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The Pocahontas Times

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MAY 16, 2024 VOL. 141 NO. 52

MARLINTON, POCAHONTAS COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA 24954

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Hop to it

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer

The sprawling farm in Edray, above the fish hatchery, has had a long life serving as a home and farmland for more than a century. It was once a working sheep farm owned by Ivan and Mary Frances Barlow. In 2012, it became a blueberry farm owned by Dan Lewis.

Now, it's a hops farm, owned by Jim Campbell.

Campbell bought the farm three years ago when he moved from Ansted to Pocahontas County. Originally from southern California, Campbell made a living in the special event industry, building stages and putting on shows across the country.

His former wife's family is from West Virginia and while the two were on a vacation with her parents, they came across a dilapidated 800 square foot home in Ansted. The For Sale sign in the front yard was quickly uprooted and the two found themselves remodeling the house.

Campbell's love of real estate and remodeling old houses brought him to Pocahontas County and his current home in Edray near Onoto.

Now that he's retired from the special event industry, he is focusing on his hobbies.

"One of my hobbies is fixing up old houses and the other is growing hops," he said.

He started growing hops eight or nine years ago and has expanded from one row of plants at his place in Ansted, to a large scale operation at Edray.

"Down there, I had a row of about a hundred plants, and I sold them to Free Folk Brewery," he said. "They made a fresh hop brew out of mine. It takes about two to three years to really get any kind of yield once you put them in the ground, so this year is really my third year up here."

In 2023, the crop yielded 20 pounds of hops and he sold them to Old Spruce Brewery at Silver Creek, which used them in a small batch brew. Campbell said Greenbrier Valley Brewing Company in Lewisburg has also shown interest in his hops.

Hops are grown in what is known as a rhizome, which is an underground branch structure. In the winter, the branches store up their energy and grow a healthy root system. In the spring, the vines pop out of the ground



JIM CAMPBELL HAS been growing hops for nearly nine years, three of those at his farm in Edray. Campbell sells the hops to local breweries and keeps some for his own personal, small batch brews. S. Stewart photo

and grow in a spiral up to 20 feet tall.

"They create these little buds," Campbell said. "They're about the size of your thumb. They have what is called lupulin – it's almost an orange, very sticky substance – that's the stuff, when you put it in your beer, that gives it the flavor. IPAS and the pale ales have a gen-

erous portion of hops in them to get that flavor and bitterness."

Like most plants, there are a variety of hops and they each have a signature flavor. Some are more bitter than others, and they have a fruity taste to them.

see Hop pg 5

Unofficial Election Results

Jaynell Graham
Editor

598 votes.

Keneth "Buster" Varner was unopposed in the sheriff's race on the Republican ticket. He received 712 votes.

It was a quick night for election results in Pocahontas County as the polls closed at 7:30 p.m., and the first precinct reported in at 7:57. All precinct results were in the courtroom before 9 p.m.

Overall voter turnout for the Primary Election was just 38 percent.

Nearly 60 percent of the 2,293 registered Republicans; 48 percent of the 1,545 registered Democrats; 5.56 percent of the 18 registered Mountain Party; and 2.5 percent of the 1,747 of those registered Non-Partisan cast their votes.

In the County Commission race, Republican candidate Thane Ryder ended the night with 711 votes to Timothy Helmick's 561. Democrat candidate Jay Miller, who ran unopposed, received 465 votes.

For Prosecuting Attorney on the Democrat ticket, Laura M. Kershner received 385 votes to Joni O'Neal Nichols' 289. No candidate filed on the Republican ticket.

Troy McCoy, Democrat candidate for sheriff, was unopposed, and received

Johnny Pritt, incumbent Republican candidate for Assessor was unopposed, and received 1,080 votes. No candidate filed on the Democrat side.

Non-partisan races are determined in the primary, and the successful candidates will take office July 1, 2024.

Incumbent Cynthia D. Broce-Kelley was unopposed for Magistrate, Division I, and received 1,602 votes.

In the race for Magistrate – Division II, incumbent Jennifer Dunz received 1,259 votes to Mark Thompson's 739.

In the Board of Education race, Sam Gibson and Emery Grimes were the two top vote getters, Gibson with 1,169 and Grimes with 972. Dawn Baldwin Barrett was a close third with 954 votes.

Timothy VanReenen was elected to another term as Conservation District Supervisor.

see Election pg 5

Forging a life together

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer

Mike and Bonnie Johnson have been honing their black-smithing skills for 15 years, and they create practical and artistic pieces in their forge at their home in Indian Draft, hence their business name – Indian Draft Forge.

Mike has had an interest in blacksmithing since he was a child and clearly remembers his introduction to the craft.

"[It] started in the summer of '54, '55, when my grandpa took me and one of my sisters down to Colonial Williamsburg, and we went to the blacksmith shop," he said. "The blacksmith was making horseshoes and putting people's names on them. Papa had one made for me with my name on it and this is it."

Mike still has the small horseshoe that sparked his interest all those years ago.

Bonnie came by it in a very different way.

"I've always been inter-

ested in traditional crafts," she said. "I grew up in New England, and there's a lot of that there. I've always had an interest in that kind of thing and I've always liked metal; the look and the feel of metal."

"She's a machinist, as well," Mike added.

"I got into that field – the machining and engineering," she said. "It went right into blacksmithing."

The couple joined a blacksmithing guild and have attended events where they have learned a lot about the craft from expert blacksmiths.

Mike likes to recreate 18th century designs and while Bonnie does the same with her work, and she also creates her own designs.

"She has turned out to be the more artistic of the two of us," Mike said.

One of Bonnie's most recent creations includes flooring that was manufactured by Mower Lumber Company in Cass. A neighbor was remodeling their home and

tore up the old floor. The neighbor asked if Mike and Bonnie would like to have the wood, and they did.

"I thought that's really neat, I like that," Mike said. "Bonnie almost immediately saw a coat rack. That's the artistic thing. I saw a board."

"I thought people would really like that," Bonnie said. Bonnie cuts the wood to a certain size and adds a metal bar and hooks to turn it into a coat rack.

Both have been traveling to Pocahontas County for years and, in 2002, they bought their now full-time home as a vacation spot. They knew they found the right place when they realized Mike had encountered the seller before.

"I guess I have the dubious distinction of having been one of the few people to be hauled out of Swago Pit by the rescue squad," he said.

Mike was a cave enthusiast when he was in college at University of Maryland. He and some friends came to Pocahontas County one Jan-



INDIAN DRAFT RESIDENTS Mike and Bonnie Johnson have been practicing blacksmiths for 15 years. They create unique works of art as well as practical pieces following 18th century designs. S. Stewart photo

uary to cave and, long story short, they had to be pulled out of the cave by a rescue crew.

"We came into town to get a cup of coffee," he said. "I remember the waitress came up, and she was a young

lady. I remember asking her to bring as much coffee as you could brew."

That was at French's Diner. Fast forward to 2002 when they were talking to Pat McNabb about buying some property and the cave

story came up in the conversation.

"I told her that story about the cave and her mouth dropped," Mike said. "She said, 'my God, I remember

see Forging pg 5

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Pocahontas County Opera House, Marlinton

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Keynote speaker: Karen Jacobson with Woodlands Development and Lending

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In This Issue

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Local ISPs may be excluded from BEAD opportunities

Tim Walker
AMR Reporter

At the May 9 Pocahontas County Broadband Council meeting, Melissa O'Brien, External Affairs Manager for West Virginia-based Internet Service Provider (ISP) Citynet, said, unless the State of West Virginia helps out smaller ISPs, most of the \$1.2 billion the National Telecommunication and Information Administration's (NTIA's) Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program is providing to the state will be awarded only to large multi-state ISPs rather than to local West Virginia ISPs. She explained the reason for this is that for an ISP to bid on a BEAD project they are required provide a 10 percent line-of-credit performance bond and put up a 25 percent local match. This, according to O'Brien, is unaffordable to all but the largest national ISPs. She concluded that Citynet is unable to compete with those national firms unless things change.

Mike Holstine said that the WV Broadband Council has contacted the Governor to try and get state aid to enable local ISPs to compete

for the BEAD projects. Holstine also said that the NTIA says they will not reduce the 25 percent local match requirement, but, on a case-by-case basis, might relieve the 10 percent line-of-credit performance bond requirement.

Both O'Brien and Holstine said that BLENDS program funds (Broadband Loan Insurance Fund) is currently down to \$10,000 in available money, and needs be replenished to help local ISPs apply for BEAD projects. Holstine said BLENDS is like a "rainy-day fund" for ISPs and suggested the Broadband Council should advocate for BLENDS to be replenished. Holstine was assigned to draft an advocacy letter for this from the Council.

Ruthana Beasley, of the Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation, said ISPs only have until the end of May to apply for BEAD projects.

O'Brien said that before the \$1.2 billion in BEAD funds can be awarded in West Virginia, every unserved address in the state has to have an approved plan to get broadband service, which is the principal goal of BEAD, with a secondary goal of providing broadband

to underserved addresses. However, the NTIA considers any areas awarded under RDOF to already have an approved plan to get served, even if no effort has yet been made to provide service there. So, RDOF awarded areas are not eligible for BEAD funding.

Cory Nipper, of Thompson & Litten, said the ARC Broadband Project is currently waiting for final approval of the Make Ready Pole Attachment agreements. Then, according to Amanda Smarr, of Region 4, all the environmental paperwork needs to be sent to the state for approval, and when those approvals have been done, the project will be ready to go out for bid. She is hopeful the bidding might begin in late summer, with possible construction starting at the end of the year or early in 2025. Construction should take 125 days (4 months.)

911 Director Mike O'Brien talked about the ARISE project, which is a West Virginia and Virginia joint project to improve emergency communications in nearby areas of both states. He said that a consult-
see BEAD pg 13

BOE moves forward with demolition plans

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer

At the May 7 Pocahontas County Board of Education meeting, board members had a discussion with representatives from Thrasher Engineering, Region 4 and the Town of Marlinton concerning the former board office located next to Marlinton Elementary School.

Since 2018, when the board office moved to its current location in Buckeye, the old office building in Marlinton has been used for storage. The building has been the subject of conversation for several years, with the board considering options for demolition.

Region 4 Senior Project Specialist Cassie Lawson said the board received a \$245,000 grant to demolish the building and Region 4 had a pre-bid meeting in which six primary contractors and one sub-contractor showed interest in bidding on the project.

Lawson said there were a few questions at the meeting that the board needed to answer before the project is put out to bid May 21.

The biggest concern is the concrete slab under the building. It was explained that the slab is quite large and is up to three feet deep in certain areas.

During the discussion, it was said that it would cost more to break up the slab and fill in the hole, than to just leave it in place and smooth over the area.

Lawson said she was under the impression that the school wanted to keep the slab and seek grant funding to put a pavilion and picnic tables there for the students to use at lunchtime during warmer weather.

The board agreed that it is better to keep the slab in place and have in the bid for the contractors to make the area smooth after the building is demolished.

Lawson said once the building is demoed, the asbestos will be taken to a special location and the rest of the building will be disposed of in Greenbrier County.

In reports:
• School nurse Jenny Workman gave a report on the school year and explained what she and the

three LPNs do at the schools on a regular basis. She explained that they do a lot more than just "put a band-aid on it and get ice packs."

She reported that from August 2023 to April 2024, the nurses had a total of 8,954 clinic visits and from those visits, children were sent home fewer than 900 times. In the other cases, the students were able to return to class.

Along with those clinic visits, Workman said the nurses have a list of students with medical conditions that need monitoring, and with some students, if they leave the school for a field trip, a nurse must go with them to ensure they are safe.

Hillsboro Elementary School principal Becky Spencer added that not only do the nurses help the students with their health conditions, they are also educating them and their classmates on how to see the symptoms of the condition and ways to treat it.

With some conditions, such as diabetes, students
see BOE pg 13

Manchin announces \$38.6 million for Rural Development Projects

U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced \$38,688,868 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development program for 14 projects across West Virginia. The initiatives will provide energy efficiency upgrades for a variety of businesses statewide, renovate more than 300 apartment units in Beckley, and

more. "Investing in our local communities spurs economic development and creates good-paying, long-term jobs," Manchin said. "I'm pleased USDA is investing more than \$38 million in these 14 critical projects, which will prioritize energy efficiency for our local businesses, upgrade wastewater infrastructure in Fayette County, expand quality housing in Beckley, and

more. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will continue advocating for funding to ensure our rural communities across the Mountain State have the resources they need to thrive."

• Included in the awards was a grant for \$489,717 to Mountain Linen Service in Pocahontas County, which will be used to purchase energy efficient washing equipment for the business.

MNF to host open house

Monongahela National Forest will host an open house to share information about the actions proposed in the Draft Deer Creek Environmental Assessment with residents of the Green Bank area and other interested members of the public.

The meeting will be held Wednesday, May 22, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Warehouse building on the Green Bank Observatory campus in Green Bank.

"We are very interested in talking about this project face-to-face with local landowners and anyone interested in the management of national forest land in the Green Bank area," said Greenbrier District Ranger Jack Tribble. "This meeting will give us a chance to listen to concerns and also share facts to ensure everyone understands the components of the project, including intended outcomes."

A formal presentation is not planned during the meeting and participants are free to come and go anytime from 6 to 8 p.m. There will be opportunities to talk directly with subject matter experts at stations on various topics such as watershed improvement, wildlife habitat, timber management and pre-

scribed burning. Maps and other materials will also be shared.

Planning for the Deer Creek project began in October 2022. The 89,050-acre project area is centered on the town of Green Bank and contains approximately 40,282 acres of National Forest System land. This project aims to move National Forest System land closer to the Forest Plan desired conditions by improving stream habitat, riparian corridors, and hydrologic connectivity; improving pu-

blic recreation and interpretive opportunities; reducing fuel loads; encouraging oak regeneration; and improving forest diversity and wildlife habitat.

For more information and to request reasonable accommodations, contact Thomas Craig at thomas.craig@usda.gov. Additional Deer Creek project information can be found at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/mnf/?project=60882>.

See additional information in the Legal notice on page 15.

911 Center Report

Pocahontas County Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director Michael O'Brien provided the following report of calls received by the 911 center during the month of April.

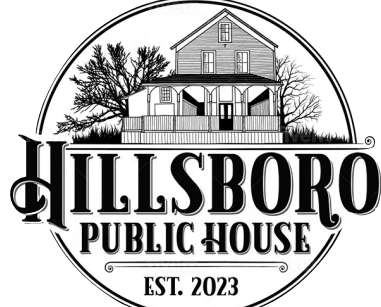
The 670 calls were as follows:

- Nature of Call/
Total Calls Received**
911 ABD, open, hang-up – 56
Abandoned vehicle – 1
Accidental dial – 2
Agency assistance – 3
Law, animal control – 13
Assault/battery – 3
Accident with injuries – 13
Auto accident – 12
Law, breaking and entering – 3
DNR bear damage – 2
Law, BOLO – 2
Fire, brush – 4
CAD2CAD – 6
Law, citizen assist/non-emergency – 26
Controlled burn – 10
Destruction of property – 1
DNR, violation complaint – 2
DOA/unattended death – 2
Law, domestic – 14
Fire, alarm elevator – 8
Alarm fire – 5

- Fire, non-emergency – 3
Law, general alarm – 20
Law, shots fired – 3
Fire, hazmat incident – 1
Highway traffic hazard – 35
Law, home confinement – 2
Triple I inquiry – 33
Information/notice – 13
Law, criminal investigation – 8
Law, general complaint – 56
Law, lost/found property – 1
EMS, medical – 56
Fire, medical alarm – 2
Law, mental hygiene – 2
Law, paper service – 13
Phone outage – 49
EMS, patient transfer – 43
Fire, secure landing zone – 3

- Law, sex crime – 1
Fire, smoke investigation – 1
EMS, standby – 1
Theft of vehicle – 1
Fire, structure – 1
System test – 18
Theft of property or items – 8
Law, traffic complaint – 9
Law, traffic stop – 55
Transferred to other agency – 3
Law, transport person – 1
EMs, trauma – 12
Law, trespassing – 1
Fire, vehicle – 1
VIN verification – 1
Law, warrant service – 13
Law, welfare check – 8
DNR, wildlife management – 4

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Opera House gears up for Summer Theater Camp

This summer, the Pocahontas County Opera House will once again open its doors for the much-anticipated Summer Theater Camp for kids in grades one through eight.

From July 22 to July 27, camp participants will embark on a creative journey in partnership with the renowned Missoula Children's Theater's Touring Program.

The theater camp provides a unique platform for children in the Marlinton region to showcase their talents through a production of "Gulliver's Travels." As part of the Missoula Children's Theater's mission to cultivate the arts far and wide, children will seize the opportunity to embody a variety of whimsical characters from the play.

Daily camp sessions will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. The week's endeavors will culminate in public performances scheduled for 5 p.m. on Friday and 2 p.m. on Saturday.

A modest registration fee of \$25 for the first child and \$15 for each additional sibling has been set, with scholarships available to guarantee that every child has a chance to join, independent of financial barriers. Beyond mastering their roles, campers will also delve into other theatrical aspects such as set and costume design, along with engaging in space-themed crafts and experiments.

This enriching experience is made possible by the generous support from

local volunteers, contributions from the WV Neighborhood Investment Program, Pocahontas County Parks and Recreation, Pocahontas County Schools, and various civic groups.

This year's camp holds a special significance as it honors the memory of Shenda Smith, a beloved opera house board member who recently passed away. Shenda's dedication to fostering arts experiences for children was unparalleled, and her legacy lives on through the continuation of the scholarships that bear her name.

The camp has space for 60 participants, while those beyond this number will be waitlisted. All campers will enjoy daily lunches and snacks, in addition to receiving a camp T-shirt and water bottle. A reminder for parents: your child should arrive at the opera house one hour early on performance Saturday to prepare.

Registration Details: For additional information or to register and pay online, please visit pocahontasoperahouse.org

Your child may already have received the registration packet through their school.

Please ensure that registration forms are returned to your child's school, the Wellness Center or the Opera House by May 23.

Do not miss this opportunity to witness the blossoming of our community's young talent through the captivating art of theater.

More information at mctinc.org/gullivers-travels-presenter-materials-summer-2024-2/



Ken Springer
The Saga of Lisa and Kelly Lange Two Cowgirls and a Desperado Part Two

Jeffrey Lange, Lisa and Kelly's father, recognized that his daughters were fearless and resourceful when they were young. He and their mother, Ellen, were mounted backcountry rangers for the National Park Service in Yosemite before retiring to Sedona, Arizona. Knowing this, the girls learned how to ride, read a topo map, and wilderness survival techniques when other young lasses were Girl Scout Brownies decorating paper plates with macaroni. Mr. Lange had this to say to his beloved children before they set off on their trip to the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest:

"We live in an unpredictable world ruled by the vagaries of nature and man. When we set out on an adventure, we must remember that any undertaking in the wilderness can go awry, no matter how well planned. The art of navigating such a world is adapting and responding to the unexpected."

He and Ellen knew in their hearts their girls were as capable as any man when it came to heading off into the backcountry.

Lisa and Kelly embarked on their 320-mile drive to the Humboldt-Toiyabe National

Forest, oblivious that the horse trailer's license plate had fallen off upon their departure from Purple Sage.

The drive north offered up some of our country's most rugged and beautiful scenery: Pine and juniper replaced cactus and creosote bush as they steadily gained elevation.

The two stopped to see the eerie landscape of Mono Lake, with its stark limestone pillars rising from the alkaline waters, three times as salty as the Pacific Ocean.

At the same time, the Lange sisters were standing on the shore of Mono Lake; a black-billed magpie perched high in a ponderosa pine in Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest watched a scruffy-looking man step out of a remote cave and into the light, but not before scanning the area to make sure no one was watching.

The man walked down a narrow trail from the cave to a small stream, drinking straight from his cupped hands. Standing up and looking around again, he returned to the cave and came back out shortly, leading a shoeless woman by a rope tied around her waist and wearing handcuffs behind her back.

He practically dragged the young woman down the slope and made her lie on her

stomach at the stream's edge, forced to lap up the water like a wild animal.

After departing Mono Lake, the Langes realized they had not eaten anything since leaving Purple Sage that morning, and it was lunchtime. They decided to drive the 30 miles to Bridgeport, California, the gateway to the national forest, and find suitable fare there before registering for a backcountry permit at the Forest Service office.

As was their custom, they drove around the small town before settling on a small and brightly lit glass and chrome diner offering bison burgers with, according to the sign, the best onion rings west of the Mississippi. They laughed, and Kelly said, "We'll have to put that claim to the test."

The Langes parked in the spacious parking lot with room for their truck and trailer. They took a booth with bright red vinyl seats, prompting Lisa to say, "Wow, this is like one of those diners in the 1950s, the one in that famous painting with Elvis and Marilyn Monroe in it."

"I think you mean Edward Hopper's Nighthawks painting, but Marilyn Monroe and Elvis were not really in his painting," replied Kelly.

"Whatever," said Lisa, "let's order their specialty, I'm famished."

Ten minutes later, they were discussing the merits of their meal when they noticed a man in uniform walking around their rig. "Lisa touched Kelly's onion ring-laden hand, saying, "Why is that cop checking out our truck?"

When the uncommonly handsome officer walked through the door, he glanced around the dining room, tak-

ing a seat at the far end of the counter.

When they finished their burgers, they ordered coffee and pie, also advertised as "The Best in the West." Lisa pulled out a map and started studying the route leading to the entrance to the national forest.

Kelly leaned across the table toward Lisa and said teasingly, "That cop keeps looking at you. Are you wanted for some crime you haven't told me about?"

Lisa replied, "The only crime in this diner is their overestimation of the pie; Mom's is much better."

"That's not what I mean; he keeps looking at you like he finds you attractive. We look a lot alike; we're practically twins, so why am I not getting some of his attention?" said Kelly.

"Well, replied Lisa, "it just may be that huge diamond wedding ring you're wearing. It shimmers like a disco ball reflecting off all the chrome in here."

As Lisa folded the map and they prepared to leave, the officer abandoned his meal and walked over to their booth. They both looked up to see that he wasn't a trooper but a tall Native American man wearing a National Forest Service uniform, gun and all.

He tipped his broad-brimmed hat just like in the movies and said, "Since I know everybody in this diner but you two ladies, I figure you must be the ones with the horse trailer out there."

"That'd be us," said Kelly.

"Your license tag is missing; do you have it currently registered?" he said, glancing back and forth between the two women," adding, "You must be sisters."

see Your pg 8



TRIVIA – a little something to think about

Courtesy of Chuck Cornell

If you didn't know it before, you know it now!

1. What 1997 movie features Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones as undercover secret agents who police extraterrestrials?

2. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, which state has the shortest one-way commute to work?

3. How many noses does a slug have?

4. Which popular condiment was once sold as a medicinal cure for diarrhea?



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The public is invited to join us for an afternoon of informative presentations highlighting tourism initiatives.

- **Keynote speaker: Karen Jacobson with Woodlands Development and Lending**
- **FREE Nature's Mountain Playground T-shirts for county residents at the Marlinton Visitors Center May 19-25 during National Travel and Tourism Week (please pick up in person).**



MOUNTAIN PLAYGROUND

POCAHONTAS COUNTY, WV

Hosted by the Pocahontas County Convention and Visitors Bureau

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

CASS DAYS

June 14 - 16, 2024

A WEEKEND LONG CELEBRATION FEATURING LIVE MUSIC, DANCING, ARTS & EATS AND MORE!

More details To Be Announced

ADMISSION IS FREE. FOR MORE INFO, VISIT FRIENDSOFCASS.ORG



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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor;
This past Saturday evening, the Town of Marlinton witnessed one of the nicest events that has happened in town in many years — the Countywide Eighth Grade Prom.

The rain didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the young ladies and gentlemen, who were decked out in their

finest attire. I want to thank all who donated or helped with the evening, and a special Thank You to Star Barlow for coordinating the event by turning the Marlinton Municipal Auditorium into a venue for an unforgettable evening for these young people.

Joe Smith
Marlinton



Marlinton Mayor's Corner

By Sam Felton

From humble beginnings, the Mon-Forest Towns Partnership (MFTP) has been best described, "internally," as "building the plane while flying it."

What began as a dream in 2017 has grown into a collaborative mission to bring sustainable economic development to West Virginia's hidden gems, improving the quality of life for residents and tourists alike.

Since February 2023, the MFTP, Inc. is a stand-alone 501(c)3 non-profit corporation with an emphasis on the recreation economy. Josh Nease is the Executive Director. But, the MFTP is not just recreation and bike trails. We are also seeking to address other forest opportunities, workforce housing needs, and workforce training in our conversations. Recreation is a part. Recreation is not the whole.

During the April board meeting at the Tygart Hotel in Elkins, many subjects were discussed. Each will elevate the economy in the eight county region. Among the 37 in attendance were

representatives from all 12 towns. Sessions included Woodlands Lending Projects and Opportunities with Karen Jacobson.

Karen will speak at the upcoming Tourism Summit at the Opera House, Wednesday, May 22. Local businesses looking to start-up or expand will hear of potential funding opportunities.

A Goal of Woodlands is to Move Businesses Towards Bankability. Half of their lending is Real Estate Finance. Helping Businesses and Borrowers meet Equipment and Furnishing Needs is what Woodlands is about. Information for big and small loans is available online at woodlandswv.org

At the time of the board meeting, business loans to Mon Forest Towns was at \$2 million, or 62 percent of Woodlands Lending. In order to raise awareness, Woodlands will come to town council or chamber of commerce meetings, or will meet with other interested parties to discuss options.

see Mayor's pg 16



What's Cookin'?

With Sally Cobb

Chicken Tamale Casserole

1 cup 4-cheese Mexican blend, divided
1/3 cup milk
1 egg
1 tsp. cumin
1/4 tsp. ground red pepper
1 (14 oz. can) cream-style corn
1 (8.5 oz.) box corn muffin mix
1 (4 oz.) can chopped green chilies, drained
Cooking spray
1 (10 oz.) can red enchilada sauce
2 cups shredded cooked chicken breast
1/2 cup sour cream
Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Combine 1/4 cup cheese and next 7 ingredients (through green chilies) in a large bowl, stirring just until moist.

Coat 13 x 9-inch baking dish with cooking spray,

pour in mixture. Bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes or until set.

Remove from oven and pierce entire surface liberally with a fork; pour enchilada sauce over top.

Add shredded chicken and remaining 3/4 cup cheese. Bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes or until cheese melts.

Remove from oven; let stand 5 minutes. Cut into 8 pieces; top each with 1 Tbsp. sour cream.

Serve.

Town of Marlinton Water Works

By Samuel Dunn, Chief Operator

Last week, as you made your way through Marlinton you may have noticed the men in bright yellow vests and the flashing lights on the Thrasher-marked vehicles. Those men were working for the Town of Marlinton, locating, inspecting and mapping parts of the sewer and storm water systems as part of the design phase of the upcoming project. You will see them several more times in the coming months. Beginning Monday, May 20, you will see another contractor performing work in a similar nature. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently evaluating its laws on lead in water systems nationwide. As a result, the EPA issued a mandatory ruling requiring all water system owners across the nation to conduct and compile what they call a "Lead Service Line Inventory."

This inventory is to identify and document the materials used in the water system that supplies water to customers, specifically the service lines. The service line is broken down into three parts, the Utilities side

from the main line to the meter, the meter pit itself, and the customers side — from the meter to the structure.

The Town of Marlinton has hired an independent contractor to aid in the completion of its Service Line Inventory, and, as stated above, work will begin Monday, May 20. The contractors will be working on the east side of the Greenbrier River, basically the oldest portions

see Water pg 16

Community Calendar

OPERA HOUSE
The Pocahontas County Drama Workshop will hold a reading of Ned Dougherty's play, "Deera's Country Funeral," Saturday, May 18, 7:30 p.m. at the Opera House. Admission is free. See details, page 9.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Farmers Markets: Green Bank Firehouse Wednesdays 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Hillsboro, across from McCoys, Thursdays 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. and Marlinton at Discovery Junction, Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Food Handler Course Tuesday, June 11, 10 a.m. at the Community Wellness Center. Wednesday, June 12, at the Durbin Library. Call 304-799-4154 to register. Cost is \$20.

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
Pocahontas County Local Emergency Planning Committee, Thursday May 16, 2 p.m. in the Hillsboro Mayor's office. The public is invited.

Pocahontas County Democratic Executive Committee Monday, May 20, 6 p.m. at McClintic Library. Open to the public and available via Zoom. Contact Jay Miller at jvmiller2008@gmail.com for Zoom connection info.

Allegheny Post 117 Tuesday, May 21, 6 p.m. at Arbovale Community Center.

All members are encouraged to attend.

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

EVENTS
Dedication of the Veterans Memorial at Gazebo Park on Main Street in Marlinton Saturday, May 18, at noon.

Forest Farming Field Day Saturday, May 18, at Yew Mountain Center. Learn to diversify your agricultural products.

Riverside Lodge #124 Cass, annual Ramp Dinner Sunday May 19, 4 p.m. All Masons, their family and friends are welcome. Bring a covered dish or dessert, if possible. For more information contact Shawn Bosley at 681-206-7019.

FREE Community Dinner Monday, May 20, Durbin Library, 5 to 6:30 p.m. Sponsored by community volunteers. Menu: Spaghetti.

The Yew Mountain Center's 8th Wildflower and Ramps Festival Saturday, May 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

FREE Community Dinner, Thursday, May 23, at Marlinton Presbyterian Church. Sponsored by area churches and community volunteers.

Mountaineer Horseshoe League Open Horseshoe Tournament Saturday, June 8, 10 a.m. on Ronceverte Island Park. Pre-registration is due by June 2. Contact Allen

Withrow 304-667-1374, or email puwithrow@gmail.com

LIBRARY NEWS
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
100 Miles in 100 Days — Walk a mile each day for better health. Kick-off event May 20, with a walk on the Greenbrier River Trail between 4 and 6 p.m. For information, contact the Extension Office at 304-799-4852 or Parks and Rec at 304-799-7386.

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.

Yoga at Durbin Library Tuesdays 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

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 Methodist 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.

see Calendar pg 15

Cowboy's Fresh Produce
Every Saturday
9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Seneca Trail Physical Therapy
Parking Lot at the bridge in Marlinton.

Check our Facebook page for weekly specials. **304-646-4493**

*** TAKING ORDERS FOR NORTH CAROLINA STRAWBERRIES ***

"Keep your family fed with fresh produce."

Beaver Creek Cemetery Annual Clean Up
Saturday, May 18 • 8 a.m.

Rain Date: Sat., May 25

New flags will be provided for all Veterans. Lunch to be served at noon.

Donations for the upkeep may be sent to:

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641 Violet Road • Marlinton, WV 24954

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Send address changes to:
The Pocahontas Times
206 Eighth Street
Marlinton, WV 24954
Telephone 304-799-4973
Fax 304-799-6466
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ALL-VETERANS' MEMORIAL DEDICATION

Armed Forces Day
Saturday, May 18,
starting at noon
Gazebo Park • Main Street
Marlinton

The public is invited to attend this special dedication of the All-Veteran's Memorial conducted by the Pocahontas County Vietnam Veterans of America

Veterans are encouraged to show their colors.

Memorial Day

The Arbovale Cemetery Association cordially invites the community and especially family and friends, who have lost loved ones this year, to attend the **Memorial Day Service Sunday, May 26, 2 p.m. at the Arbovale United Methodist Church**

Pastor David Rittenhouse will speak.

Pocahontas County Veterans Honor Corps will hold a flag raising ceremony at the Arbovale Cemetery, following the service.

During Memorial Day weekend, more than 400 flags will be placed on Veterans' graves at the Arbovale Cemetery.

WILD EDIBLES WALK
Fri., May 17
5:30 - 7 p.m.

With optional wild taco bar to follow!
www.yewmountain.org

West Virginia **FOREST FARMING FIELD DAY**
Sat., May 18 at Yew Mountain Center

The Yew Mountain Center
www.forestfarming.org
9494 Lobelia Road, Hillsboro, WV
info@wvforestfarming.org

ART ON THE TRAIL
JUNE 1, 2024

4th Ave Gallery, Marlinton, WV
Enjoy a day of Art/Crafts • 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Find unusual handmade treasures!
Be amazed at the imagination of gifted artists!

NON-JURIED ARTISTS: Showcase your talent!
Mail the following to Pocahontas County Artisan Co-op, PO Box 373, Marlinton, WV 24954

ART ON THE TRAIL • JUNE 1

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Text/E-Mail _____
My Art/Craft is _____

Obituaries



Annette Elza

Annette Evelyn Kelley Elza, 83, peacefully passed away of natural causes Tuesday, May 7, 2024, in Champion, Ohio.

Born May 2, 1941, in Clover Lick, she was a daughter of the late Eugene Kelley and Anna Clark Kelley.

Annette's educational journey concluded with her graduation from Marlinton High School and the Lewis Wineberger Hill School of Cosmetology. She opened and operated her own hair salon in West Farmington, Ohio, where she not only styled hair but also nurtured friendships and community ties.

Annette found solace in painting ceramics. She was an avid gardener and preserver of canned goods, alongside her husband who shared in that passion – which led to many adventurous dinners. She was always ready to cook a hearty meal to share with friends and family. When all the work was done, she would read and read late into the night. Her list of books was endless. Most of all, Annette loved babies, embracing

each little one.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Roy Lee Elza; siblings, Bernell Kelley, Lorne (Leti) Kelley, James Kelley, Walter Kelley, Robert (Ellen) Kelley, Eddie Kelley, Ted (Donna) Kelley, Arlie Kelley, Rhoda Fertig and Martha Smith.

She is survived by her sister, Ruth Saunders, of Wickliffe Ohio; son, Roy E. Elza (Justine), of Ohio, and Angela Newton (Randy), of Texas. She was a proud grandmother to eight grandchildren: Ashley Elza, Ryan Elza (Faith), Leanna Stewart (David), Brittany Sullivan, Kayla Cartwright (Britt), Karragen Dias (Jeremy), Brad Newton (Letha), and Dakota Newton, and 20 great-grandchildren.

Annette will be deeply missed, but her memory will forever remain in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to know her.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, June 1, 2024, at noon at Southington Baptist Church 4395 State Route 534, Southington, Ohio 44470.

Ronald McCarty

Ronald Gene McCarty, 83, of Frost, passed away Saturday, May 4, 2024, at Pocahontas Memorial Hospital.

Born May 4, 1941, in Marlinton, he was a son of the late Dewey S. and Goldie Sharp McCarty.

Ronald was a U.S. Vietnam Army Veteran, a diesel mechanic for Burns Motor Freight, and a farmer.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by

three brothers, Samuel, Alan, and John McCarty.

Ronald is survived by his wife, Barbara McCarty; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

Funeral service was held Friday, May 10, 2024, at Lantz Funeral Home with Abe Rittenhouse officiating.

Burial was in Mountain View Cemetery in Marlinton.

Online condolences may be made at Lantzfuneralhome.com

Henry Wolfe

Henry "Chuck" Wolfe, 82, of Deer Creek, was called home to meet our Lord Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at Roanoke Memorial Hospital.

He had been a resident of Pocahontas Center.

Born January 14, 1942, in Virginia, he was a son of the late Harper and Viola Hise Wolfe.

Chuck was the butterfly of Pocahontas Center, and he loved visiting all the residents.

He enjoyed gardening, hunting and fishing while he lived his life in Deer Creek. He was a timber cutter and worked for the Department of Highways.

Chuck had a close relationship with God and talked to other residents about getting saved.

He will be greatly missed by all.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Deborah; and son, Joseph.

He is survived by his son, Charles, and wife, Jennifer; and grandson, C. J. Wolfe, all of Summersville.

Election, from page 1

Donald McNeel will fill

the unexpired term of Conservation District Supervisor. McNeel received 1,063 votes to 875 for Michelle D. Wilfong.

The Board of Ballot Com-

missioners will convene Monday, May 20, at 9 a.m. in the commission room on the first floor of the courthouse to canvass the results of the election.

Hop, from page 1

"What I like to do is take a bud and put it in my beer and then suck the beer out around it because you get the pure taste of the hops that way," Campbell said.

Using a bud like that in its pure form gives a very strong and acquired taste to the beer, and Campbell said the hop can be used multiple times in this way and maintain its flavor.

Usually, hops are harvested in August and either vacuum sealed for freshness to be used later, or pelletized and used immediately in the brewing process.

"The big growers, they have pellet machines," Campbell said. "You put the whole vine through it and it pulls all the hops off. Then you clean it, let it dry and then you pelletize it. Those pellet packs will last a long time. They look just like the pellets for a pellet stove except they're green. When you put them in your beer, they dissolve."

The nice thing about hop plants is that you can clip branches off the vine and plant them. Campbell said he

can get up to 30 new plants off of one vine.

"They're really a weed, almost," he said. "They take off like crazy. It's pretty wild."

In his hop field, Campbell has Cascade, Centennial and Magnum vines. He installed 16 four by fours in the field, spaced out with string running from one to the other. Then, from those strings, there are more strings hanging down for the vines to corkscrew around as they grow.

"You've got to train it," he explained. "You've got to put the lines down each year that it climbs and once they're ready, you've got to cut them off, take them and lay them on a tarp or clean area, and pick all the buds off."

The hops are growing in the former blueberry patch, surrounded by blueberry and blackberry bushes. Well – at least, the bushes the neighboring cattle didn't get into years ago.

"There were eighteen hundred blueberry bushes at one time," Campbell said.

Next to the field, in a building Lewis built to process his blueberries, Campbell is putting in a small brewery where he will

make his own beer, host parties with friends and enjoy the fruits of his labor.

As a house remodeler, he has been stashing wood and fixtures for the brewery from other projects. He already has a chestnut bar top and salvaged wood and tin for the ceiling, as well as the equipment for a small batch brewery and canning of the beer.

"It's fun," Campbell said. "It's an easy hobby, really. It grows great here. Winters don't bother hops because they're underground. You cut them off at the ground, and they pull all their energy into the roots and branch structure. They shoot up like crazy in the spring."

It may seem like a lot of work to get it going, but being a hop farmer has been a welcome addition to his retirement in the hills.

In loving memory of

Joyce Varner

Oct. 7, 1938 - May 21, 2019

It's hard to forget someone who gave us so much to remember. Sadly missed by her family.

Forging, from page 1

that. I was the waitress that brought you the coffee."

"So we knew we were in the right place," Bonnie said. "It's funny how things go around like that."

The couple moved permanently to Pocahontas County in 2018. Near the house, they have a workshop where both have a forge.

"We used to share, but it got to where if she was doing something, I had to sit and twiddle my thumbs," Mike said. "Last year, I had to have my shoulder replaced. I thought when I get back, I don't want to be standing around, waiting for a turn because for several months I couldn't do anything. She kind of took it over."

"I wasn't going to give it back," she said, laughing.

Among the materials in the workshop is a special anvil that dates back to 1831 England. It belonged to a dear friend who was also a blacksmith. When he passed away, his widow asked Mike if there was anything he wanted to remember him by and he asked for the anvil.

It is the anvil Mike uses every time he crafts something.

The couple do both their own designs as well as commission work and currently have work for sale at Handmade WV Market in Marlinton. They also travel to fairs and festivals, including Watoga Art in the Park, where they demonstrate.

"We're going to get into doing more demonstrations," Bonnie said. "We do sell more when we're demonstrating, rather than just having something in a shop. We're going to try to do that

more this year."

Mike and Bonnie both take great joy in blacksmithing and enjoy both the artistic element as well as the historical significance of the art. Their love of the craft is evident to anyone who visits their home, which is decorated with several pieces of their own work, including a special ironwork door on their kitchen counter which allows their cat to get a drink from the kitchen sink.

"It's a joy," Mike said. "There is an art – a real art in it."

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Sunday 8:45 a.m.

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"God's work, our hands." Mimmehaha Springs

THANK YOU

The family of Ronald Gene McCarty would like to thank the many friends and family members who attended the service, called, sent flowers or food, spoke a kind word or said a prayer.

A special thank you to Abe Rittenhouse for the beautiful eulogy; Lantz Funeral Home for the service; and to the pallbearers.

God bless each of you.

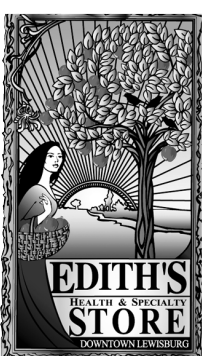
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POCAHONTAS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Graduating Class of 2024

Row 1
 Correana Jordan
 Jersey Simmons
 Emilyynn Hall
 Paige Vandevender
 Madeline Ray
 Ashley Bussard
 Kynlee Wilfong
 Oliva Vandevender
 Taylor Friel

Row 3
 Jessica Armstrong
 Cierra Sharp
 Jayden Lane
 Hailey Meeks
 Cheyenne Dean
 Elizabeth Friel
 Mackenna Shinaberry
 Adelyn Warner

Row 5
 Ciasha Waddell
 Mileya Bircher
 Andrea Alderman
 Alea Carr
 Taiyler Hoke
 Hannah Burks
 Emily Loftis
 Katie Jack
 Sabina Leyzorek

Not Pictured
 Emily Arbogast
 Lacey Stewart
 Kimberly Underwood
 Hannah Williams
 Elijah Evans
 Zachary Ketcherside
 Cameryn Boggs
 Christopher Williams

Katie Jack
 Emily Loftis
 Ben Lambert
 Ashley Bussard

Valedictorian
 Elizabeth Friel

Salutatorian
 Kynlee Wilfong

Row 2
 Zachery Murphy
 Reggie Whiting
 Nicholas Loudermilk
 Timothy Shifflett
 Jeremie Mick
 Cody Lewis
 Ben Withers
 Logan Warf

Row 4
 Remington Cook
 Luke Blechl
 Jacob Arbogast
 Benjamin Lambert
 Gavin Harrison
 Gavin Walls
 Clayton Burns
 Ethan McLaughlin

Row 6
 Stone Hall
 Wyatt Hendrick
 Hayden Walker
 Adam Workman
 Jordan Jackson
 Lane Butcher
 Kristopher Arbogast
 Joseph Cassell

Honor Graduates
 Jessica Armstrong
 Taiyler Hoke
 Mileya Bircher
 Madeline Ray
 Hannah Burks
 Cameryn Boggs
 Elizabeth Friel
 Oliva Vandevender
 Cheyenne Dean
 Kynlee Wilfong
 Sabina Leyzorek
 Correanna Jordan

*Graduation is
 Sunday,
 May 19, at
 2 p.m. in the
 PCHS gym*

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Your, from page 3

"We are," said Kelly, "and, yes, sir, the trailer is registered in Arizona, where we live, and, no, we did not know it was missing. Are you going to give us a ticket?" she asked with a wry smile."

He laughed and said shyly, "Oh no, I'm a ranger with the Forest Service and thought I should let you know that if you get pulled over by the California Highway Patrol, just show them your registration. They'll tell you to get it replaced when you return to Arizona. By the way, what brings you up here?"

Kelly and Lisa were so taken with his jet black hair and dark eyes that they took a few moments to respond. Lisa finally offered, "My sister and I plan to ride backcountry for a few days in the Humboldt-Toiyabe."

"We have some great trails here; you'll love the views," he said. "Can you direct us to the park office so we can get a permit?"

"Sure, be glad to," he replied a bit too eagerly, "Just follow me; I'm heading there now."

A twenty-minute drive brought them to the ranger station, a cozy log structure in a grove of lodgepole pines. As they exited their truck, the park ranger walked over to Lisa and Kelly, saying, "I apologize for not introducing myself earlier. My name may be unpronounceable to you, so you can just call me Joe," said the ranger.

"I'm Lisa Lange, and this is my much older sister, Kelly. And why would your name be unpronounceable?" Lisa asked, followed by Kelly elbowing her in the

ribs. "My parents named me Ahiga Todachine, not an altogether unusual Navajo name, but hard to remember for most others," the ruggedly handsome ranger replied.

Kelly shot back, "Let's stick with Joe. And say, aren't you a good bit north of the Navajo Reservation?"

"I grew up in a small town in New Mexico called Thoreau and worked at Chaco Canyon for a few years before coming up here. The Humboldt-Toiyabe covers over six million acres in California and Nevada, and there are twenty-six different tribes living there, mostly Shoshone and Paiute."

"Maybe we should head into the office and register you two for a backcountry permit," Joe continued.

Kelly started the paperwork while Lisa perused a large 3-D national forest map on a waist-height table. "We have to indicate which backcountry area we will be riding in," Kelly told Lisa.

"Well, we've never been here before, so what do you think, Joe? Lisa asked.

"If you want to stay high on the ridges for beauty's sake, you can't beat a thirty-eight-mile loop called the Tonapah Trail. It's noted for its splendid vistas, and the trail is much smoother and safer for your horses than the canyon trails." Joe replied, adding, "No one's back there now, so you'll have it all to yourself."

When the paperwork was completed, Joe handed Kelly the permit, reminding her that it was for four days. He also went over the rules about open fires and the pack it in, pack it out ethic, and reminded them to boil any water taken from lakes, as there have been some cases of Giardia in recent years.

Joe pointed out how to get

to the trailhead on a map and handed them a packet of information he suggested they carry with them.

Eager to get on the trail, Lisa said, "Thanks, Joe; we'll head down to the trailhead and get set up for tomorrow's trek before dark."

As they started for the door, Joe said, "There's one more thing I need to mention, although I don't want to scare you."

Being easy on the eyes, they both turned and looked at Joe asking at the same time, "What?"

Joe told the sisters that there was a serial killer who preyed on young women, predominantly Native American, in three different national forests in California and Nevada, saying Humboldt was one of them. However, he hasn't been active for several years. There is an FBI wanted poster and information about this piece of crap in your packet.

"Forewarned is forearmed," Kelly said. "We keep our father's 30/30 carbine on the pack mule."

Joe walked them back to their truck. He couldn't hide his interest in and attraction to the two women. Standing at the driver's window before they pulled away, he said, "Take care out there. I expect you to return that permit to this office in no more than four days. Otherwise, I am coming out to look for you. You'll find that you have a cellphone signal on most of the ridges but nada in the canyons. Keep your eyes open."

Joe tipped his hat again and walked back to the ranger station.

Kelly asked, "Do you think Joe gives this much attention to all visitors?" Lisa blushed at this, and the two drove away smiling.

To be continued... Ken Springer ken1949bongob@gmail.com

GBEMS Students of the Month



GREEN BANK ELEMENTARY-Middle School congratulates its Students of the Month for May. Front row: Jared Feldes, Pre-K; Cadence Carpenter, third grade; Rylan Lambert second grade; Jazmine Arbogast Kindergarten; Charley Beverage, first grade. Back row: Brayden Ray, fourth grade; Isabella Grogg, eighth; Aidan Wimer, sixth grade; Madalyn Rittenhouse, fifth grade; Makayla Plaugher, seventh grade.

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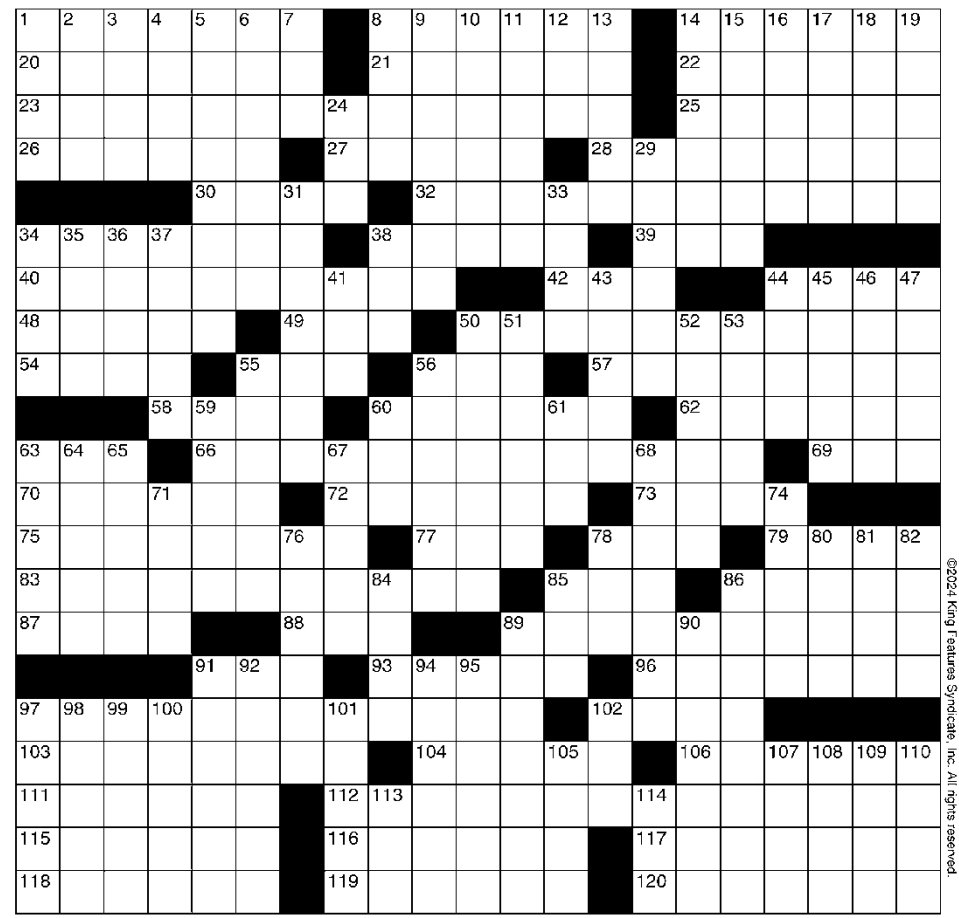
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|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Nineveh's empire</p> <p>8 Its capital is Kampala</p> <p>14 12-step affiliate group</p> <p>20 New Guinea natives</p> <p>21 Renovates</p> <p>22 Ketchup ingredient</p> <p>23 It's used for outlining designs in embroidery</p> <p>25 Internet newsgroup</p> <p>26 Alloy that's mostly tin</p> <p>27 1990s Toyota model</p> <p>28 Grills in stoves</p> <p>30 Take a stroll</p> <p>32 Cheerful disposition</p> <p>34 Carrying of a boat</p> <p>38 View anew</p> <p>39 Nonsense song syllable</p> <p>40 American bird with all-white plumage</p> <p>42 "So there!"</p> <p>44 Feels unwell</p> <p>48 Lawyers: Abbr.</p> <p>49 Dental floss coating</p> | <p>50 Difficult matter to deal with</p> <p>54 Saw or sickle</p> <p>55 Implore</p> <p>56 Olympic skater Midori</p> <p>57 Enumerating</p> <p>58 Oman locale</p> <p>60 One trapping</p> <p>62 Shrink back</p> <p>63 They may have jingles</p> <p>66 Passionate love affair</p> <p>69 Hairstyling goop</p> <p>70 "C'mon, help me out"</p> <p>72 "Finally finished!"</p> <p>73 St. Louis' — Bridge</p> <p>75 Artifacts of Angola, e.g.</p> <p>77 Ares or Eros</p> <p>78 Greyhound vehicle</p> <p>79 Misfortunes</p> <p>83 The U.S. State Department, informally</p> <p>85 Sultry</p> <p>86 Pfler</p> <p>87 Casual tops</p> <p>88 Fancy playing marble</p> <p>89 Even break</p> <p>91 "... do say so myself"</p> <p>93 "In all probability ..."</p> | <p>96 Warned</p> <p>97 Bird that flies near the ocean's surface</p> <p>102 Utter failure</p> <p>103 Military base</p> <p>104 "The best is — come"</p> <p>106 Ancient rival of Athens</p> <p>111 Became inseparable</p> <p>112 Apt question for this puzzle</p> <p>115 Northern Spanish city</p> <p>116 Actress de Ravin of "Roswell" and "Lost"</p> <p>117 Pain greatly</p> <p>118 Person ripping things</p> <p>119 Key in anew</p> <p>120 Dwellers around Peru's peaks</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Per unit</p> <p>2 Rescue</p> <p>3 Spurt out</p> <p>4 Circular tent</p> <p>5 Speeding cars' ovals</p> <p>6 Boiling mad</p> <p>7 Equine beast</p> <p>8 Celestial bear</p> <p>9 Gears up</p> <p>10 Farewells</p> <p>11 Zero</p> | <p>12 Yuletide mo.</p> <p>13 "Harold and Maude" director Hal</p> <p>14 When it's 1600 hours</p> <p>15 "Blaze" actress</p> <p>16 Scenics From —" (Bette Midler film)</p> <p>17 "And Bingo was his —"</p> <p>18 New Mexico county</p> <p>19 From Oslo's country, to its natives</p> <p>24 Toll rd.</p> <p>29 "Number 10" painter Mark</p> <p>31 Stockings, say</p> <p>33 Classic soda</p> <p>34 Jr.-year exam</p> <p>35 Savvy about</p> <p>36 — Rooter</p> <p>37 Tharp of choreography</p> <p>38 Dinosaur in "Toy Story"</p> <p>41 Dusting cloth</p> <p>43 Capital of Ghana</p> <p>44 Fizzy wine, in brief</p> <p>45 Walt Whitman's "— the Body Electric"</p> | <p>46 Fencer's attack</p> <p>47 Jason of "Bad Teacher"</p> <p>50 Celebrity status</p> <p>51 Doughnut or bagel's shape</p> <p>52 New Mexican succulents</p> <p>53 Common way to mark losses</p> <p>55 Place to dissect a frog</p> <p>56 Blue shade</p> <p>59 Actor Keach of "Mike Hammer"</p> <p>60 Caesar of old comedy</p> <p>61 CPR pro</p> <p>63 Toward a ship's stern</p> <p>64 Crusoe creator Daniel</p> <p>65 Platoon VIP</p> <p>67 Rodeo lasso</p> <p>68 Idling position</p> <p>71 Oinkers</p> <p>74 Indian lute</p> <p>76 Gratuitly prohibiting policy</p> <p>78 Young guy, in hip-hop</p> <p>80 Pre-Easter time</p> <p>81 Shoe securer</p> <p>82 Yukon vehicle</p> <p>84 Tease in fun</p> | <p>85 Head cover</p> <p>86 Mark of TV's "Super-natural"</p> <p>89 Certain pinpoint feature</p> <p>90 Seal, as a house-buying deal</p> <p>91 Hinder</p> <p>92 Novelist Dostoyevsky</p> <p>94 Deadpan humor</p> <p>95 "The Office" character Pam</p> <p>97 Wood shoe</p> <p>98 Treasure pile</p> <p>99 "— vincit amor"</p> <p>100 Winona of "Black Swan"</p> <p>101 Once-popular anesthetic</p> <p>102 Rival</p> <p>105 You, of yore</p> <p>107 "Stop staring —!"</p> <p>108 Ostrich kin</p> <p>109 Ky, neighbor</p> <p>110 Part of B.A.</p> <p>113 Kipling's "Follow Me —"</p> <p>114 Org. founded by Billie Jean King</p> |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|



Home, Farm & Garden

Home! Sweet Home

Laura Dean Bennett
Staff Writer

In the early 20th century, Sears, Roebuck and Co. and Montgomery Ward sold tens of thousands of kit houses through their mail-order catalogs.

The “kit” homes gave many Americans an opportunity to have their first home.

In 1906, Sears manager Frank W. Kushel had the responsibility for the catalog company’s building-materials department. Sales were down, and there was excess inventory languishing in warehouses.

Kushel suggested to the boss, Richard Sears, that they sell home assembly kits by mail order – and the rest is history.

The first Sears home kit catalog featured 44 home plans ranging in price from \$360 to \$2,890. Later, prices were raised.

Mass production of Sears homes allowed them to pass along the savings to their customers.

There were already companies selling kit homes before Sears and Montgomery Ward came on the market, but these two soon dominated the market.

By the company’s count, from 1908 to 1942, Sears sold more than 70,000 houses in North America.

They were purchased by customers all over the country – on the East Coast, in the Midwest, Florida, as far west as California and as far north as Alaska and Canada.

Many kit homes were built in West Virginia.

They’ve been discovered in many cities and towns around the state, including Huntington, Charleston, Elkins, Beckley, Lewisburg and Ronceverte.

There are even several still standing and in good condition here in Pocahontas County.

Local lore in Marlinton suggests that the house on 10th Avenue, which houses the Mosesso Agency is possibly a Sears or Montgomery Ward kit home. And there are thought to be others located nearby.

Cathy Mosesso said that her family always loved the house.

“It’s just a beautiful old house with a lot of character,” Mosesso said, smiling.

Although the Mosessos don’t know for sure that the house was a kit house, it’s design and interior appointments are reminiscent of the designs and illustrations found in the Sears and the Montgomery Ward home kit catalogs.

Claire Mosesso Rose did a little research in the home, searching the underside of the claw-foot tub and the cast-iron fireplace inset for any engraved identifiers.

“We’ve heard that the

The “bungalow” plans, which were less expensive, were the most frequently purchased. They featured two or three bedrooms, a kitchen, bathroom and some combination of living room, dining room and/or a small dining “nook.”

But larger, pricier models were available.

“The Magnolia,” a three-story Georgian-style home, was one of Sears’ most expensive. It featured a two-story columned portico, a



THE HOME OF Stanley and Pat McNeill in Buckeye is a wonderful example of a Sears kit home. The McNeills remodeled the interior of the home when they bought it several years ago. The interior and exterior have been impeccably maintained. J. Graham photo



CLAIRE MOSESSO ROSE suspects that the home of the Mosesso Agency in Marlinton, may be a “kit” house, manufactured either by Sears or Montgomery Ward. L.D. Bennett photo

house was perhaps a Sears kit house,” Rose said.

“We’d love to find out more about the house’s history, whether it’s a kit house or not.”

Sears sent the blueprints along with the kit and assured customers that a “man of average abilities” could complete one of their homes in 90 days.

Customers were notified of the date that their kit would arrive at the train station.

The kit came complete with all necessary material to build the home. It included about 50,000 pounds of lumber, nails, shingles, windows, doors, pipes and fittings which had to be hauled by horse-drawn wagon or truck to the home site.

In the tradition of barn-raising, many kits were assembled by the homeowner, their relatives, friends and neighbors.

porte-cochere, and all the latest in modern conveniences.

For instance, the kitchen not only had a built-in “ice box” (predecessor to a refrigerator) with an “ice box door” where the ice man could deliver the 25-or 50-pound block of ice directly into the ice box without coming into the house.

It was also known as the “Jealous Husband’s Door.”

There was a walk-in pantry in the kitchen and a second set of stairs off the kitchen leading to a servant’s room.

Upstairs were four bedrooms, a family bathroom, a sleeping porch, a deck off of the upstairs landing and a servant’s bathroom (it was not uncommon at turn of the century for a middle-class family of means to employ a

live-in servant girl).

Besides a spacious living room and dining room, there was a sunroom and a den.

Between Sears and Montgomery Ward, there were hundreds of house plans to choose from, in a range of styles, most costing between \$500 and \$6,000.

Sears even offered financing.

Their mortgage loans were typically for five-to-fifteen-year terms at 6% to 7% interest.

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Feeding our feelings

Laura Dean Bennett
Staff Writer

Ask any mother and she'll tell you – having a definite preference for a specific food, to the exclusion of all others, begins in early childhood.

It's natural that the foods we fall in love with when we're young often become our adult "comfort foods."

And we Americans love our comfort foods.

The huge health food trends of the 1960s, 70s, 80s and 90s should have been the death knell of comfort food. It certainly taught us how harmful high fat and high sugar diets could be for our health.

A flood of low-fat, no-fat products hit the supermarket shelves and arrived in everyone's fridge and pantry.

And yet, comfort foods persist and, if anything, our demand for them has only grown.

Why do we form such passionate attachments to what is sometime, often, actually, unhealthy fare?

It's because food is so much more than just nutrition – it feeds our body, but it also feeds our mind and our heart.

It's a powerful emotional mix of associations and connections to who and what was and is most important to us – home, family and memories.

There is even scientific speculation that by triggering a nostalgic memory, even the smell of a comfort food or a certain sound can elicit a surge of dopamine. I imagine most of our personal experiences with comfort foods would confirm that theory.

Who doesn't have an emotional response to the tinkling music of an ice cream truck?

Psychologists say that comfort food fulfills a fundamental need to belong and report that many of us experience observable emotional and/or physical relief from

eating comfort foods.

We gravitate to certain foods because they ensure a release of dopamine, a neurotransmitter that affects the pleasure center in our brain.

The brain learns to consider a particular food a reward and, of course, it tastes good. At the same time, the food affects us emotionally by evoking a memory, making the gratifying experience complete.

Over time, with repetition, this association becomes more profound.

It may not be as healthy a response to stress as say, exercise, but during times of stress or sadness, we often turn to comfort food to help get us through.

Carbohydrates and sweets often figure prominently among comfort foods. I think most of us would agree – there's just something about high calorie food that always "hits the spot."

A certain drive-thru brand of French fries might be your comfort food because your school sports team always stopped there on the way home from a game. The fries evoke the comradery of belonging and the memory of being young.

And let's face it, what's better than the immediate gratification of salty, hot fries from your favorite drive-thru?

But not all comfort foods are bad for you.

Many people consider a bowl of chicken noodle soup the essence of comfort food and akin to medicine, even when we're not under the weather. Why? Because as kids, mom lovingly tended us with her homemade chicken noodle soup when we were ill.

In short, it's less about the food itself, but more about what it represents.

Our favorite comfort foods have varied over the years.

Americans love affair with chocolate began over a hundred years ago and has only

grown over the years, arguably becoming our #1 comfort food.

We can partially thank chocolate manufacturing pioneers Milton Hershey and H.B. Reese for our addiction to chocolate.

Hershey began the assembly-line production of milk chocolate and sold the first milk American chocolate bar in 1900.

Chocolate bars soared in popularity during the 1920s with dozens of new chocolate candies coming on the market by the end of the decade.

H.B. Reese, who had worked at Hershey's, launched his own candy company in 1923 and introduced Reese's Peanut Butter Cup, which, along with Hershey Bars, became two of America's favorite guilty pleasures and perennial Halloween favorites – and they still are.

Devised eggs began making an appearance at family reunions, picnics and church socials in the early 1900s, when automobiles came on the scene, which made it possible for people to take food on the road.

They made great finger food and were great for snacking in almost every American home. No wonder people my age have fond memories of deviled eggs and many consider them comfort food.

Meatloaf also made its way into the American consciousness in the 1920s. It was an inexpensive way to get a little meat – combined with a lot of stale bread – onto the table. Every family has its own time-honored recipe for meatloaf which lives in the children's memories forever.

When waves of Italian immigrants began arriving in

the 20th century, it didn't take long for Americans to learn to love spaghetti and meatballs. When, inevitably, moms began putting their own spin on it, and families began expecting it almost weekly, another comfort food was born.

There's a reason for the famous phrase: "as American as apple pie." Ever since Johnny Appleseed traveled the country planting apple trees, apple pie has been a regular treat in American homes. No wonder it ranks up there as one of our favorite comfort foods.

And another classic American treat, apple pie à la mode, brings us to one of the greatest comfort foods of all time – ice cream.

Ice cream isn't just an American comfort food – it's one of the most popular comfort foods in the world.

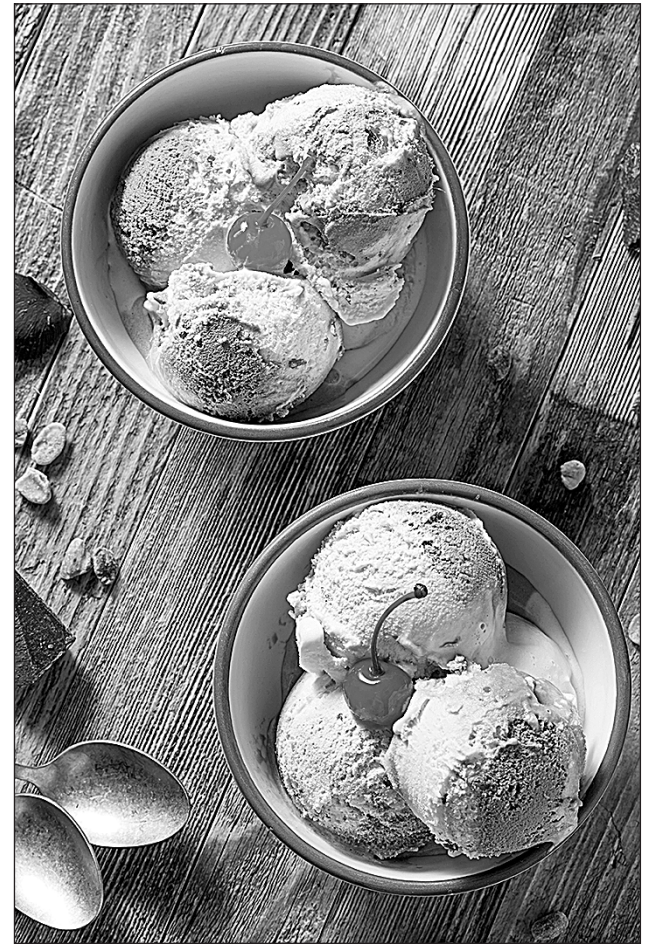
In America, ice cream had been enjoyed since the 1800s by people who harvested their own ice or lived in proximity to commercial ice houses.

And then there were those who could gather ice from local caves – as we did here in Pocahontas County.

But it wasn't until the second half of the 20th century, when widespread refrigeration became common, that ice cream took off big time.

In the 1920s, during Prohibition, many early American breweries like Anheuser-Busch began manufacturing ice cream and carbonated beverages to stay afloat. As it happened, the sugar and fat in ice cream conveniently made an excellent substitute for alcohol, when it came to dealing with stress.

Ice cream also became popular at the nation's growing number of soda fountains, so much so that by 1929, ice cream consump-



tion had grown by more than 100 million gallons annually, peaking at more than a million gallons per day.

And then the Great Depression hit and it did affect the sale of ice cream – for a while. But Americans couldn't give it up and it would soon be back.

Ice cream has stayed at the top of the list of our favorite comfort foods, despite the tough times, and maybe because of them.

In the 1970s, despite the advent of our interest in health food, we were inundated with food trends which encouraged busy families to sit down to a fast meal of TV dinners, Hamburger Helper and Sloppy Joes.

There was also a trend to-

ward more exotic flavors found in recipes which called for Hawaiian pineapple and international foods such as quiche and fondue.

Also in the 70s, the "pizza pies" that had grabbed hold of our taste buds in Italian restaurants and at state fairs in the 60s, made their way to our home freezers. Frozen pizza quickly became a common household snack.

In addition to pizza, potato chips and Chex Mix quickly climbed aboard the comfort food list, and have stayed there since the 70s, contributing to the burgeoning snack economy.

These days, comfort foods have become big business-

see Feelings pg 13

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Summer gardening

Melody Phillips
Staff Writer

The hot days of summer are just around the corner, and gardening will be going great guns – but be careful of those late frosts.

I have heard several people talking about how they have lost most, if not all, of their crops this year due to “late frosts” in April. But are they really “late” in this area?

Two old gardening sayings around here are “wait until after Mother’s Day” or “wait until after May’s full moon.” Some old-timers have told me about how they have even experienced snow showers in June. I tend to listen to those who have been around long enough to have a mastery level of know-how, and I value their advice. So, until then, my tomatoes are staying in the greenhouse.

There are some vegetables that are considered cool weather crops and do well even through a frost. Granny always said that peas get sweeter when hit with a bit of frost. Carrots also seem to need some cold to really get that sweetness in them. Broccoli, beets, garlic, Brussels sprouts, asparagus, celery, lettuce, cauliflower, and many leafy greens, to name a few, are all cool weather friendly and do well this time of year. But as the temperatures rise, it’s a good practice to rotate these foods out for the heat-lovers.

With proper planning, cool weather vegetables can be grown throughout the summer. One method is by making a canopy out of heat loving vining plants. Indeterminate tomatoes, pole beans, or cucumbers grown on a vertical or arching supports will create a nice shade area under them to grow some cool weather crops, such as lettuce.

Some other heat loving

vegetables are watermelon, cantaloupe, corn and peppers and many herbs.

Tomatoes, peppers, squash and beans are some of the most commonly grown home garden vegetables throughout the USA. While many people tend to grow tomato and pepper plants as annuals, they are actually perennials. As a tender perennial, they are quickly killed by frost. However, when protected, these plants can live for more than five years. Some people have reported their pepper plants living for as many as 15 years.

Gardens do not need to be large to produce an abundance of produce. Interplanting different crops, or companion gardening, can greatly increase the harvest of even tiny garden spaces. Another technique is combining companion gardening with square-foot gardening. The following crops could all fit in just a single square foot of space: one tomato, two to six garlic, and one to four basil. The combinations are endless.

Adding vertical gardening into the above options will take growing space to another level. Growing pole beans on supports could supply a greater harvest in less space than bush beans. Bush beans grow quickly and start producing faster than pole beans but tend to have a shorter productive life. Meanwhile, pole beans take longer to start producing but won’t stop until the fall frost kills them. In short season climates, half runners may be a good middle ground. They “run” more than bush beans, so they can still be grown vertically but start producing earlier than the traditional pole beans. Try planting some broccoli, beets or Brussels sprouts in the partial shade of the supported bean vines and throw in a few carrot or catnip seeds.



RASPBERRIES ARE EASY to grow, beautiful to look at, and good for you. Studies show that raspberries can help lower blood pressure and prevent heart disease and stroke. M. Phillips photos

Tomatoes, beans and peppers are staple items in many home gardens, but no garden should be without at least a few perennial veggies. You might add asparagus, rhubarb (nicknamed the poor man’s fruit), horseradish, globe and Jerusalem artichokes, potato onions, lovage (similar to celery), and a slew of different herbs add diversity and flavor with little fuss.

Asparagus needs about three years to develop strong enough to harvest but, with proper care, it can grow and provide food for 30 years and longer. The main care for this prolific plant is to keep the weeds out, feed it occasionally, and if the shoots start getting too thin, allow them to fern out instead of harvesting. When

they go to fern, more food and energy can be carried to the roots for healthier plants.

Rhubarb is another perennial I like to have around, and it’s not just for eating. The stems are used more like a fruit than a vegetable. It can be made into jams and other desserts, but the leaves should not be eaten due to the high levels of oxalic acid. The leaves do have other uses. Rhubarb leaves contain high levels of potassium and other nutrients good for growing plants. They can

add nutrients to a compost or be used as a mulch around other garden plants. Boiling the leaves and using the tea to feed the garden can give plants a vitamin boost. Spraying a strong rhubarb leaf tea on plants may even help fight some plant blights and is an effective insect repellent; edible parts sprayed with the tea should be thoroughly washed before consuming.

The tea made from rhubarb leaves can also be used to make a warm yellow natural dye.

For beekeepers, oxalic acid has been used effectively for treating mites in honeybee hives. Throwing a few leaves into the top of a hive supplies a natural

source of low dose oxalic acid which can help fight varroa while not harming the honeybees.

Herbs add an endless variety and depth of flavor to almost any food, and they smell great! Once established, perennial herbs like rosemary, thyme, chives and oregano require almost no upkeep. Here, in zone 5, my chives, oregano and wormwood hibernated well through the winter and are now growing and spreading, without any effort on my part.

Because rosemary and thyme are a little more intolerant to cold, they are planted in the greenhouse and are doing very well.

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Skunk Cabbage – the name doesn't match the plant

Laura Dean Bennett
Staff Writer

It doesn't have anything to do with skunks, and it's not a cabbage, but everyone around these parts calls it "skunk cabbage." And it has a bad reputation.

This spring, when the red-winged black birds were calling and the goldfinches were feasting on dandelions, green plants in the woods were still in short supply. I noticed the hearty green shoots of the skunk cabbage that grows along the watery trace near my place which I call Little Beau Creek – and I admired it.

When I asked what it was, I was told, "Oh, that's that old skunk cabbage."

I decided to do a little research about skunk cabbage and it turns out, like a lot of plants we assume are "just useless weeds," skunk cabbage is far from useless and certainly no weed.

Skunk cabbage is a perennial wildflower that grows in swampy, wooded areas. This unusual plant sprouts very early in the spring, and has an odd chemistry that creates its own heat, often melting the snow around itself as it first sprouts in the spring.

While the first sprout, a pod-like growth, looks like something out of a science-fiction movie, the skunk cabbage is a plain-looking green plant once the leaves appear.

There are two common types in North America- the Eastern skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*), which is purple, and Western skunk cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*), which is yellow.

Skunk cabbage gets its name from the fact that, when the leaves are crushed or bruised, it gives off a skunky smell – some even say it smells like rotting meat.

Skunk cabbage is one of the few plants in the world that can create its own heat. This heat can be as much as 20 to 35 degrees above the surrounding air temperature. If the temperature drops below 37 degrees, most spring flowers can't produce enough heat to keep up, but the skunk cabbage flowers don't freeze until exposed to 14 degrees or below.

This warming technique helps the plant push its way through frozen ground. If you are at a patch of skunk cabbage in early March you can see the skunk cabbage emerging through the snow and ice. Touch the tip of the plant with your finger and

you will feel that it is actually warm.

Its self-generated warmth promotes early pollination, protects flowers from freezing and mobilizes the flower's rotten scent and provides a habitat for early-season insects.

This unusual plant continues to grow during the winter, buried under the snow. Apparently, enough sunlight reaches it through the snow to maintain minimal photosynthesis.

Honeybees, in particular, are attracted to the odiferous skunk cabbage flowers. Some scientists conjecture that the flowers may also mimic the heat generated by a rotting corpse as an additional lure for carrion-eaters.

Many species take advantage of skunk cabbage's unusually warm micro-environment. In addition to pollen-gathering honeybees and carrion-eating insects such as flies, a number of other invertebrates are drawn to skunk cabbage flowers.

Springtails, beetles, sow bugs, true bugs, and the larvae of butterflies and moths have been discovered in these outposts of nourishment. And where insects visit, spiders follow. The skunk cabbage is a microcosm of early spring life.

Skunk cabbage blooms, these exotic golden flowers, rise up from the swamp like lamps, hence its other common name, swamp lantern.

Skunk cabbage varieties are also found in China, Siberia and Japan. They are closely related to our North American variety and our lineage is thought to have crossed the Bering Strait during one of the ice ages when there was a land connection between North America and Asia.

Skunk cabbage also does something amazing with its roots; it "pulls" the plant downward, into the soil as it grows. The older the plant, the deeper the roots go as it pulls the body of the plant with it. So it is said to grow downward instead of upward.

Older skunk cabbage plants with their deep root systems are notoriously difficult to dig out.

As quickly as they appear in March, skunk cabbage is usually gone by August.

Being mostly made of water, when the leaves begin to die off, they form little dry holes which rapidly expand, consuming the leaves until only the fibers of the leaves remain. The leaves actually



dissolve, leaving almost no trace of their presence.

Skunk cabbage is long-lived. A skunk cabbage plant may live to be 100 years old or even older.

As we said, stepping on or breaking the leaves and stalk of the skunk cabbage causes it to give off a distinctly unpleasant odor.

Few animals, except for bears emerging from hibernation (or elk, out West), will eat it.

Grazing animals – cattle, horses and sheep – dislike its odor. But bears love to eat the roots and are said to plow up large areas of swamp when they are feasting on skunk cabbage after a long winter.

Despite its repugnant smell, skunk cabbage has a long history of use as both a food and as a medicine. It's what's known as a "starvation food" – not routinely part of the human diet, but gratefully gathered during a

time of famine.

The roots are toxic and the leaves have an unpleasantly hot, peppery taste, but if they are dried first, they can be used in soups.

Skunk cabbage leaves (called "Indian waxed paper") have been used to wrap fish for cooking in the hot coals of a fire. Protecting the fish from burning while being steamed, the leaves lend their hot, peppery flavor to the meat.

After cooking, the leaves are peeled away and discarded, leaving a tasty piece of fish. Salmon is said to be delicious cooked this way.

The large leaves were used to dry berries or pemmican cakes on. They can also be turned into a cone-like container to gather wild foods or even carry water.

Skunk cabbage root was considered a medicinal plant by North American settlers who learned about it from the native people who used it

as a tea or as a paste to treat burns and other skin ailments.

In the late 19th century and early 20th century, it was even marketed as "dracontium," and it was sold by druggists as a treatment for rheumatism and edema.

But the roots aren't easy to come by.

You'll have to get out your tall rubber boots and prepare to sink deep into some mud! And it'll take a long shovel or a transplant spade (and a lot of elbow grease) to dig and pull up the roots of a skunk cabbage plant.

The roots should be washed well, dried with a towel, then carefully dried on paper or in baskets to prevent mold.

Like a lot of natural medicines brewed from plants, one needs to know exactly how to use skunk cabbage. Ignorance can come with a high price.

The leaf, flower and root of skunk cabbage contain crystalline shards of calcium oxalate that can irritate the mucosa in the mouth and throat.

In small doses, even just one or two small bites, the skunk cabbage plant can cause burning and swelling of the mouth and a choking sensation.

Eating large raw portions of these leaves can even be fatal.

see Cabbage pg 13

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Home, from page 9

Besides original designs and materials supplied by Montgomery Ward, Wardway homes also used many designs and materials from their partner, the Gordon-Van Tine company.

To keep pace with Sears, Montgomery Ward began to offer mortgages in 1926.

This plan proved successful at first, with the company claiming its highest ever kit house sales data in 1929.

But, as was the case with Sears' mortgage business, the Montgomery Ward mortgage program would prove to be the Wardway brand's undoing when the Depression caused many customers to default on their mortgage payments.

Not all kit-built homes are Sears or Montgomery Ward (Wardway) homes, because there were many other companies in the catalog/kit home market including Aladdin, Bennett, Gordon-Van Tine, Harris Brothers, Lewis, Pacific Ready Cut Homes and the Sterling Company.

How to identify a Sears home

Consult your neighbors. Neighbors might know of other kits houses in the neighborhood. Kit homes were often built in groups.

Look for homes built between 1908 and 1942 as that's the time when Sears

Modern Homes kits were sold.

Check public records for the property for the years between 1911 and 1933. Kit home mortgage records would include the Sears, Roebuck name and deed records for the property where the home was constructed may also include the company name.

Some homeowners may be able to find original paperwork – blueprints, correspondence from Sears and bills of lading.

Shipping labels associated with Sears' kit homes were often affixed on the back of millwork, baseboard molding or door and window trim.

Millwork might be identified as "Norwood Sash and Door Company" of Cincinnati, Ohio. (a subsidiary of Sears).

Stamped lumber can sometimes be found in unfinished spaces like a basement or attic, where framing was stamped with a letter and a number. Stamps are normally located on or near the ends of pieces of framing timber. However, these stamps were not used on lumber shipped before 1916, when Sears first started offering pre-cut lumber.

Look for Sears home kit catalogs. They may sometimes be found with historical societies, in libraries and online. Compare house designs to original catalog images and blueprints.

When plumbing, electrical

and heating were added to the standard kit house, sometimes the fixtures were stamped with the initials or logo of the company. Also look for the Sears logo (a "SR" or an "R") be on kitchen sinks, bathtubs, doorknobs, hinges, and miscellaneous hardware.

Additionally, Goodwall sheet plaster was an early drywall-like product offered by Sears and may be an indication of a Sears Modern Home.

How to Identify a Montgomery Ward (Wardway) Home

If you can find a Wardway or Gordon-Van Tine home catalog online, look for your home's design.

Check your door hardware against both companies' offerings.

Match your lighting fixtures against Montgomery Ward catalog offerings – lighting in Wardway homes was often selected from the catalogue.

Check the home's mortgage records. The name Montgomery Ward, or the Wards' agent's name who approved the loan, may appear.

Look through the attic, basement and under the basement stairs for blue grease pencil marks.

Check any visible drywall for the name "Superb." If you have the original fire-place clean-out plate, look for an identifying stamp in the metal.

BOE, from page 2

are learning the causes of the disorder and ways to avoid becoming pre-diabetic.

The board thanked Workman and the LPNs for their dedication to the students and thanked them for the information they provided.

In financial management, the board approved payment

of vendor listing, payment of local government purchasing card, extra duty pay, bank reconciliation, grant awards, school budget for 2024-2025, Step 7 budget for 2024-2025 and child nutrition programs food service budget 2025.

In miscellaneous management, the board approved the following:

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Pocahontas County Schools

and the Southern Education Services Cooperative for bus operator training/examination services.

Personnel management will appear in next week's edition of *The Pocahontas Times*.

The next board of education meeting is Tuesday, May 28, at 6 p.m. in the board conference room in Buckeye.

BEAD, from page 2

ant has been engaged to determine how emergency communications and activities can be improved at Green Bank without interference to the observatory. He also said there have been discussions with T-Mobile about possibly setting up a tower in Durbin to provide cell service there, which will also help provide emergency communication to that area.

Melissa O'Brien said Citynet's RDOF projects are now estimated to be starting in 2026.

Holstine asked the members if any of them has heard of Frontier beginning any RDOF work in the county. Nobody had any information about that, so he suggested the council should send Frontier another letter asking them for a timeline on their RDOF projects in the county, since they never provided that information after being sent a letter before.

Finally, Holstine said the

Affordability Connection Program (ACP) subsidies, which had ended last month, might be reinstated since Congress is now favorably considering doing that.

Feelings, from page 10

really big business.

In 2020, a Nielson poll reported that potato chip sales jumped by 60 percent, ice cream sales increased by 50 percent, and chocolate sales were up by 21 percent com-

pared to the year before the COVID epidemic hit.

This just proves the correlation between the consumption of comfort foods and stress.

Forty-one percent of Americans say they routinely reach for comfort foods to bring them happiness, and 61 percent say they

would rather give up alcohol than their favorite comfort food.

Yes, we know we should eat healthily, but if you think Americans are ready to give up their comfort foods any time soon, I'll eat my hat.

But – I'd much rather wolf down a cheeseburger and fries.

Cabbage, from page 12

If you have small children, inquisitive pets or neighbors who may accidentally eat some leaves from your garden, growing skunk cabbage may not be a good idea.

However, in some situations, skunk cabbage can be a helpful partner to the home gardener or farmer. Although stinky when disturbed, in some situations, it can be quite useful in a gardening or orchard setting.

If the garden isn't too close to the house and you

want to attract the right kind of insects to it, adding this ancient and exotic wildflower might be a good choice.

While its smell repels humans, that smell is like perfume to bees, butterflies and many other beneficial insects. If you're having a hard time attracting pollinators or beneficial wasps, mixing a few skunk cabbage plants in with the rest of your garden might be a solution.

Skunk cabbage repels many mammals, so it can be useful if you have a problem with four-legged vegetable thieves.

If you have a deer prob-

lem, squirrels are eating your corn or raccoons are getting into your tomatoes, the scent of skunk cabbage may be enough to keep them away, allowing you to harvest your crops without bite marks.

As with most of nature's bounty, there is a right time and place for everything and a purpose to all things under heaven.

That maxim certainly is borne out with the humble skunk cabbage. Far from a weed, it is a complicated and ancient survivor, cleverly disguising itself and its many uses to the humans who may instinctively avoid it because of its scent.

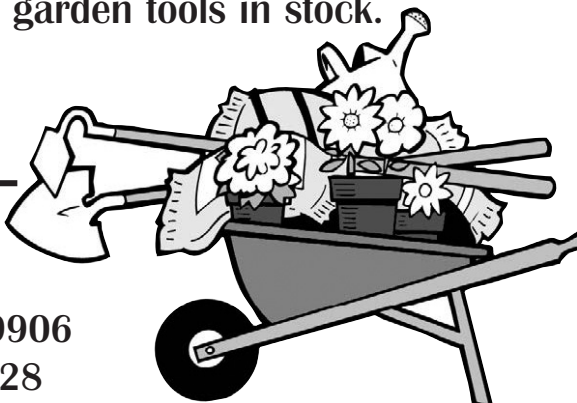
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