her mother Monday afternoon with interment in the Wanless Cemetery. She is survived

by four children, Mrs. Lester Turner, Mary Frances, Danny and Connie.

Mrs. Maggie Wade Alderman, 84, died at her home on Douthards Creek Her body was laid to rest in the Alderman family cemetery, the service being conducted from the home. The deceased was a daughter of the late George W. and Mary Ryder Wade.

Robert W. Barnett, aged 33 years, died at his home at St. Francis, Kansas. His body was laid to rest in Hillcrest Cemetery at McLean. The deceased was the son of Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Barnett, of Cloverlick.

During the late war he saw three years of honorable service in the United States Army; mostly in the Southwest Pacific area.

ducted from the Arbovale Church in the presence of unusually large congrega-

tion... The body was laid to rest in the Arbovale cemetery.

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6236

JEFF CAMPBELL
House of Delegates

HOLDING TRUE TO THE VALUES WE SHARE

- Pro-Family and Faith
- Pro-Life
- Pro-Second Amendment
- Pro-Education and Opportunity
- Pro-Economic Growth and Jobs
- Pro-Common Sense and stopping the Liberal Left's attempt to rewrite logic

DISTRICT 46 - EASTERN GREENBRIER AND SOUTHERN POCAHONTAS COUNTIES

I ask for your vote May 14 or in Early Voting, starting May 1

Paid for by Jeff Campbell for West Virginia, Bob Haas, Treasurer

LISTINGS

6585 - Bartow. 3BR/1BA with basement, two-car detached garage on 1.6 acres. Three outbuildings. Borders Recreation Park. Close to Greenbrier River and Trail. Durbin and Cass railroads. - \$169,900

6530 - Slaty Fork. Four wooded acres in Eagles Nest Subdivision, within a mile of the eastern entrance to Snowshoe. Near Cass Scenic Railroad, Greenbrier River and Trail. - \$49,900

6325 - Rainelle. 92 acres of woodland with some timber. The property is located at the end of a peaceful farm valley and backs up against the Meadow River Wildlife Management Area. - \$255,000

6200 - Mill Point. 105 +/- acres bordering Rt. 39 and just steps from huge section of national forest. Nice mountain views. Near Cranberry Glades and the Highland Scenic Highway. - \$235,000

6546 - Mill Point. Little Mountain Retreat, Lot D-6. Offering approximately 4.5 wooded acres in restricted development. Easy access, nice building site and great views. Owner financing available. - \$15,000

5175 - Beaver Creek. 2.03 level to rolling acres of woodland. Lot 4. Nice building sites. Near Watoga State Park, Greenbrier River and Trail and Knapps Creek. Seller wants offers. - \$24,000

6578 - Hillsboro/Mill Point. Lot B8. Lovely 3.3 wooded acres close to national forest, Highland Scenic Highway, Summit Lake, Cranberry Glades, Williams and Cherry rivers. - \$17,000

6618 - Huntersville. 3BR/2BA ranch home on 2.10 semi-private acres. Close to Greenbrier River and Trail, Knapps Creek, Watoga and Seneca State parks, Snowshoe and national forest. - \$129,000

6545 - Marlinton. 3BR/2BA brick ranch with attached carport on 0.33 acres. Features living room with gas fireplace, built-in bookshelves, display case, china cabinet and hardwood floors. - \$179,000

6633 - Sutton. 0.25 acre wooded ridge in remote mountain-top setting. Borders one-lane paved road. Mountain view. - \$11,000

6628 - Marlinton. Well-maintained, 3BR/2BA home with large front porch on 0.22 acre. Handicapped accessible. Just minutes to restaurants, recreation and entertainment. - \$150,000

6632 - Exchange, Braxton County. Home that can be torn down or used as a shed on 0.78 acre. Small stream, culvert, and drive to building or camper/trailer site. - \$12,900

6297 - Snowshoe. 2.30 wooded acres in Sunset Mountain. - \$7,500

6640 - Cass. 3BR/2BA home with huge garage on two acres. - \$325,000

6577 - Marlinton. Great home on 2.08 acres - \$189,000

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