



# Happy 161st Birthday, West Virginia!



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# It takes a village

Laura Dean Bennett  
Staff Writer

They say, "It takes a village," and that is certainly true.

Any difficult, but worthwhile cause, takes passion and dedication to make it happen and to bring it to life.

Huntersville Historic Traditions' president, Tim Wade welcomed about 125 people who gathered on a sunny afternoon to commemorate and celebrate West Virginia and Pocahontas County history.

They were seated on a grassy field between the old jail at Huntersville and the restored portion of the county's first courthouse.

The dedication of the rebuilt "Old Clerk's Office" took a journey of almost five years of hard work, state and county funds and many private donations to bring the project from a dream to reality.

That small remnant of the county's first courthouse, the "Clerk's Office," has now been restored and was officially on display to the public June 14.



**AFTER FIVE YEARS** of fundraising and grant writing and about three months of reconstruction, the dream of bringing Huntersville's "Old Clerk's Office" – shown above – back to life came to fruition June 14, 2024. L.D. Bennett photo

Some two hundred years ago, this had been the center of the village of Huntersville – the home of Colonel John Bradshaw, and the seat of county government.

The little knoll along Bar-

low Lane Road is now becoming known as Court-house Square.

Due to the tireless efforts of a small group of history buffs – Huntersville Historical Traditions – guided by

the indefatigable Wade, and the support of the entire community, some of the few remaining historical buildings of Huntersville have been brought back to life.

see Village pg 10



**PEARL CLARKSON CELEBRATED** her 100th birthday June 1 with family and friends at her home in Arbovale. Photo courtesy of Patty Ervine

## Happy 100th Birthday to Pearl Clarkson

Suzanne Stewart  
Staff Writer

childhood.

As an adult, she married Russell Clarkson, of Cass, and they moved to Baltimore, Maryland, to work at the Glen Martin Aircraft Factory.

On June 1, Pearl Rexrode Clarkson showed up fashionably late for her birthday celebration – but in fairness to Pearl, when you're celebrating your 100th birthday, you can pretty much do whatever you want.

Clarkson was joined by family and friends to celebrate the milestone and share stories of her century of life.

An Arbovale native, Clarkson had a unique childhood – a story she shared with *The Pocahontas Times* in 2014. When she was four-and-a-half years old, she had a terrible accident after a day of playing in the snow. She came into the family home to warm up by the wood stove and as she got close, her dress caught on fire.

Clarkson's entire back and right arm were burned. She was rushed to Pocahontas Memorial Hospital and received a skin graft from her father. She spent six months in the hospital before returning home for her recovery.

Despite the burns and trauma, Clarkson said she went on to have a happy

"I was a Rosie the Riveter at one time," she said in 2014. "I was a riveter and all different kinds of things, but I wound up operating a drill press. I had to go to school there. I went to school six weeks for one thing and six weeks for another thing. I worked on planes and my husband did, too. We were in the same building."

After working in Baltimore for three years, the couple returned to Pocahontas County. They settled in Arbovale and both got jobs at the Mower Lumber Company in Cass.

"I worked at the office for thirteen years until it closed down," she said. "Russell was the dry kiln operator for Mower Lumber Company. He dried flooring for all over the world."

Moving from one historic landmark in the county to another, Clarkson became an accountant at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green

see Pearl pg 5

# Opera House Season Preview was the cat's pajamas

Suzanne Stewart  
Staff Writer

The Pocahontas County Opera House was transformed into a 1920s speakeasy last Saturday night for the annual Season Preview party. The women dressed as flappers and the men had on their pinstripes as they prepared to have a nifty time in the ritzy hall.

The celebration was a reveal of what's to come to the Opera House stage for the 2024-2025 season. Additionally, it was a 25th celebration of the Opera House Foundation, which formed in 1999 and revived the historic building and its use as a center for entertainment.

When selecting a theme, operations manager Brynn Kusic said the Silver Anniversary led to the glitzy and glamorous Roaring 20s, which was embraced fully by attendees who found costumes fit for the evening.

"People felt inspired," Kusic said. "We were transported in time and also in



**THE THEME FOR** the Pocahontas County Opera House Season Preview Party last Saturday was The Roaring Twenties. The password was "Silver Season," for the 25th anniversary of the Opera House Foundation. The crowd embraced the theme and dressed to the nines. L.D. Bennett photo

space."

Part of the reason the Opera House has succeeded in bringing so many wonderful performances to the

county is the great collaboration between the board of directors, employees and community.

"How wonderful is it that

the Opera House just continues to grow and attract more

see Preview pg 5

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**DR. CYNTHIA PERSILY, secretary of the West Virginia Department of Human Services.** Photo courtesy of W.Va. Legislative Photography

## Attorneys raise foster children issues with WVDHS

**Steven Allen Adams**  
For *The Intelligencer*

Attorneys representing children in West Virginia's foster care system said the state is actively hiding behind privileges meant to shield leaders of executive branch departments and their internal decision-making processes.

Attorneys for A Better Childhood, Disability Rights West Virginia, and the Shaffer and Shaffer law firm filed a memorandum of law last week replying to opposition attorneys for Gov. Jim Justice and the Department of Human Services filed earlier this month after the attorneys representing foster care children filed a motion to compel certain documents and testimony from state officials in May.

The coalition of attorneys represent 12 children in the state's overloaded foster care system in a case filed in 2019 in the U.S. District Court for the Southern Dis-

trict of West Virginia. The lawsuit alleges that foster children in the state are often housed either in hotels, shelters, institutions or out of state and are subject to abuse and neglect.

The lawsuit seeks several reforms to the foster care system, including requiring children be placed in foster homes within 30 days, the filing of individualized plans for care with 60 days, ensuring the placement of children in safe homes and facilities with adequate monitoring, the hiring of more case workers and limiting of case-loads, and more.

Attorneys for the foster children are seeking hundreds of thousands of documents from the former Department of Health and Human Resources, now split in three with foster care under the Department of Human Services. But the state human services officials and the Governor's Office have tried to use deliberative process privi-

lege to avoid turning over certain documents and object to certain questions of individuals being deposed.

According to a June 6 memorandum in opposition filed by attorneys for the state, they argue that out of more than 700,000 documents provided to the plaintiffs, only 2,610 documents have been withheld citing deliberative process privilege, which is meant to protect how government departments and agencies develop specific policies and decisions. During a recent deposition of former DHHR deputy secretary Jeremiah Samples, state attorneys said they only objected to questions 17 times.

"Plaintiffs have not established that each and every one of the thousands of documents that they seek to compel are particularly relevant to their claims," wrote attorneys for the state.

see Foster pg 11

## BOE learns valuable lesson from recent personnel season

**Suzanne Stewart**  
Staff Writer

At the Pocahontas County Board of Education meeting June 11, superintendent Lynne Bostic gave a presentation on the steps all school systems have to take during "personnel season," when the superintendent decides if there should be any RIFs – Reduction in Force – or transfers.

Personnel season for Bostic's first year as superintendent became contentious when misinformation was shared about RIFs that were considered for several staff members at Pocahontas County High School. This caused students to protest and walk out of school for two days. It also caused a lot of unrest in the community and led to a lot of discussion about funding and cuts in staffing.

In Bostic's presentation, she explained that personnel season really begins in the fall when she starts to look at classroom size and the courses being taught. West Virginia Schools must

follow state law Policy 2510 when planning course offerings to ensure students are taking all the classes they need to graduate.

"The policy actually outlines the required courses at each level," Bostic said. "There are required courses that we have to have and it also provides options for us," Bostic said. "That is our Bible of what we have to offer and how many credits for each high school subject area."

This is what led to Bostic's concern with the math department at Pocahontas County High School. When she looked over the course schedule, she learned there were classes being taught that are no longer approved by the state.

"We were offering courses that were no longer even approved by the state as courses," she said. "They said I was cutting STEM. No. It was just STEM classes that did not exist in the course codes at the state level. They are now called something else."

"When I talked to the

state, they said 'you could be offering classes that these kids cannot get credit for and should not be graduating because they would not have graduation credits,'" she continued. "That's the discussions I was having with the state."

In those discussions, Bostic was informed some of the courses being taught were taken out of Policy 2510 years ago.

Board vice president Becky Campbell asked if the teachers at the high school were aware they were teaching classes that did not turn into credits for students.

"They know now," Bostic said. "I had a discussion with them. We'll be monitoring that closer."

"Allowing the teachers to decide what they want to teach... it doesn't always fit," board president Sue Hollandsworth added.

Bostic provided each board member with a copy of Policy 2510 and said that it is available for staff to review, as well.

see BOE pg 11

## 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 May:

The 848 calls were as follows:

- Nature of Call/ Total Calls Received**
- 911 ABD, open, hang-up – 133
  - Abandoned vehicle – 4
  - Accidental dial – 5
  - Agency assistance – 6
  - Law, animal control – 19
  - Accident with injuries – 14
  - Auto accident – 12
  - Law, breaking and entering – 5
  - DNR, bear damage – 2
  - Law, BOLO (Be on the lookout) – 1
  - Bomb threats – 1
  - Fire, brush – 1
  - CAD2CAD – 14
  - Law, citizen assist/non-emergency – 28
  - Controlled burn – 6
  - Destruction of property – 10
  - DNR, violation complaint – 4
  - DOA/unattended death – 1
  - Law, domestic – 14
  - DVP violation – 3
  - Fire, alarm elevator – 26

- Alarm, fire – 11
- Fire, non-emergency – 1
- Law, general alarm – 17
- Highway traffic hazard – 39
- Triple I inquiry – 25
- Information/notice – 28
- Law, criminal investigation – 3
- Law, general complaint – 70
- Law, lost/found property – 4
- EMS, medical – 73
- Fire, medical alarm – 3
- Law, mental hygiene – 2
- Missing/overdue person – 5
- Law, paper service – 19
- Phone outage – 31
- EMS, patient transfer – 40
- Search and rescue – 2
- Fire, secure landing zone – 8
- Law, sex crime – 1
- Fire, smoke investigation – 3
- EMS, stand-by – 2
- Theft of vehicle – 3
- Fire, structure – 4
- Fire, suspicious odor – 2
- System test – 16
- Theft of property or items – 13
- Law, traffic complaint – 6
- Law, traffic stop – 55
- Transferred to another agency – 1
- Law, transport person – 2
- EMS, trauma – 18
- Law, trespassing – 2
- VIN verification – 1
- Law, warrant service – 8
- Law, welfare check – 16
- DNR, wildlife management – 5

## Circuit Court

The following hearings were recently held in Pocahontas County Circuit Court before the Honorable Judges Robert E. Richardson and Jennifer P. Dent:

A hearing was held on a motion to revoke bond in the case the State vs Joseph Lynn Thompson, 32, of Marlinton, wherein defense counsel asked that the defendant be reinstated to bond for a time to allow him to attend a 90-day re-hab program. Thompson admitted to violating his bond by failing to appear for a status hearing. The court placed him back on his prior bond, modified to allow participation in a 90-day substance abuse program. WVDOCR will transport the defendant to a facility in Parkersburg. If Thompson does not comply with the program, he is to return to jail.

A three-day jury trial is set for July 15 in the case the State vs Jerry Schoolcraft, 62, of Renick. Schoolcraft was indicted on four counts, sexual assault in the second degree

spiry; one count, receiving or transferring stolen goods.

Roy Myers, 49, of Durbin, appeared by video from the Tygart Valley Regional Jail for a status hearing, wherein Myers admitted to violating his bond and waived his right to a preliminary hearing. The court accepted the waiver and reinstated Myers' bond. He is to return to Home Confinement and participate in Pocahontas County Day Report. Jury trial remains on the docket for September 18. The April 2022 Grand Jury indicted Myers on one count, child neglect resulting in serious bodily injury; one count, child neglect creating a substantial risk of death.

Defense counsel for Philip Curtis Leone, 40, of Montersville, said her client would

sign a waiver of extradition, and asked the court to modify the defendant's bond to allow him to reside with his mother in Maryland. The court accepts, and a remote status hearing is set for September 25. Leone was indicted on one count, burglary; one count, grand larceny.

An arraignment hearing was held in the case the State vs Karlee Scheimreif, 42, of Slaty Fork, wherein the defendant pleaded not guilty to one count, malicious assault.

Plea negotiations are ongoing in the case the State vs Jacob McClure, 33, of Marlinton. A status hearing is set for September 25. McClure was indicted on one count, sexual assault in the second degree; one count, sexual abuse, first degree.


see Foster pg 11

Taylor Cook, 37, of Marlinton, appeared by video from the Southern Regional Jail for a pre-trial hearing wherein defense counsel advised the court that he had not yet met with his client and wants to discuss speedy trial rights. Cook was indicted on one count, assault; one count, destruction of property; three counts, malicious assault.

Plea negotiations are ongoing in the case the State vs Courtney Fay Wilfong, 38, of Marlinton. Wilfong waived her right to a speedy trial in this term of court. Wilfong was indicted on one count, burglary; one count, conspiracy; one count, petit larceny; two counts, conspiracy; one count, receiving or transferring stolen goods.

Plea negotiations are ongoing in the case the State vs Joshua Kincaid, 38, of Marlinton. The defendant waived his right to a speedy trial in this term of court. A status hearing is set for September 25. Kincaid was indicted on one count, conspiracy; two counts, con-

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<p><b>THURSDAY:</b> Chef's choice.</p> <p><b>FRIDAY:</b> Cornbread salad and fried chicken with cilantro lime dressing.</p> <p><b>SATURDAY:</b> Shrimp basket, French fries, coleslaw and roll.</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY:</b> Open face turkey sandwich, mashed potatoes, gravy and green beans.</p> <p><b>MONDAY:</b> Chef's choice.</p> <p><b>TUESDAY:</b> Tex-Mex cobb salad.</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAY:</b> Ranch chicken panini with chips.</p>
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“FRASER MAGNOLIA,” A watercolor by Arbovale resident Kathryn Gillespie, will be on display at Berkeley Art Works in downtown Martinsburg through July 26.

## Gillespie part of watercolor exhibit

Kathryn Gillespie, of Arbovale, has two paintings on display in a regional watercolor exhibition in downtown Martinsburg. The exhibit is open now through July 26.

The West Virginia Watercolor Society (WVWS), a statewide organization celebrating the artistry of watercolor painting, is marking its 40th anniversary during 2024 with a series of regional watercolor exhibitions around the state, and the Berkeley Arts Council (BAC) is hosting a WVWS regional at the Berkeley Art Works, 116 N. Queen St. in Martinsburg. The gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

The show features watercolors created by 10 WVWS Region III member artists. Region III includes

the counties of Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, Tucker and Webster.

Gillespie holds Signature membership in WVWS, an honor bestowed on the group’s most skilled painters.

WVWS was created in 1984 to “promote and ensure the high standards of the art of watercolor painting in the state of West Virginia.” The society provides guidance and assistance to students and aspiring watercolor artists and works to educate the public about the medium. The society annually holds exhibitions around the state, including a national juried exhibition. WVWS also hosts a yearly workshop and publishes a member newsletter and website at <https://wvwatercolorociety.org>



## TRIVIA – a little something to think about

Courtesy of Chuck Cornell

1. What sport was featured on the first curved U.S. coin in 2014?
2. What do you call a group of flamingos?
3. What occasion corresponds with the longest day of the year?
4. Relative to the internet, what does “URL” stand for?



A Blast from the Past

Courtesy of the Ruth Friel Estate

The bearded lady...  
Tried a jar...  
She’s now...  
A famous movie star.

If you think...  
She likes your bristles...  
Walk barefoot...  
Through some thistles.



## YOUTH HEALTH FAIR

Friday, June 21  
9 A.M. - NOON.

Free Popcorn and Ice Cream  
Carnival Games + Helicopter Tours  
LOTS of door prizes, including BICYCLES

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## Library Lines

by Joe Miller,  
Director of Development

What does it mean to read a book? A few weeks ago, I stumbled across a bad answer to this question, when someone on social media suggested that listening to an audiobook isn’t reading. That’s a bit silly. You can read Braille with your fingers, audiobooks with your ears and print with your eyes.

But it reminded me of a more serious analysis of what counts as reading.

That analysis is found in Pierre Bayard’s cheekily-titled *How to Talk About Books You Haven’t Read*, a book whose main argument is that not-reading is a perfectly legitimate way to approach any given book.\*

That’s a pretty surprising

view considering that Bayard makes his living teaching French literature at the University of Paris 8.

But it’s not a crazy idea. Bayard suggests that there are lots of ways of not reading a book. The most obvious – and the most common – is that you have never heard of the book. There are, after all, nearly five million English-language novels, to say nothing of all the other kinds of non-novel books.

But there are other types of not-reading.

There are the books we’ve skimmed. I do this a lot with nonfiction – read the introduction, the conclusion and maybe a couple of chapters that look especially interesting.

Then there are the books we’ve heard of. I know the

first line of *Moby Dick*. I know that it has alternating chapters, with one advancing the plot and the next describing some aspect of whaling. I know that Khan quotes Ahab’s dying words at the end of the best *Star Trek* movie. And I know that I’ve never read *Moby Dick*.

And finally, there are the books that we’ve forgotten. I took a graduate course on Immanuel Kant’s *Critique of Pure Reason*. I distinctly remember spending a solid hour discussing a single page, but I cannot remember what that page was about.

So at this point, you might find yourself saying, “this is very interesting, Joe, but why on earth are you reviewing a book about not-reading in a library column?”

It’s because Bayard offers a different way to think about our relationship to books.

Each of us has what Bayard calls an “inner library” – one that consists of books

we’ve read (heard of/skimmed/forgotten). When we encounter a new book, we’re never approaching it in isolation. Instead, we’re seeing it in relation to all the other books in our inner library.

That means that were you and I to read Charles Dickens’ *Bleak House*, your experience of the book would be filtered through *Bleak House’s* relationship to all the other books you’ve read, and mine would be filtered through all the other books I’ve read.

And that, Bayard says, is how we talk about books we haven’t read. You might not have read *Bleak House*, but maybe you’re a big fan of legal thrillers. So when I tell you that *Bleak House* revolves around a tangled legal case that leaves everyone involved ruined, we could still talk about, say, how both Dickens and John Grisham use novels to spur reforms to

see Library pg 11

## Alexandria on Main to host Elkins horror author

Award-winning horror author and Elkins resident Timothy G. Huguenin will discuss his work and sign books Saturday evening, June 22, 6 p.m. at Alexandria on Main in Elkins.

Dr. Ashley Lawson, Associate Professor of English at West Virginia Wesleyan College, will be facilitating the conversation with Huguenin about his books, which include the West Virginia Author Project winner *When the Watcher Shakes*, the Canaan Valley ghost story *Little One*,

and his strange and horrifying novella *Unknowing, I Sink*. All of his books are set in his home state of West Virginia.

“Growing up in these mountains has greatly impacted my writing,” Huguenin said. “Even when I am aiming to scare readers, I also strive to establish a strong sense of place and convey the beauty of West Virginia and her people. There has been a dismaying trend in the horror genre of promoting offensive stereotypes of Appalachians. I want to represent West Vir-

ginians fairly in my fiction, with the dignity and respect we deserve.”

His literary heroes include not only horror masters like Stephen King and Edgar Allan Poe, but also the acclaimed West Virginia authors Denise Giardina and Davis Grubb.

In addition to writing novels, Timothy G. Huguenin is an accomplished writer of short fiction. His stories have appeared in various publications including *YNST Magazine*, *Anthology of Appalachian Writers Vol. XI*, and *The Saturday Evening Post*.



Huguenin

Tickets for the event are limited and are available online at [www.alexandriaonmain.com](http://www.alexandriaonmain.com)



## MCNEEL MILL

## LITTLE LEVELS HERITAGE FAIR

Hey there, history buffs, we are thrilled to invite you to a journey through time at the McNeel Mill. Nestled in the vibrant heart of Mill Point, this historic gem is throwing open its doors during the exciting Little Levels Heritage Fair from June 28 - 30.

McNeel Mill welcomes you and your family to delve into the life and times of newly added history of Matthew John McNeel. Last year was incredible! This year, we have added even more artifacts to the Lanty McNeel Legacy!

June 28 - 30

Fri. & Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sun. 2 -6 p.m.

### A Special Note...

This year, all donations will go to the ACSA Survivor, The Morris Group. A non-profit for adult survivors of child sexual and physical abuse. Scan the link below to hear how ACSA process the trauma that haunts them as adults!



## Letter to the Editor

Editor:

I am writing in response to the report on the June 7th special meeting of the county commission which appeared in *The Pocahontas Times* in which I was portrayed as possibly impugning the integrity of the commission's president, Walt Helmick. The meeting had been called for the express purpose of approving the purchase of property adjacent to the courthouse to be the site of a future courthouse annex building. There had been a sense of urgency in scheduling the meeting and in how it was to be conducted so that the project could proceed expeditiously. The agenda included the opportunity for public input — and I said I wanted to speak before the vote on purchasing the proposed property.

I recounted how, in 2010,

the county commission decided to make needed repairs to the courthouse rather than move ahead with a proposed courthouse annex that was to be financed mostly with bonds. I then said, "Now, we have a situation where Walt Helmick, with about six months to go in his term, wants to buy a piece of property... to start work on his dream of a courthouse annex." Apparently, my use of the word "dream" set him off by accusing me of accusing him of seeking personal gain by promoting the courthouse annex project. Decorum at the meeting quickly fell apart and Walt's hope of getting approval to buy the property seemingly vanished when it became apparent he didn't have the support he needed from the other commissioners. I did not imagine that opposing a new courthouse

annex at a public meeting would be taken as a personal attack. To my mind, I was stating a personal opinion.

Walt Helmick has accomplished many great things which benefit the citizens of Pocahontas County with no hint that he benefited personally. Recently, he led the way in assuring the long-term financial solvency of Pocahontas Memorial Hospital. Years ago, while he was in the State Senate, he sponsored legislation so that rural counties would be funded for 1,400 students regardless of how few they actually have. Our school system now has fewer than 1,000 students but receives State funding for 1,400. Walt's legacy won't be diminished if a courthouse annex is not built.

Jay Miller  
Hillsboro



## Marlington Mayor's Corner

By Sam Felton

**Y**es — you are responsible for mowing your grass.

Ordinances can be found on the Town of Marlington Homepage.

33-2-21 GRASS MOWING.

...33-2-21 GRASS MOWING. Property owners and/or their tenants shall be jointly and separately responsible for mowing the grass or weeds within the area located between the property lines and the adjoining street surfaces, including grass or weeds located within the

public right-of-way thereon. The height of the grass or weeds shall not exceed eight (8) inches. Also, for the purpose of space in this article ...33-2-19 and ...33-2-17 read basically the same. ...§ 154.017 GRASS MOWING (Prior Code, § 33-2-19) Penalty, see § 10.99

MOWING OF GRASS AND VEGETATION....§ 92.23 (A) Each property owner of the city is responsible for the mowing of grass and vegetation on the owner's property. (B) Any property within the city

which is overgrown with grass and vegetation shall be mowed by the city and the costs of such mowing shall be assessed against the individual property owner and the said property.

**OCCUPANT TO MOW GRASS** is found at...§ 93.005. It shall be the duty of the occupant of any lot abutting any sidewalk to keep the grass plot adjoining neatly mowed. (Prior Code, § 12-9)

Further regarding WEEDS AND GRASS; MOWING can be found at ....§ 94.25 (A) Any grass or weeds, saplings, or natural, growth on any yard or lot shall not exceed eight inches in height. (B) If a homeowner/renter

see Mayor's pg 11



## What's Cookin'?

With Sally Cobb

### Orange Almond Trout

1 pound trout, salmon or other medium firm fish filets, about 3/4 inch thick  
1/4 cup butter  
1/4 cup sliced almonds  
1 medium onion, sliced  
1/2 cup all-purpose flour  
1 tsp. salt  
1/2 tsp. paprika  
1/8 tsp. pepper  
2 oranges, peeled and sectioned

Cut fish into 4 serving pieces. Melt butter in 10-inch skillet over medium heat. Add onions and almonds, stirring occasionally, until onion is tender. Remove onions and almonds with slotted spoon and keep warm.

Mix flour, salt, paprika and pepper. Coat fish with flour mixture. Cook fish in same skillet over medium heat 6-10 minutes, turning once until fish is brown and flakes easily with a fork. Top fish with almonds and onions. garnish with orange sections.

### Peach and Blueberry Pie

**Pastry**  
2 cups flour  
1/2 tsp. salt  
2 tsp. sugar  
10 Tbsp. (1 1/4 sticks) cold butter  
1 egg yolk  
1/4 cup or more ice water

2 Tbsp. milk, for glazing  
**Filling**  
3 cups peeled, pitted and sliced peaches  
2 cups fresh blueberries  
3/4 cup sugar  
2 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice  
1/3 cup all-purpose flour  
1/8 tsp. grated nutmeg  
2 Tbsp. butter, cut into pea-size pieces

Sift flour, salt and sugar into a bowl. Using a pastry blender or 2 knives, cut the butter into the dry ingredients as quickly as possible until mixture resembles coarse corn meal.

Mix the egg yolk with the ice water and sprinkle over flour mixture. Combine with a fork until the dough holds together. If dough is too crumbly, add a bit more ice water, 1 Tbsp. at a time. Gather the dough into a ball and flatten into a disc. Wrap in wax paper and refrigerate at least 20 minutes.

Roll out 2/3 of the dough between 2 sheets of wax paper to a thickness of about 1/8 inch and about 11 inches round. Place dough in a 9-inch pie pan. Trim dough leaving a 1/2 overhang. Fold overhang under to form the edge. Using a fork, press the edge to the rim of the pie pan.

Gather the trimmings and remaining dough into a ball and roll out to a thickness of about 1/4 inch. Using a pas-

try wheel or sharp knife, cut strips 1/2" wide. Refrigerate pie shell and strips for 20 minutes.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Line pie shell with wax paper or parchment and fill with dried beans. Bake until pie shell is just set, 7-10 minutes. Remove from oven and carefully lift out the paper and beans. Prick the bottom of pie shell all over with a fork, then return to oven and bake 5 minutes more. Let pie shell cool slightly before filling. Leave oven on. In a mixing bowl, combine peach slices with the blueberries, sugar, lemon juice, flour and nutmeg. Spoon fruit mixture evenly in the pie shell. Dot with pieces of butter.

Weave a lattice top with the chilled pastry strips, pressing the ends to the baked pie-shell edge. Brush lattice strips with milk. Bake pie 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 350 degrees, and continue baking until the filling is tender and bubbling and pastry lattice is golden, about 30 minutes. If pastry browns too quickly, cover loosely with foil.

Serve pie warm or room temperature. Serves 8

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**EDITORIAL:**  
jsgraham@pocahontastimes.com  
sastewart@pocahontastimes.com

**DISPLAY ADVERTISING:**  
shgiven@pocahontastimes.com

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jsgraham@pocahontastimes.com

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## Community Calendar

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**23rd Annual Public Reading of our 1776 Declaration of Independence**, Thursday, the Fourth of July 2024, noon, in front of the Pocahontas County Courthouse. Free watermelon. Information will be available about how to secure, for ourselves and our posterity, the rights asserted in that document. For more info, contact John Leyzorek, 304-799-7191.

**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.

### MEETINGS

**Pocahontas County Solid Waste Authority** regular meeting Wednesday, June 26, 8 p.m. at the courthouse.

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

### EVENTS

**Kite Festival in the Mountains** Saturday, June 22, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Widney Park in Frank. Fund for all ages. Free event. Concessions available. Sponsored by Parks and Rec.

**Fort Warwick, 250th Anniversary** — Multiple artists will practice Colonial Period crafts Saturday and Sunday, June 22 and 23, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Music by Juanita Fireball and the Continental Drifters. Fort Warwick is located at 450 Fort Warwick Passage in Green Bank.

**FREE Community Dinner** Thursday, June 27, 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Marlington Pres-

byterian Church. Sponsored by area churches and community volunteers.

**The 26th Annual Little Levels Heritage Fair, Hillsboro.** Friday — Sunday, June 28 — 30. Fun events, music, parades and food. Be sure to check out the arts and crafts and the car show, and you might want to enter a pie in the Homemade Heritage Pie Contest.

**Native Orchid Tour** Saturday, June 29, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Cranberry Mountain Nature Center.

**Scenic Drive Day** Sunday, June 30, 1 to 3 p.m. at Cranberry Mountain Nature Center. Classic cars on display. Music by Black Mountain Bluegrass Boys. Pack a picnic and enjoy the day.

### 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

All activities are at the Community Wellness Center, unless otherwise noted.

**Summer Mix-Up Dance Series** with instructor Haylee Hayhurst — Jazz Fusion, Mondays and Tuesdays at Green Bank Observatory old tour center. Both locations — 1 p.m. for ages 6 to 10; and 2:30 p.m. for ages 11-18. Call 304-799-7386 to register.

**Kayaking**, for students in fifth grade or older, June 20. Trip details to be determined. Call to register.

**Dance Conditioning** —

energetic challenge using dance basics and creative expression, ages 11-adult. Tuesdays at GBO old tour center, and Wednesdays at the Wellness Center, 4:30 p.m. at each location.

**Zumba** 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.

For a complete listing of summer activities, call 304-799-7386 or email parksandrec@frontiernet.net

### REUNIONS

**Noah and Rebecca Teter Warner Family** — Sunday, July 7, noon to 4 p.m. at the Clinton Hedrick Community Building in Riverton. Bring a covered dish and family photos.

**Marlington High School Class of 1963** — Saturday, July 13., 11 a.m. Meet at Dari-Land across from Discovery Junction.

**Buzzard/Darnell Reunion** — Sunday, July 14, 11 a.m. at Stillwell Park Riverside Pavilion.

**Schoolcraft/Auldrige Reunion** — Saturday, July 27, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Activities Building at Watoga State Park. This year's theme is Italian. Pot luck.

**PCHS Class of 1979** — 45th class reunion Saturday, September 28, at Mim's Kitchen in Marlington. Full details on Facebook at PCHS Class of 1979 or via email at Karen.hamed33@gmail.com RSVP required by August 15.

see Calendar pg 11

## A great weekend to visit Cranberry Mountain Nature Center!

**Native Orchid Tour - June 29**

Orchids can be a beautiful, fantastic find when out for a walk. Learn more on a free **Native Orchid Tour Saturday, June 29 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Meet at the Nature Center for a photo presentation followed by a trip to Cranberry Glades and surrounding area to look at orchids with Rosanna Springston, Monongahela National Forest employee and wildflower enthusiast. Be prepared to hike short distances.

Things to Bring: Notepad · Camera · Lunch · Water · Appropriate footwear · Raincoat (just in case)  
You do not have to attend both sections of the workshop.

**Scenic Drive Day - Sunday, June 30**

Pack a picnic lunch and enjoy a day of music, viewing beautiful scenery and classic cars



**11:45 a.m.** Meet at Richwood City Hall for the classic car scenic drive from Richwood to Cranberry Mountain Nature Center.

**1 - 3 p.m.** Classic cars on display at the nature center. Cars entered for judging must be at the nature center from 12:45 p.m. - 3 p.m. Prizes will be awarded in several categories.

**1 - 4 p.m.** Music by the Black Mountain Bluegrass Boys.

For more information on any of our events, call 304-653-4826.  
Cranberry Mountain Nature Center is located at the junction of the Highland Scenic Highway and State Route 39/55, 14 miles west of Marlington and 23 miles east of Richwood.  
Open Thursday through Monday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

# Kite Festival in the Mountains

## Saturday, June 22, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### Widney Park, Frank

**FREE EVENT • FUN FOR ALL AGES!**

Hundreds of kites and yard décor available for purchase.

Large show kites, banners, giant pinwheels, windsocks, bubble machines and DJ-style music.


Concessions available for purchase.



For more information, contact Kelly McGill, 681-417-0990 or neweraairspace@yahoo.com

Event sponsored by Pocahontas County Parks and Recreation





4th Annual

## Pocahontas Youth Golf Fundraiser Four-Person Scramble Tournament

**Saturday, July 27 • 1 p.m.**

Pocahontas County Country Club, Buckeye.

\$200 per four person team - includes meal.  
Prizes for first, second, third and last place.  
Cash prizes for longest drive and closest to pin.

**Come support our youth golfers and have a good time!**

To register, call Brad Dunz, 304-646-9165, or PCCC Clubhouse, 304-799-7466 or stop by the clubhouse.



## Senior Legal Aid

Deb Miller, JD Volunteer

### Lower taxes ~ something to celebrate

Thanks to a 2019 tax law change, a group of West Virginians already pay no income tax on the Social Security Old Age, Survivors and Disability benefits or Supplemental Security Income for the Aged, Blind and Disabled (SSI) benefits they receive.

West Virginia recipients of Social Security/SSI with federal adjusted gross incomes of \$50,000 or less (\$100,000 or less for a married couple) currently avoid those state income taxes altogether.

The 2024 legislative session passed a tax reduction law that applies to all other West Virginians receiving Social Security/SSI, regardless of income.

While federal taxation of these benefits is not affected, a phase-in of the lower state income tax rates is involved.

In 2024, those whose federal adjusted gross income (which is used on the West Virginia income tax return) is higher than \$50,000 for an individual or \$100,000 for a married couple will be taxed 35% less on their Social Security/SSI benefits on their state tax return.

In 2025, 65% of the benefits won't be taxed on their state tax return.

In 2026, the full amount

of the Social Security/SSI income will be tax-free on their West Virginia tax return.

For example, Samuel's federal adjusted gross income in 2024 is projected to be \$75,000. It will be transferred to his state return for calculation purposes. Of that amount, \$35,000 is from Social Security benefits.

Samuel is single and his adjusted gross income for West Virginia tax purposes is over the \$50,000 maximum income threshold for an individual. As a result, he will get a 35% reduction in state taxes on his Social Security income in 2024.

In 2025, 65% of his Social Security will not be taxed on the state return.

Finally, in 2026, all of Samuel's Social Security will be tax-free on his West Virginia tax return.

This tax reduction does not apply to federal taxation of the benefits, retirement fund distributions outside of the Social Security/SSI system, or taxation of other types of income.

Legal issues about taxation and other matters are important ones to resolve. In appropriate situations, West Virginia Senior Legal Aid may be able to help those age 60 and older who live in the state. Call 800-229-5068 to seek assistance.

## Preview, from page 1

people who are skilled and creative and have all different kinds of skill sets," Kusic said. "We have board members from the forest service, the libraries, from all these amazing organizations.

"We just have such a great board, and Caroline [Hertko] and Ryan [Krofchek] are the most wonderful, dedicated, devoted, multi-talented savants to be a team to make everything we have happen, happen," she added.

As for the lineup for the upcoming season, Kusic is thrilled to announce there are returning favorites, Opera House newbies and some international performers.

"There are quite a few highlights," she said.

The season unofficially begins this summer with three drama performances. The Rustic Mechanicals will perform *The Tempest* in a matinee on Sunday, July 13. The summer drama workshop will also perform the week of July 22 to 27. County youngsters will take just one week to learn parts, craft costumes and back-

drops for the performance of *Gulliver's Travels* in Friday, July 26 and Saturday, July 27.

The third drama performance will be by the county's very own drama workshop, which is presenting *Breaking Legs* on September 20 and 21.

The new season begins officially on Saturday, September 28, with Americana band Kindred Valley.

"I saw Kindred Valley last year at Cass Days," Kusic said. "It is a group of students from Marshall University – a new band – that was immediately picked up by Mountain Stage."

Returning to the stage on Saturday, October 12, all the way from Tuvan – near Mongolia – is Alash – and traditional throat singing group. On Friday, October 25, The Onlies, a contemporary old-time band will perform.

Next up in November on Saturday, the 9th, is the Piedmont Bluz Acoustic Duo.

"When we were doing the story sessions, we were doing research into what kind of music was in the mountains that inspired the music that we have here today, and we realized that

there was a lot of blues music that was happening here," Kusic said. "The man that is part of the duo actually makes these really amazing percussion instruments. He takes all these vintage metal pieces and makes percussion boards – the two of them are as good as it gets in terms of being representatives of that style of music that just isn't played that much anymore."

Saturday, November 23, mentalist Craig Karges will trade the stage of Las Vegas for the Opera House to perform his skills for a crowd of about a fifth of the usual size.

The rest of the season includes local favorites like the Black Mountain Bluegrass Boys Saturday, December 14, Opry Night Saturday, February 15, and The Bing Brothers featuring Jake Krack Saturday, March 1.

Saturday March 15, will feature the contemporary old-time style of The State

Birds. Multi-instrumentalist Bruce Molsky will perform Saturday, April 5. Nashville country star Glen Shelton will take the stage Saturday, April 19. Friday, May 2, Nora Jane Struthers and the Party Line will return to the Opera House and the season will conclude on Saturday, May 17, with the Ecuadorian pan pipes group Andres Manta World.

"Every year, I'm just blown away by the lineup," Kusic said. "It takes a lot of work, and it's a puzzle."

There were many highlights to the season preview party – not just the performance list – but also the fun had by all, which concluded with several of the flappers in attendance taking the stage and dancing the Charleston.

To learn more about each performance or to order season passes, visit pocahontasoperahouse.org or call 304-799-6645.

## Pearl, from page 1

"When I started there, I was the first one that learned the key punch, and the accounting machine was as long as [this room]," she said. "I got to see all of the building [of the facilities and telescopes]. I got to see everything. We were a big happy family when I was working there. I worked almost twenty-eight years in accounting. I was the assis-

tant accountant when I left."

Pearl and Russell had one daughter, Wanda Jean, who lives in Berryville, Virginia. The couple had been married for 59 years when Russell passed away in 2002.

Clarkson now divides her time between her home in Arbovale and with her daughter in Berryville.

Those who would like to wish Clarkson a Happy Birthday may do so by sending cards to – Pearl Clarkson, c/o Jean Raupach, P.O. Box 146, Berryville, Virginia 22611



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26th Annual

# Little Levels Heritage Fair

"Celebrating 50 Years of the Birthplace of Pearl S. Buck"

June 28 - 30 • Hillsboro, West Virginia

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### FRIDAY, JUNE 28

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Pearl S. Buck Birthplace 50th Anniversary. Free Tours, Exhibits, Preserving Pocahontas and Gift Shop  
7 p.m. Firemen's Parade Around Hillsboro Rt. 219, Lobelia Road and Payne Street  
*Presented by Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad*

### SATURDAY, JUNE 29

*Activities at Hillsboro Elementary School unless noted*  
7:30 a.m. Sausage Biscuits at Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Department (until sold out)  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tours of Historic McNeel Mill Mill Point, WV  
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Pearl S. Buck Birthplace 50th Anniversary. Free Tours, Exhibits, Preserving Pocahontas and Gift Shop  
10 a.m. Music by Bill Hefner Family Band  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Sweet Reads: Book and Baked Goods Sale, Hillsboro Public Library  
*Friends of the Library*  
10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Arts & Crafts Vendors Schoolgrounds  
10 a.m. Kids Crafts  
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Car Show Hillsboro Car Club  
*Sponsored by the Town of Hillsboro*  
11 a.m. Music by Juanita Fireball and the Continental Drifters  
11 a.m. – Noon Homemade Heritage Pie Contest Registration/Drop Off Hillsboro Senior Center  
11 a.m. Food: Pork Tenderloin Sandwiches Community Club (until sold out)

11 a.m. Sausages, Hot Dogs, Baked Potatoes Pocahontas County Senior Citizens  
11 a.m. Lemonade Stand (until sold out) Hillsboro Girl Scouts  
Noon Field Games  
Noon Music by Richard Hefner and the Black Mountain Bluegrass Boys  
Noon – 2 p.m. Heritage Parade Registration Little Levels Heritage Tent  
1 p.m. Music by Viney Mountain Boys  
2 p.m. Music by The Porch Pickers  
2:30 p.m. Winners of Parade, Pie and Car Show Judging to be announced Under the Tent  
3 p.m. Heritage Parade Rt. 219, Lobelia Road and Payne Street  
4 – 6 p.m. Bingo, HES Cafeteria by Hillsboro Elementary School  
6 – 8 p.m. Square Dance with Juanita Fireball and the Continental Drifters Under the Tent

### SUNDAY, JUNE 30

Noon – 4 p.m. Pearl S. Buck Birthplace 50th Anniversary. Free Tours, Exhibits, Preserving Pocahontas and Gift Shop  
2 p.m. Log Race at Seebert Bridge PCHS Athletics  
3:30 p.m. Oak Grove Cemetery Tour Meet at Oak Grove Church Weather Permitting  
8:15 p.m. Vespers at McNeel Cemetery (Inclement weather location: Pleasant Green Church)



### Live Music • Saturday, June 29

*Elementary School: Under the Tent*  
10 a.m. Bill Hefner Family Band  
11 a.m. Juanita Fireball and the Continental Drifters  
Noon: Richard Hefner and the Black Mountain Bluegrass Boys  
1 p.m. Viney Mountain Boys  
2 p.m. The Porch Pickers

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Email: [littlelevelsheritagefair@gmail.com](mailto:littlelevelsheritagefair@gmail.com)  
[www.littlelevelsheritagefair.com](http://www.littlelevelsheritagefair.com)  
*The Little Levels Heritage Fair occurs annually during the last full weekend in June.*  
Mark your calendars for 2025: June 27-29, 2025

## Obituaries



### Homer Hunter

Homer Ray Hunter, 80, of Stony Bottom, peacefully passed away Friday, March 15, 2024, surrounded by his family, following an extended illness.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, June 22, 2024, at the Pocahontas County Opera House in Marlinton.

Visitation will begin at 5 p.m. with a service at 6 p.m.

Following the service, there will be an informal concert where Homer's friends will share their music and memories.



### Phyllis Oliver

Phyllis Jane Oliver, 88, of Dunmore, passed away Thursday, June 13, 2024.

Born May 17, 1936, in Dunmore, she was a daughter of the late Clyde B. and Eleanor Frances Rhea McLaughlin.

Phyllis was of the Methodist faith, and was a cook and housekeeper at Pocahontas County High School and Pocahontas Me-

morial Hospital, and worked at the US Forest Service.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a sister, Judy Peck; and brother, Dhari McLaughlin.

She is survived by her husband of 66 years, James Oliver; three daughters, Anita McPaters, of Oxford, Sara Binion, and husband, Joe, of Dunmore, and Stacey Oliver, of Snowshoe; six grandchildren, Jonathan McPaters, Jessica McPaters, Kasey Binion, Ryan Bailey, Zachary Bailey, great-grandchildren, Frank E. Lee Saxton, James Wayne Saxton, Jon William Saxton and Gunner Hudgins.

In keeping with her wishes, the body will be cremated.

There will be no service.

Online condolences may be made at [Lantzfuneralhome.com](http://Lantzfuneralhome.com)



### Clifford Simmons

Major Clifford M. "Milton" Simmons, USMC (retired) passed away Saturday, June 8, 2024, at his home in King George, Virginia, surrounded by the family he so dearly loved.

Born October 5, 1949 in Harter, he was a son of the late James Clem Simmons and Janie Estelle Simmons.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brothers, Marvin Lewis Simmons, Harold Eugene Simmons and Mark Allen Simmons.

Cliff held an undergraduate degree from Concord University and Master's Degree from Indiana University.

He served one and a half tours in Vietnam with the 5th Marine Regiment 1969/1970. After his Vietnam tours, he returned to school and was sworn in as an officer, retiring after 25 years in the United States Marine Corps.

His hobbies included gardening, hiking, running, fishing, golfing and camping. He loved the Lord, his wife and family and his country. He was grateful to his children and grandchildren for their Christian love and caring.

Cliff is survived by his heartbroken wife of 36 years, Deborah; son, Sky Peters; daughter, Brooke Peters; beloved daughter-in-law, Tara Peters; loves of his life - granddaughters, Kira Peters, Kylie Peters and Kayla Brenly; brother, James Edward Simmons; and sister, Patricia Ann Friel; and he was honorary grandpa to Patricia Meador and Sofia Meador.

He will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, July 1, 2024, at Oakland Baptist Church in King George, Virginia.

The family will receive guests from 10 a.m. until time of service.

Interment will be at Quantico National Cemetery at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, Cliff requested that memorial contributions be made to Oakland Baptist Church, 5520 James Madison Pkwy., King George, VA 22485.

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

Margaret Cassell, 4232 Back Mountain Road, Cass, WV 24927.

**Wesley Chapel Cemetery on Galford Run Road** - Nancy Rexrode, 4949 Wesley Chapel Road, Green Bank, WV 24944.

**Wilfong Cemetery** - Barbara Williams, 1726 Seebert Wilfong Road, Marlinton, WV 24954

**William Sharp, Jr. Cemetery, Back Mountain Road near Fairview** - Tommy D. Sharp, 2744 Brownsburg Road, Marlinton, WV 24954.

**Wilmoth Cemetery, Allegheny Mountain, Bartow** - Bill Kramer, 305 Valley Pike, Lexington, Va. 24450

Submit Cemetery Donation notices to [jsgraham@pocahontastimes.com](mailto:jsgraham@pocahontastimes.com) or call 304-799-4973. Cemetery donation notices publish when space is available.

## A bad batch of jealousy

by Dawn Reed

Just after my family moved to Prestonsburg more than 20 years ago, Leah Dane - one of our older deacon's wives, made us a loaf of banana bread. The small bundle was wrapped in foil. Opening it up, we found it already sliced for our convenience.

At that time, we lived in a hollow several miles from the church. You know how starved you are after church on Sunday morning. We tore that aluminum foil open before we had cleared the parking lot. As we headed home, my family started moaning and going on like it was the best thing ever.

I'm not proud to say this, but there came over me an unholy jealousy. I did not like the fact that this new person - that I had barely known a few months - had entered my family's life and taken over their taste buds. I did not want someone else making my family moan and go on about food. I wanted them to moan and go on over stuff I had made. I decided right then that I was going to make better banana bread than Leah Dane did.

For the next several weeks, I made every recipe of banana bread I could find. And I found a LOT. Some were good, but none as good as Leah Dane's. Finally, my beloved asked, "Are you trying to kill us with banana bread?"

I realized my problem. My jealousy affected my family. I was obsessed with outdoing Leah Dane. It was nearly fatal; the first case of DBBB: "Death by Banana Bread," on record.

Unfortunately, the Leah Dane/banana bread incident is not the only time I've wrestled the green-eyed monster. In my younger days, I wasted time being jealous of other's lives, stuff and opportunities. As I aged, I measured other's success, impact, and even ministry against my own. I now understand when I've been disappointed or discontent with what God has done in my life, or even the way He made me, I was questioning His wisdom and plan for me. That was an eye-opener. I don't want to trade spots, lives or anything with anybody!

The writer of the book of Hebrews encourages, "Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so



Dawn Reed

easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." (12:1). I need to get rid of false mindsets, unfair measuring, and any sinful attitudes (jealousy) and run my own race, the race marked out for me, not worrying about yours. And you run yours without being concerned about me. I/we can fully trust the plan God has for both of us.

After nearly doing my family in with banana bread, I went to Leah Dane and confessed my sin.

She laughed and gave me her recipe.

Now I bake it for others. I slice it and wrap it in aluminum foil, hoping they will moan and go on as they eat it.

## Managing persistent fears and anxieties

By Stan Popovich

Fear and anxiety can ruin your life if you do not know how to overcome it.

Here is a brief list of techniques that a person can use to help manage everyday anxieties, stresses and fears.

1. Take your fears apart: When facing a current or upcoming task that overwhelms you with a lot of anxiety, divide the task into a series of smaller steps and then complete each of the smaller tasks one step at a time. Completing these smaller activities will make the stress more manageable and increases your chances of success.

2. Take a break: Sometimes we get stressed out when everything happens

all at once. When this happens, take a deep breath and try to find something to do for a few minutes to get your mind off of the problem. Get some fresh air, listen to music, or do an activity to get a fresh perspective on things.

3. Get all of the facts of the situation: Gathering the facts of a certain event can prevent us from relying on exaggerated and fearful assumptions. By focusing on the facts, a person can rely on what is reality and what is not.

4. You can't predict the future: While the consequences of a particular fear may seem real, there are usually other factors that cannot be anticipated and can affect the results of any situation. We may be ninety-nine percent correct in predicting the future, but all it takes is for that

one percent to make a world of difference.

6. Think of a red stop sign: At times, a person might encounter a fearful thought that may be difficult to manage. When this happens, visualize a red stop sign, which can serve as a reminder to stop thinking about that thought. This technique is great in dealing with your negative thinking and will help reduce your fears.

7. Get some help: Sometimes, it helps to be able to talk to someone. Talking to a trusted friend, counselor or clergyman can give you additional advice and insights on how to deal with your current problem. Overcoming fear and anxiety takes practice. In time, you will become better able to deal with your stressful problems.

## Cemetery Donations

Donations for the upkeep of the following cemeteries may be made to:

**Arbovale Cemetery** - Daniel Solliday, 1754 North Fork Loop, Green Bank, WV 24944

**Beaver Creek Cemetery** - Nancy McComb Smithson, 641 Violet Road, Marlinton, WV 24954

**Bethel Cemetery on Back Mountain Road, Durbin** - Jean Taylor, 13453 Back Mountain Road, Durbin, WV 26264-9012.

**Boyer Cemetery Trust** - Joan Barkley, 14 Alleghany Mountain View Trail, Arbovale, WV 24915

**Bruffey Creek Cemetery** - Dennis Vaughan, 4108 Lobelia Road, Hillsboro, WV 24946.

**Buckeye Chapel Cemetery** - Juanita McNeill, 243 Waugh/Walnut Street, Marlinton, WV 24954.

**Cochran Cemetery** - Charlotte Alderman, treasurer, 63 Farmhouse Lane, Marlinton, WV 24954.

**Dunmore Cemetery** - Greg Pritchard, 15249 Browns Creek Road, Dunmore, WV 24934.

**Edray Cemetery** - Ben Gay, 87 Edray Road, Marlinton, WV 24954.

**Emmanuel Cemetery, Bruffeys Creek** - Dennis Vaughan, 4108 Lobelia Road, Hillsboro, WV 24946

**Fairview Cemetery** - Barbara Campbell, PO Box 11, Marlinton, WV 24954.

**Grogg Cemetery on Pine Grove Road** - Joseph and Doris Reed, 26 Lambs Run Road, Arbovale, WV 24915.

**Gum Cemetery, Back Mountain Road** - Alan Wright, 14640 Back Mountain Road, Durbin, WV 26264

**Hill Top Cemetery, Cass** - Richard Ryder, 707 Chert Lane, Beckley, WV 25801

**Kee Cemetery** - Tink Gum, 713 Spruce Flat Road, Buckeye, WV 24924; or Mike Hollandsworth, 26 Lonesome Hollow Lane, Marlinton, WV 24954.

**Kellison Cemetery, Jacox** - Timothy W. VanReenen, 758 Denmar Road, Hillsboro, WV 24946.

**Oak Grove Cemetery** - Timothy W. VanReenen, 758 Denmar Road, Hillsboro, WV 24946.

**Old Droop Cemetery** - David B. Cochran, 27192 Oriole Road, Princess Anne, MD 21853.

**Huntersville Cemetery** - Samuel A. Sheets, 444 Sheets Lane, Marlinton, WV 24954; or Pendleton Community Bank, c/o Huntersville Cemetery Fund, PO Box 87, Marlinton, WV 24954.

**Sharp Cemetery on Stamping Creek** - Donald K. Sharp, 2703 Locust Creek Road, Hillsboro, WV 24946

**Sunset Cemetery** - Lyle Ware, 752 Jacox Road, Hillsboro, WV 24946

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## Preserving Pocahontas

B. J. Gudmundsson, Preservation Officer

### Lt. George W. Siple Letter - 1865

*Officers Barracks Ft. Delaware Division 31  
March the 20<sup>th</sup> 1865  
Mr. Henry W. McNeel, Dear Sir*

*I seat myself at this time to inform you that I am still a Prisoner of War at this place I have been sadly disappointed in not getting off on Exchange I do not expect to get off for a month yet. so I conclude to ask you to send me more funds. if you can consistently do so please send me \$20.00 twenty dollars more. if you think it safer you can send by Express however I do not apprehend any danger sending by mail. I am willing to take all risks. please answer immediately as I may be able to get off sooner than I expect. I feel myself very much comforted by your kindness, and with the present requisition I will be able to make myself comfortable. Capt. J. H. is well I heard from Will two weeks ago He was well and in Richmond. I long to see the Mts of Highland & Poca. once more the land of Birth from which I have been separated from for near two years. Direct as before to Lt. Geo. W. Siple Co. F, 19<sup>th</sup> Va Cavalry - Ft. Delaware Del. Division 31, very respectfully yours  
Geo. W. Siple*

THIS CIVIL WAR letter was written by Lt. George Washington Siple and sent to Henry W. McNeel in Lipton, Cedar County, Iowa. Mr. McNeel was of Pocahontas Co. and possibly related to Lt. Siple through marriage. Siple was born on April 16, 1829 to Joel and Magdalene Hiner Siple and died on February 23, 1908. He and his wife, Hannah Rebecca Warwick Siple, are buried in the Warwick Cemetery at Green Bank, West Virginia.

Officers Barracks, Ft. Delaware, Division 31  
March the 20th 1865  
Mr. Henry W. McNeel,

Dear Sir  
I seat myself at this time to inform you that I am still a Prisoner of War at this place. I have been sadly disappointed in not getting off on Exchange. I do not expect to get off for a month yet. So I conclude to ask you to send me more funds if you can consistently do so please send me \$20.00 twenty dollars more. If you think it safer you can send by Express however I do not apprehend any danger sending by mail. I am willing to take all risks. Please answer immediately as I may be able to get off sooner than I expect. I feel myself very much comforted by your kindness, and with the present requisition I will be able to make myself comfortable. Capt. J. H. is well. I heard from Will two weeks ago. He was well and in Richmond. I long to see the Mts of Highland and Poca, once more the land of Birth from which I have been separated from for near two years. Direct as before to Lt. Geo. W. Siple Co. F, 19th Va Cavalry - Ft. Delaware Del. Division 31, very respectfully yours Geo. W. Siple (Cal Price Papers, Courtesy of Jane Price Sharp; ID: PHD000011)

Access the "Preserving Pocahontas" Digital Library at [www.pocahontaspreservation.org](http://www.pocahontaspreservation.org) or [www.preservingpocahontas.org](http://www.preservingpocahontas.org)

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

## Footsteps through History

The Pocahontas Times  
Andrew Price, Editor

Thursday, June 22, 1899

A bad runaway accident occurred at Mt. Vernon church Sunday. Joseph Lantz's horse ran away and Mrs. Lantz was thrown out and was unconscious six hours from a blow on the head, tho not otherwise injured. The horse collided with a buggy occupied by Washington Moore and his son, Price Moore, who were both thrown out, and the aged man suffered considerably from the shock. The carriages were wrecked.

### TRAIN ROBBERY

On June 2, 1899, the safe of the Pacific Express Company was blown up by train robbers near Wilcox, Wyoming, on the Union Pacific Railroad. Paris D. Yeager, who is in the employ of the Continental Oil Company of Denver, Colorado, sends us a fragment of the safe that was left hanging, and it is a valuable addition to The Pocahontas Times' collection of curiosities...

The robbers, after killing one sheriff, are supposed to have escaped to the Hole-in-the-Wall Country. This a remarkable region in the western part of Wyoming to which there is only one known entrance and that only wide enough for one horse to pass at a time. It is a place of refuge for escaped criminals, and there are supposed to be in hiding there several hundred men who have prices set on their head. A small army of men have banded together to rid the

State of this perpetual menace and for the sake of the rewards offered.

### THE BLACK SPRUCE

It has been but a few years since people were wondering if there ever would be any demand for the great spruce forests of this county, and now it heads the list of desirable timber.

There has grown up a confusion of names in regard to some of our conifers and the black spruce is involved. It was known as the yew pine by our old time people and the hemlock spruce was called spruce. Then came the Northern lumbermen and they called the yew pine spruce and the spruce hemlock, and after a struggle of many years, the names are about righted at last. But there is Yew Mountain to retain the name and mark the fact that at one time the black spruce was known as yew pine.

Spruce makes paper and in the paper it retains some of its qualities. A few years ago the housekeeper would not use a newspaper for kindling for it would not burn, but

now any newspaper made of pulp makes the best of kindling.

### The Power of Purpose in Life

There is no true manhood without a high purpose. Purpose is moral concentration. It is the rudder of individual life. Purpose means having an object in life, a definite goal to attain. It is not confined to an exalted ambition, towering into the clouds of the unattainable - it means the conscious directing each individual should give to his life.

The mother in her home, can have this purpose within the four walls and may find her finest fulfillment there. It may be the consecration of her energies to the genuine, careful training of her children, watching more closely their individual needs. But it is purpose. It is not "letting things work themselves out."

Most of the failures in life come from wasted energies, from scattering one's forces over many subjects, from a vain attempt at versatility. Men of merely ordinary ability have made brilliant successes, while men of brilliant minds have made ordinary failures.

Well-tilled gardens pay better than poorly managed farms.

see History pg 14

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## Fifty Years Ago

Jane Price Sharp, Editor

Thursday, June 20, 1974

### January Thaw

January Thaw by William Roos will be presented by the Pioneer Players June 9, 12 and 13 in the Marlinton United Methodist Church under the direction of Frances Eskridge, Francis McElwee and Willard Eskridge.

### The Cast:

Freida - Nancy Burks; Herbert Gage - Herb McClure, Jr.; Sarah Gage - Joyce Wilfong; Paula Gage - Jeanne Kellison; Marge Gage - Dondi Stemple; Barbara Gage - Cornell Moore; George Husted - John Malow; Jonathan Rockwood - Willard Eskridge; Mathilde

Rockwood - Sally Nottingham; Mr. Loomis - Gene Simmons; Uncle Walter - Earl Butch Michael; Matt Rockwood - David Peacock; Carson - Kenneth Nottingham.

### To England

The English Exchange Students from Pocahontas County High School will leave Thursday, June 20, for their trip to England and will return July 24. They will spend the first week touring the Edinburgh, Scotland, area and then will spend three weeks in Hayes School in London, the school from which the English students came who visited here in April.

### DINNER

A Father's Day Dinner, in honor of Jesse Beverage, was given Sunday, June 16, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Beverage. Guests attending were: Mr. and Mrs. Carl Beverage, of Richwood; Mr. and Mrs. Roger Beverage and daughters, Michelle and Crystal, of Nettie; Mr. and Mrs. Glade Fertig, Jr., Harrisonburg, Virginia; Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Beverage, Mrs. Betty Miller and daughters, Lura, Barbara and Pamela; Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Beverage and daughters, Rose Ellen and Angela; Mr. and Mrs. John Beverage, Geneva Hevener, Mr. and Mrs. Layton Beverage and sons, Tony and Chuck; Mr. and Mrs. Roy Beverage and sons, Brian and Michael; and Bobby Beverage

see 50 pg 14

## Seventy-Five Years Ago

Calvin W. Price, Editor

Thursday, June 22, 1949

The old settlers' refuge of the Greenbank community back in Indian times was Warwick's Fort at the Forks of Deer Creek.

The stockade was acres in extent. Here the people gathered when Indians raided, and brought in their stock, as well.

One time, an Indian on top of the round hill, near the residence of Gratz B. Slaven, shot an arrow into Fort Warwick. This is a measured distance of 512 steps - about one fourth of a mile.

The family name of Slaven brings to mind the late Colonel Jacob Gillispie Slaven. He was the friend of the late Senator Henry Clay, of Kentucky. The latter, for years, maintained a deer hunting camp on the Slaven plantation in the Narrows of the West Fork of the Greenbrier Valley, near the present site of the big Pocahontas Tannery. Governor Joe John-

son and General Stonewall Jackson were also personal friends of the family.

This, of course, brings to mind the celebrated old turnpike tavern, Travelers Repose. Among the noted visitors here was none other than Congressman Abraham Lincoln, later to be president of the United States.

Off and on for more than a century, Greenbank has been an educational centre. Here was one of three preparatory schools of the University of Virginia established in Pocahontas County in 1841. The other two Academies were at Huntersville and Hillsboro. Put out of business by war, it was over forty years before things got to going right again along school lines by the establishment of the Greenbank high school.

I do not know how or when the community was named Greenbank. Some say it was from the terrace on which Liberty church and the high school stand. This

sunny bank is always the first to show the green of grass in the spring; others say it was from the living green of white pine trees which still clothe hillsides round about. There is tradition, too, that the name was transplanted here from Greenbank in old England by the ancient English family of Nottingham. They settled here prior to the Revolution and here they remain in number and influence to this day...

### THE BIG STORM

The long dry spell was broken last Friday, Saturday and Sunday with heavy downpours. Terrible loss of life and great property damage occurred on the south branch of the Potomac, centering at Petersburg and Moorefield, and on the North River of the Shenandoah, centering at Bridgewater in Rockingham County.

In Pocahontas County, the edge of the great rainstorm brought high water to the head streams of Knapps Creek and the Greenbrier River. This caused ordinary high water at Marlinton for the usual June freshet.

see 75 pg 14

## 100-Years-Ago in The Pocahontas Times

Calvin W. Price, Editor

Thursday, June 19, 1924

### SENTENCED TO HANG

Tiny McCoy, aged 23 years, will be hung on Friday, September 12, 1924, for killing his wife, Mrs. Hallis Virginia McCoy, near Cass, on April 6, 1924. At the same time, he shot and killed his mother-in-law, Mrs. William Totten, and his brother-in-law, Hobert Totten.

McCoy and his wife did not get along well together, and she went back to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Totten, whose home was at Deer Creek, just below the Town of Cass. On Sunday, April 6, McCoy, armed himself with an automatic revolver and appeared at the Totten home. When his wife refused to go back with him, he shot her, and she then shot Mrs. Totten and his young brother-in-law Hobert Totten. McCoy then turned the gun on himself and inflicted a scalp wound. He was arrested and brought to jail at Marlinton.

A grand jury was summoned for the June Court and McCoy was indicted three times for murder. On last Wednesday, he was tried

on the indictment, charging him with the murder of his wife. The trial was completed last Thursday night. After being out a short time, the jury brought in a verdict of murder in the first degree without recommendation for life imprisonment. Judge Sharp then pronounced the death sentence, setting September 12 as the date of execution.

McCoy was taken to the penitentiary Monday morning. Before leaving the jail he made the following confession, which he sent to this paper for publication:

Marlinton, W. Va. - I, Tiny McCoy, do hereby acknowledge that I murdered my wife, brother-in-law and mother-in-law, but I am sorry of my crime and ask all who are affected thereby for forgiveness as I believe that God has forgiven me. As I go to pay the just penalty of my deed, I want people to know that I go trusting absolutely, solely and only in the atoning blood of Jesus Christ, the Savior of sinners, to justify me before God.

Having accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and received Christian Baptism, I have no hatred nor ill will in my heart toward any.

### BIG MILL BURNED

The big sawmill of Williams & Pifer Lumber company on Knapps Creek, near Minnehaha Springs, was burned up Wednesday morning, June 18. The fire was kept from most of the lumber. It is not known how the fire started. As this paper is printed, an estimate of the loss had not been made.

### FORD CARS

With Ford Car No. 10,000,000 now in service and making a trans-continental trip from New York to Chicago over the Lincoln highway, the man who enjoys figures can have a world of practice. The other day, one gifted gentleman worked out the tire problem. He figured that the 40 million tires used on the 10 million Fords, if stacked up, would make a rubber column 2,000 miles high. Then, looking for road trouble, he punctured each of the tires and then figured that one man working eight hours a day except Sundays and holidays and repairing a tire every five minutes would finally finish the job in 400 years.



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PICTURED HERE ARE the folks who were instrumental in getting the Old Clerk's Office across the finish line. L to r: Linda Adams, Joy Mullins, Cheryl Key, John Rebinski, Missy Bennett, Walt Helmick, Sen. Bill Hamilton, Tim Wade (standing), Jim Buzzard, Bob Sheets, Ruthana Beezley, Bradley Hertko, Michael Giolis and Cody Straley. L.D. Bennett photos

# Huntersville Historical Traditions dedicates Old Clerk's Office



JEAN MCCLURE POSES with the beautiful sheet cakes she baked and decorated for the event – one celebrating West Virginia Day and the other depicting the Old Clerk's Office, before and after the rebuild.



THIS PHOTO, SHARED on Facebook by Denise McNeel in 2022, shows the sad state of the Huntersville Old Clerk's Office before the restoration began. The office was built prior to 1840 when Huntersville served as the first county seat of Pocahontas County.



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# Energy Express is off to a great start

Emma Dean  
Community Coordinator

This week, Energy Express took off to a bustling start with the theme “Myself” week – a celebratory week aimed at fostering self-expression, individuality and confidence among participants. To help kick-start the week, we received a surprise visit from Pocahontas County Board of Education Member Sam Gibson, whose presence added an extra layer of excitement.

Gibson, known for his commitment to youth education, engaged with the children through read-alouds. His visit underscored the importance of individuality and personal growth, echoing the week’s central theme.

One of the standout activities was the creation of “Me Body Portraits,” where each participant crafted a life-sized representation of themselves. This creative

exercise allowed children to explore and express their unique identities through writing and art. The portraits, colorful and diverse, lined the walls of Marlinton Elementary creating a gallery of self-expression.

In the vibrant community of Energy Express, we are thrilled to spotlight Devan Gum, our outstanding Site Supervisor. Devan’s dedication and leadership have been instrumental in fostering an enriching environment for all participants. Our heartfelt gratitude extends to the mentors who tirelessly guide our young learners, providing them with the tools and confidence to excel. Your passion and commitment are the cornerstones of our success.

A special thank you to the six volunteers whose selfless contributions ensure the smooth running of our programs. Your support and enthusiasm make a significant difference in the lives of so many.

Together, Devan, our mentors, and volunteers create a nurturing and dynamic space where our youth can thrive.

Energy Express continues to be a beacon of creativity and personal development, and “Myself” Week is a testament to its ongoing efforts to nurture self-confidence in young minds. With support from dedicated leaders like Sam Gibson, the program is set to inspire many more to celebrate their uniqueness.

Energy Express is made possible through the support of WVU Extension Service, WVU STEAM, 4-H Youth Development, Volunteer West Virginia, The State’s Commission for National and Community Service, WV Department of Education and the Arts, WV Department of Education, the Office of Child Nutrition, AmeriCorps and countless local partners including the Pocahontas County Board of Education and the Family Resource Network.



THE FIRST WEEK of Energy Express had the theme of “Myself” and one of the activities was to draw life size portraits, which were put on display in the hallway at Marlinton Elementary School.

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WV054-93-0015

## Library, from page 3

the legal system. Of course, you don't have to be a snooty French literature professor – or discuss books like *Bleak House* – to explore connections between books. In fact, you don't have to read (or not-read) books at all. You can equally well not-watch movies and television shows and not-listen to music. Once you have built your inner library, you can talk about all sorts of media without having engaged with it! Physical libraries are great resources for building up your own inner library. Obviously, we have lots of

books, magazines, newspapers, movies, TV shows and music. And if you're into digital media, a library card gets you access to a huge catalog of stuff, accessible from anywhere you can get on the Internet. But the real superpower of libraries is the librarians who work there. After all, making connections between books (and movies and music and so on) is a big part of their job. Maybe you mostly read biographies. Your local librarian might point you to Taylor Jenkins Reid, whose "famous women quartet" of novels are written in the style of biographies. Or perhaps you're into Regency romance. A librarian

might introduce you to Courtney Milan, who takes very traditional Regency tropes but sets them in far-flung locales that often feature non-white protagonists. Whatever your inner library looks like, a librarian can help you find new things that will compliment it, speak to it, challenge it—whatever it is that you're looking to do. So stop by your local branch. Let's chat about books you have – or haven't – read. \* Full disclosure: I talked about Bayard's book for several years before I got around to reading it. I've since forgotten much of it, so I skimmed it as I was writing this column.

## Mayor's, from page 4

allows the growth to exceed a height of eight inches, then he, she, or they shall be issued a citation. (C) For first time offenses per season, the homeowner/renter shall be sent notification advising him, her, or them that they have ten days to mow his, her, or their property and if compliance is not made within the ten-day guideline, the town will perform the mowing of said yard or

lot and a lien in an amount which shall be set by the Town Council from time to time shall be placed against the owner's property at the County Courthouse. **LAWNS; RESPONSIBILITY TO MOW GRASSES ...** § 95.21 and Vacant lots that need to be mowed are the responsibility of the owners of the property. The city will mow them at a charge. (Ord. 314, passed 6-14-2004) **NOTE:** When you mow, you should be aware that it is unlawful to blow grass into the street and leave it.

521.15 BLOWING GRASS, WEEDS AND OTHER SUBSTANCES INTO CITY STREETS PROHIBITED. according to ...§ 97.065. It shall be unlawful to blow grass, leaves or any other yard waste into any street or alley way in the corporate limits of the city, unless such grass is immediately removed from the street. (Ord. 12-2013, passed 7-8-2013) Penalty, see § 10.99 Also ...521.15 and ...557.06 read basically the same. And ~ Happy Birthday, West Virginia.

## BOE, from page 2

In updates: • Reading coach Stephanie Burns gave a report on the Standards Based Report Cards which evaluate third through fifth grade. In miscellaneous management, the board approved the following: • 2024-2025 Pocahontas County Schools Board of Education meeting schedule. In personnel management, the board approved the following: • Abolishment of position of alternative education teacher/interventionist at Green Bank Elementary-Middle School.

• Requested transfer of Melissa Walker from teacher of fifth grade at Marlinton Elementary School to teacher of preschool special needs at Marlinton Elementary School, effective for the 2024-2025 school year, at state basic pay for 200 days. • Employment of Brianna Morgan as science teacher at Pocahontas County High School, effective for the 2024-2025 school year, at state basic pay for 200 days. • Employment of Kelly Buzzard as special education teacher at Pocahontas County High School, effective for the 2024-2025 school year, at state basic pay for 200 days. • Employment of Lisa L. Johnson as special education/classroom/bus aide at

Pocahontas County High School, effective for the 2024-2025 school year, at state basic pay for 200 days. • Employment of Tim McClung as head girls basketball coach at Pocahontas County High School, effective for the 2024-2025 athletic season at a supplement of \$2,475. • Creation of position of alternative education teacher/interventionist at Green Bank Elementary-Middle School and Marlinton Middle School. The next board meeting will be Tuesday, July 1, at 6 p.m. at the board office in Buckeye. *Suzanne Stewart may be contacted at [sastewart@pocahontastimes.com](mailto:sastewart@pocahontastimes.com)*

## Calendar, from page 4

**SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS**  
**SCUBA Vacation Bible School** – Trinity Baptist Church, Buckeye. Sunday, June 23, through Thursday, June 27, 6 - 8 p.m. Ages two to 12.  
**CHURCH NOTICES**  
**Central Union United Methodist Church**, Worship 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m.  
**Marlinton Presbyterian Church** – Sunday School 9 a.m.; Worship 10 a.m.  
**Arbovale United Methodist** – Worship 11:15 a.m. Sundays; Bible Study 6 p.m. Thursdays.  
**New Hope Lutheran – Minnehaha Springs** – Worship 8:45 a.m.  
**First Baptist Church – Huntersville** – Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:45 a.m. Wednesday night service 7 p.m.  
**Marlinton Seventh-day Adventist Church**, 16741 Seneca Trail, Marlinton. Bible Study Saturday 9:30 a.m. Church service, 11 a.m.  
**Seebert United Methodist Church** – Sunday School every Sunday 9:20 a.m.; Worship second and fourth Sundays at 10 a.m.  
**Catholic Mass: St. John, Marlinton** – Sunday 9 a.m.; **St. Mark, Bartow** – Sunday 11:30 a.m.  
**Liberty Presbyterian, Green Bank** – Worship at 11 a.m.  
**Dunmore United 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.  
**New Hope Church of the Brethren**, Worship at 9:30 a.m. and Bible Study Wed-

nesdays at 7:30 p.m.  
**Pine Grove Church of the Brethren, Arbovale** – Sunday School 10 a.m., Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study, Thursday, 7 p.m.  
**Cochran Creek Baptist Church, Rimel** – Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.  
**Campbelltown Church, Marlinton** – Worship 10 a.m.; Sunday School 11 a.m.  
**Cook Town Community Church, Rt. 219** – Sunday Service 10 a.m.  
**Edray United Church** – Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.  
**Marlinton Church of**

**God, Beard Heights** – Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study 5 p.m. Study of Revelation. Evangelistic Service Sunday evenings, June 9 and 23.  
**Marlinton Church of Christ, Lakeview** – Sunday School 9:45 a.m.; Worship 10:45 a.m. and 6 pm. Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.  
**Trinity Baptist Church, Rt. 219 Buckeye Hill** – Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.; Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m. Pastor David Moore.

## Foster, from page 2

"Plaintiffs have made no effort to explain why the remaining (2,610) documents are so relevant that Plaintiffs' interest in disclosure outweighs the purpose of the privilege." "...The West Virginia child welfare system, like all child welfare systems, is subject to intense media scrutiny, and disclosing candid conversations (in e-mail or otherwise) about sensitive policy decisions 'would hinder frank and independent discussion regarding contemplated policies and decisions,'" they continued. Attorneys representing the foster children argue that despite having been provided with more than 700,000 documents, the state hasn't reviewed all of those documents and could make further objections citing deliberative process privilege, and with other current and former officials with the former DHHR and current DoHS expected to testify, further objections could be made. They also argued that the state has a history of hiding information and applying pressure in order to keep negative information out of the view of the public. "Defendants improperly claim that evidence of the government's deliberate indifference should be hidden from Plaintiffs and from the Court through the deliberative process privilege," the foster care attorneys wrote. "This is consistent with Defendants' past pattern and practice of attempting to conceal information from the public and their general lack of transparency... DoHS executives have sought to prevent disclosure to the public and the legislature informa-

tion that would reflect poorly on the child welfare system." The attorneys cited testimony from Samples in April, stating the then-department officials constantly pressured the Foster Care Ombudsman's Office to limit the kinds of information it releases to the Legislature. Attorneys for the state objected during that line of questioning, citing the deliberative process privilege. The foster care lawyers said the state should not be able to hide being that privilege in instances where the state showed clear indifference to issues in the foster care system. "Deliberative process privilege should not apply in this case where Defendants' deliberate indifference is centrally at issue and where Defendants – and specifically those named Defendants whose discovery is at issue – have already shown a lack of transparency," the foster care attorneys wrote. "DHHR officials such as then-Secretary (Bill) Crouch and then Deputy Secretary Cammie Chapman had knowledge of the failures of the child welfare system and instead of using it to make improvements, actively worked to hide that information from the public," the attorney continued. "The information which Defendants have withheld in this case doubtlessly provide more detail as to the nature of Defendants' knowledge of the system's failings and de-

isions to cover it up rather than implement successful changes." The deadline for depositions and close of discovery is July 5, with a bench trial scheduled for November 5 unless a settlement is reached before then. According to the DoHS Child Welfare Dashboard, there are 6,126 children in state custody as of the end of May, which is a 40% increase from 4,366 children in state custody in May 2014. The number of children in state custody peaked in the 2020s, climbing north of 7,000. Of the 6,126 children in state custody, 39% of those children are in a certified kinship or relatives' home and 30% are in therapeutic foster care. There were 480 children in various out-of-state placements, with 57% of those children in group residential care outside of West Virginia's borders. Only 79% of Child Protective Services positions are filled. *Article provided by the West Virginia Press Association.*

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# Party 'til the cows come home



**THERE MAY NOT** have been any Jay Gatsby or Daisy Buchanan sightings, but there were a lot of flappers with hidden flasks and Tommy guns at the Opera House Season Preview Party last Saturday evening.

Instead of bathtub gin, the guests enjoyed a more legal fare of hor d'oeuvres and beverages as they celebrated the 2024-2025 lineup.

Above: Local artist Xandria Naurer, left, joined Opera House Operations Manager Brynn Kusic in front of a backdrop fit for Gatsby's mansion.

At left: Kim MacFarlane, left, channels Bonnie Parker as she poses with her Tommy gun and Opera House Board Member Leslie McLaughlin. L.D. Bennett photos

# 75, from page 7

**4-H Club**  
The Cass Handy Andy 4-H club had for its June meeting a tour. We left Cass about 8:30 a.m. June 1, in a truck, driven by our leader, Glenn Tracy.

We went by way of Greenbank, leaving the hard road near Arbovale, following the Buffalo Road which leads up to where the Alleghany Mountain church once stood. There, on the farm owned by John Johnson, of Boyer, we visited the Alleghany Mt. Battlefield. The trenches and breast works are still quite visible.

After taking some pictures, we traveled on by way of the Hanger place where we saw thousands of pine

seedlings which someday will make a beautiful forest. Our next stop was near Route 250 where a plane fell a couple of years ago. Following the regular custom, everyone helped himself to the remaining souvenirs.

From there, we journeyed by way of Bartow and Durbin to Gaudineer Tower on Cheat Mountain where a picnic lunch was served. In the afternoon, the many trails around the tower were explored and more pictures taken.

Late in the afternoon, we arrived in Cass. Now, we live in memories of a pleasant day.

Galvin Wilfong, owner of the truck, was our guest.

### BIRTHS

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Francis E. Smith, a daughter, named Mildred Sherrard.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Edgar, of Hillsboro, a daughter.

### Death

Mrs. Margaret Ann Adkison, 86, widow of the late William M. Adkison, died at her home near Marlinton, June 18, 1949. Her body was laid to rest in the family plot in Mt. View Cemetery, the service being held from the Methodist church. The deceased was a daughter of the late James L. and Eliza Rogers. It is of interest to note that Mrs. Adkison was the only mother in Pocahontas county to have three sons in the Argonne Forest offensive, World War I.

# 50, from page 7

### DEATH

John W. Rider, 85, of Marlinton, born at Frost, a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Rider. Funeral held from the VanReenen Funeral Home Chapel with burial in Mountain View Cemetery.

Mrs. Goldie M. Cornell, 66, of Marlinton, a daughter of the late William and Sallie

Cochran Wardell. Funeral held from VanReenen Funeral Home Chapel with burial in Mountain View Cemetery.

Mrs. Bessie Elizabeth Simmons, 49, of Craigsville, a member of Rebecca Lodge 38 of Hillsboro. Funeral held from the Alderson Baptist Church in Craigsville with burial in Sunset Cemetery at Jacox.

Henry O. Lambert, 79, of

Elkins; born at Middlefork, a son of the late David and Froina Fox Lambert. Funeral service from Runner Funeral Home with interment at Arbovale Cemetery.

Mrs. Thomas (Violet Belle) Grossman, 52, of Cochran, died, following a fall down a flight of stairs. Born in Bartow, a daughter of Joseph C. and Cora Belle Wooddell Halterman. She was a nurse at Polk State Hospital.

# History, from page 7

### WEDDING

Mr. P. H. McNulty and Miss Lou Clark were married June 14 near Academy. The groom is a prosperous young citizen of Highland county, and the bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Preston Clark, of the Levels.

### DIED

John G. Cackley, 66, died at his home in Clinton, Illinois. He was born near Huntersville, a son of William and Jennie Cackley.

The deceased was one of the best known men in his county and had been active in business until a year or two ago, when failing health compelled him to retire. He had accumulated considerable property which mainly consists of a good farm, his

residence property and two store buildings. He had been an honored member of the I. O. O. F lodge for about 40 years. He was liberal and contributed freely to any worthy cause. A Clinton banker said the checks of no man for church and charitable purposes oftener came to the bank. Politically, he was a Democrat, though he took no part in the discussion of politics.

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

6530 - Slaty Fork. Four wooded acres in Eagles Nest Subdivision, within a mile of the eastern entrance to Snowshoe. Near Cass Scenic Railroad, Greenbrier River and Trail. - \$49,700

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

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

6640 - Cass. 3BR/2BA home with huge garage on two acres. - \$298,000

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

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

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